

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

**AT A RECEPTION MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF THE HONOURABLE LORNA  
MILNE**

**DECEMBER 10, 2009**

Senator Milne,

Honourable Parliamentarians,

Distinguished guests,

Friends and family,

Welcome to the Senate and to the Speaker's Chambers. We are gathered here this afternoon to celebrate the Senate career of the Honourable Lorna Milne, as she is retiring from this place on Sunday. She has been an outstanding Senator.

The original and oft-touted purpose of the Senate is that it serves as a house of sober second thought. One aspect of this is that the Senate can and does have a perspective which enables it to consider a longer view of issues. For individual Senators, this perspective does not simply mean experience, but it means that the Senator has demonstrated an ability to recognize mistakes before they occur, and can discern patterns that lead to success. In short, Senators are often students of history.

Senators have also long been expected, and have come to expect from themselves, that they will proudly speak for the regions that they represent in this place. This requires that a senator must possess an almost schizophrenic ability to be at ease in boardrooms with business leaders and heads of government, while at the same time maintaining roots in the community. Senators are able to treat the person they meet at state dinners with the same respect and concern as the person they meet in the grocery store. Or the antique store, as it were.

Senator Milne embodies what senators aspire to be. She has graced this place with a remarkable array of personal qualities and professional skills that have served the Senate and the Canadian public well. She possesses and has developed a long-view perspective, a skill set not created over night, but instead over time, through diligence, passion, strength and caring.

In making a point, Senator Milne often phrases her opinion in the form of a rhetorical question. It has proven to be an effective technique in her capable hands. In keeping with that method, I would like to pose the following question. Don't all Canadians deserve a senator who

- possesses the sharp mind of a scientist?

- the passion for history of a genealogist?
- the strength, pragmatism, creativity and savvy of a small business entrepreneur?
- the writing skills of an author?
- the oratory skills of a university lecturer?
- and the boundless caring heart of a citizen who has volunteered on boards that have dealt with education, heritage, politics, advancement of women, and the support and care of the mentally disabled, as well as those battling cancer and recovering from heart problems and strokes?

Canadians deserve all that, and they have been fortunate to have had it for the past 14 years in the form of the Honourable Lorna Milne.

In closing, I would like to wish Senator Milne all the best for the future, thank her for her hard work and dedication to this place and invite her to say a few words.