

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION HONOURING A GIFT OF ART
FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND TO PARLIAMENT**

**OTTAWA
JUNE 3, 2010**

Speaker Milliken,
High Commissioner Needs,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to have you with us today as we celebrate a gift of three works of art from the Government of New Zealand to the Parliament of Canada. This is just the most recent evidence of the long and close relationship between Canada and New Zealand, and came about during the first visit to Canada by New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key this past April.

On that visit here in Ottawa, Prime Minister Harper and Prime Minister Key had the chance to discuss areas of mutual concern, as well as developments in the many areas in which our two countries collaborate. This cooperation between our nations takes place at all levels, parliamentary, diplomatic, governmental, institutional, business and individual.

New Zealanders and Canadians have a long-standing friendship that ranges from strong ties between Canada's First Nations and New Zealand's Maori, to much valued political ties, and increasingly important trade, business, and cultural connections. Another bond our two countries share is our common history as former British colonies which gives our nations the same inheritance of British parliamentary democracy, Commonwealth membership, camaraderie and kinship.

As Commonwealth members, New Zealand and Canada are committed to the same principles and values that underpin our societies and political systems, including good governance, the defence of democracy, and the promotion of human rights.

These commonalities and close ties have led to a number of gifts being sent back and forth over the years. The exchange began in August 1916, when New Zealand's Prime Minister Massey wrote to Canadian Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, offering the Kauri pine wood which now panels the New Zealand room in the Parliamentary Dining Room as an act of friendship. These trees are native to New Zealand's North Island. Canada reciprocated in 1921, providing walnut and bird's eye maple timber which were used in the New Zealand Speaker's office.

The most recent gift is the three works of art which are being unveiled today. Entitled *The Sound of Lashing*, *Mango Guide*, and the *Journey Home*, they will hang in the New Zealand Room of the Parliamentary Restaurant. Their location pays homage to the historical relations between our two countries, and further entrenches the appreciation we have for each other's heritage, both natural and cultural.

I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to the artist, David Teata. I am told that much of the work of this young New Zealander of Cook Island descent reflects the evolving nature of multicultural society in New Zealand. Canada is also a multicultural society, and we are glad to have these works of art to remind us of the common bonds that underlie the deep-rooted Canada–New Zealand relationship, bonds that have evolved with the development of our diverse societies.

In closing, I would like to thank the Government of New Zealand for this wonderful and meaningful gift, a gesture which reflects the generous nature of the people of New Zealand. May the friendship that unites us long endure.