

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON WITH  
BOARD MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH GARDEN  
FOLLOWING A REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**

**NEW YORK CITY, NY, USA  
NOVEMBER 11, 2011**

Consul-General Lopez,  
Board members of the British Garden,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen:

Remembrance Day is a solemn occasion each year, a day set aside to recall the men and women who sacrificed so much for our nations. It was an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of Canada at the ceremony earlier today and I am pleased to be able to spend some time with you now.

Let me begin by thanking Danny Lopez, Her Majesty's Consul General, and the entire Board of the British Memorial Gardens for hosting the ceremony and this luncheon. The day has already proven to be memorable.

On Remembrance Day, we honour all those who served, and continue to serve, their countries during times of war and peace. We pay tribute to the military personnel who have defended our fundamental freedoms and values at such great cost.

This is also an occasion for reflection. Ninety-three years ago today the guns in Europe stopped, the battlegrounds grew silent, and the armistice to "end all wars" was signed. For many families this was a day when celebration was muted.

Many loved ones came back wounded, many more came back changed and some did not come back at all.

Canada, like other nations, gave the best of her young to the First World War and has done so in other conflicts since. In gathering together each year on this day, we keep their memory alive and have occasion to thank them for their sacrifice. It is an important symbol of our continuing appreciation.

There have been other significant events since the armistice, events marked by courage and by loss. Two months ago was the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. As it does every year, the British Garden at Hanover Square held a ceremony to honour the people who lost their lives on that tragic day. The Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, had the distinct honour of attending this year's ceremony, where it was announced that Canadian victims would also be memorialized in the British Garden. The decision to include Canadian victims of September 11 in the Garden means a great deal to the people of Canada. To the Board of the British Garden: thank you for your kind and generous offer.

Remembrance Day, like September 11, is a solemn day. It reminds us of difficult times, but it is also an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the vital contribution that our service men and women make in defending our ideals of democracy, freedom and peace.

In particular, our thoughts are with the troops currently serving overseas and with their families who support them at home. We are proud of their work to establish peace and bring hope to parts of the world that struggle with instability and despair. Their bravery inspires us, and their efforts make a difference to millions of people around the world.

On this Remembrance Day, let us think about those who have served as well as those who continue to stand in harm's way. Let us remember and salute them for their sacrifices in the service of their country and in the defence of our freedoms. Let us remember them now and always.

Thank you.