

**SPEAKING NOTES
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF A DINNER IN HONOUR OF
JOHN HOGG, PRESIDENT OF THE
SENATE OF AUSTRALIA**

**THE CITADELLE, QUÉBEC CITY
JULY 13, 2012**

President Hogg,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Citadelle, which has been the second residence of His Excellency the Governor General of Canada since 1872. For our special guests from Australia, Admiralty House in Sydney makes for a good comparison.

There are a number of intriguing similarities between Canada and Australia countries. With a nod to George Bernard Shaw, our shared history means that we are two countries divided by a common language. Both nations have huge land masses accommodating people from all over the world, and our peoples have a tendency to define our countries by a wilderness experience.

Canada and Australia have bi-cameral Parliaments in which the Senates have been designed to reflect various regional interests, separate from the representation by population of the House of Representatives or House of Commons. Our Senates also share a common role, which is to be a “house of review” or a “chamber of sober second thought,” through which government policies are subjected to a form of study that may not be undertaken elsewhere.

While there are significant differences between our Senates, one notably being that Australia's is an elected body while Canada's is still an appointed chamber, Senator Hogg rightly said in his first speech in the Senate that dignity is neither the preserve nor the reward of office but, rather, the duty of office.

The maintenance and enhancement of the dignity of people is the main reason he cites for his pursuit of social justice in both the trade union and political arenas. In that speech, he also noted that the building that houses the Australian Senate was designed to enhance the dignity of Parliament and express respect for the institutions and processes of democracy. Canadian Senators share similar views and regard it as a privilege to work in our own Senate Chamber.

Coming with that privilege is the weight of expectations. We try never to lose sight of the meaning of the term "public service," which is to seek out and enhance the public good. In the course of his visit here and in Ottawa to discuss administrative issues, I am confident that President Hogg will bring added focus to the ultimate goal of enhancing the dignity of all our citizens.

In closing, I would like to thank our friends from Australia for coming such a long way to meet with us. We have much to learn from each other and this week will be just one in a continuing series of encounters that will see Australia-Canada connections flourish.

Please join me in raising a toast to the strong and strengthening relations between Australia and Canada.

Cheers!