

## Speaking Notes

The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella  
Speaker of the Senate

On the occasion of the Honorary Captains' Dinner  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Canadian Navy

Ottawa  
May 4, 2010

Honourable Senators and Members of Parliament,  
Chief of the Defence Staff,  
Honorary Captains,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the historic chambers which are the traditional realm of Her Majesty the Queen when she is on Parliament Hill, and of the Speaker of the Senate when she is not. Given the role of the Sovereign in all matters military, this is certainly an appropriate place for a gathering to celebrate the centenary of the Canadian Navy.

These quarters are appropriate for this occasion for other reasons, as well. Some among you may have noticed the floors, which are made of broad boards of teak, separated by thin strips of inlaid ebony, thereby evoking a ship's deck.

Others will have noted that the paintings in these rooms have a distinctly naval theme. This is not by accident. Each year, a selection is made from publicly-

owned paintings to grace the walls and the theme for the current grouping is intended to reflect and celebrate the role of the Navy in Canada.

As dignitaries, diplomats and other foreign officials are received here in the Speaker's chambers, they will be reminded of our naval history and tradition and of the pride it inspires in Canadians. The paintings reflect the importance of the Canadian Navy in our history as a seafaring nation.

There are also Latin inscriptions carved into the woodwork over the doors, and I would particularly draw your attention to that on the south wall which reads: "Sapere aude", or "Dare to be prudent." While different people may have different understandings of the intent, I think naval personnel will take its meaning well.

This centennial is being marked in many memorable ways throughout the course of the year, including the earlier presentation of the Centennial Bell to Parliament. As an Honorary Captain, it has been an honour and a privilege to be a part of the celebrations.

Today also marks the return of HMCS Fredericton, the namesake of my home city, to port following its successful deployment off the east coast of Africa. It was sent to assist in the effort to counteract the much lamented return of piracy to the high seas. The uncertainties of such missions make us thankful when our ships and crew return safely.

As we ring in the centennial of Canada's Navy on today's happy occasion, I ask you to raise your glasses for the toast of the day: "Our sailors!"