

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION MARKING THE VISIT TO
CANADA OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MACEDONIA**

**SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 20, 2013**

Your Excellency Nikola Poposki,
Ambassador Tevdovski,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Distinguished guests,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un plaisir de vous recevoir tous au Parlement et dans les appartements du Président du Sénat et d'accueillir, en particulier, notre honorable invité, Son Excellence Nikola Poposki.

Minister Poposki, thank you for taking the time to join us here today. Our conversation prior to this reception reinforced my satisfaction with the strong relations between our two countries, and left me optimistic about the great potential that exists for further strengthening these ties.

During my recent visit to Macedonia in September, it was a great honour to address Macedonia's Parliament. One of the main themes of my comments was the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, a subject which is particularly relevant to our gathering this evening.

En abordant ce thème, j'ai souligné l'importance de la diplomatie parlementaire comme force émergente et influente pour l'échange d'idées, la valorisation d'une compréhension et d'une confiance mutuelles, une coopération accrue et la consolidation de la bonne volonté entre les pays.

Friendship groups play an important role in parliamentary diplomacy, facilitating efforts to engage each other on issues of common interest. The recently created Canada-Macedonia Parliamentary Friendship Group, along with its counterpart in Macedonia, the Parliamentary Group for Cooperation with Canada, demonstrate the commitment in both countries to promoting bilateral relations between parliamentarians. The efforts of the Canada-Macedonia Parliamentary Friendship Group in maintaining and strengthening the ties between our countries are commendable.

We look forward to interesting and productive discussions. In conclusion, it is my pleasure to now propose a toast: to long friendship, to continued excellent relations and to safe journeys.

Cheers!