

**TOAST GIVEN BY SPEAKER KINSELLA
AT A DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE
OF THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR**

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen:

Please join me in offering a toast to His Excellency Soo Dong Kim, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea. Ambassador Kim, as Speaker of the Senate of Canada, I always welcome the opportunity to become better acquainted with our international partners.

Canada, let us not forget, is a Pacific nation, and has long played an active role in the Asia-Pacific region. Indeed, relations between Korea and Canada go back over a century, when Canadian missionaries went to Korea. Through these church connections, Koreans began emigrating to Canada. Today, over 100,000 Canadians claim Korean ancestry.

Our modern relationship began 60 years ago when Canada participated in the United Nations Commission supervising free elections. During the early 1950s, over 27,000 Canadian troops participated in the Korean War. In 1963, our two countries established formal diplomatic relations.

Today, the Republic of Korea and Canada enjoy close relations based on personal ties, shared values, and strong economic relations. Many of Korea's successful automobile and electronics companies – such as Hyundai, Daewoo, and Samsung – have become household names in Canada.

At the parliamentary level, our friendly relations are reinforced through the Canada-Korea Friendship Group. This dinner provides yet another way for our two countries to continue nurturing the warm relations between us.

In closing, I would like to thank Ambassador Kim once again for hosting this wonderful meal.