

SPEECH GIVEN IN HONOUR OF THE
5TH CPA CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2006

Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you all to the Senate of Canada and to host you at lunch. I know that today is the end of your official time in Ottawa and that the Seminar will wind up this afternoon with the opportunity for you to discuss subjects of your choosing, and not those pre-determined by the organizers.

Following the intense discussions on the mechanisms, we, in Canada, use to solve a variety of procedural and political problems, you will appreciate the opportunity to raise issues which are important to you and your Parliament and which may prove beneficial to your seminar colleagues.

As a relatively new Speaker, I have not had many opportunities to participate in the activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, however, I was delighted to have been invited to officially open the 44th CPA Canadian Regional Conference this past summer. I found that this activity provides the participants with the opportunity to exchange experiences arising from their service at both the federal, provincial and territorial parliamentary legislatures. I am certain that you all appreciated the opportunity to have similar exchanges with your colleagues from around the Commonwealth.

The CPA occupies a premier position within the realm of international parliamentary associations, its aims and mission encompassing the genuine desire to improve parliamentary democracy within the vast membership of the Commonwealth. Seminars, such as the one in which you are participating, in conjunction with the many workshops, study groups, regional conferences and the Annual Conference provide each of us with the opportunity to exchange, learn and grow in our understanding of parliamentary democracy and the common goals and beliefs we all share.

The success of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association arises from the commitment of its member bodies and in no small part to the active role played by its patron, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Bearing this in mind, I invite you all to join me in raising a toast to the Queen, patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Ladies and gentlemen, The Queen.