

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

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF
THE HONOURABLE DONALD H. OLIVER, Q.C.

SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS
DECEMBER 4, 2013

Senator Oliver,
Honourable Senators,
Friends and Family,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Our gathering this afternoon in the historic chambers of the Speaker of the Senate is to mark the recent departure from the Senate of the Honourable Donald H. Oliver. The lavish tributes in the Chamber earlier today provided a good indication of the quality of the service he rendered in the Senate, to the great benefit of Nova Scotia and of our nation.

La période qui a suivi son arrivée a été plutôt exigeante, comme chacune des 25 personnes nommées au Sénat en 1990 se souvient très bien. Le sénateur Oliver a été nommé cinq jours avant moi, et je crois pouvoir affirmer sans me tromper qu'en tant que nouveaux sénateurs, nous avons reçu notre baptême du feu au cours du débat sur la TPS.

After things settled down a bit, Senator Oliver quickly began to demonstrate his worth in the Chamber and in our Senate Committees. He proved to be a welcome addition to many committees during the course of his 23 year career in the Senate. Listing them all would be similar to simply providing a complete list of our committees. The esteem in which he is widely held is reflected in the fact that

he served as Chair of no less than 5 different committees at different times. The Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications benefited from his wisdom in back to back sessions in the early years and he was Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry in consecutive sessions a decade later.

Il a très souvent été choisi pour siéger au Comité des banques et du commerce, et il a rempli un mandat en tant que président du Comité des finances nationales. Il ne fait aucun doute que les comités des finances éveillaient son intérêt et retenaient son attention. Le sénateur Oliver a rendu d'éminents services aux comités auxquels il a siégé.

More recently, Senator Oliver has been the Speaker *pro tempore* and has taken my place in the Chamber whenever called upon to do so. He introduced a bill to have the Speaker of the Senate chosen by vote in the Senate, rather than by appointment. Although some might see a conflict of interest in my making any comments with regard to this particular subject, Senator Oliver was typically eloquent in making the argument.

Among his many interests and activities, Senator Oliver has been a strong advocate for diversity in the workplace. Senator Oliver has seen recognition of his capabilities and his contributions in many venues beyond the walls of the Senate, including being granted an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by St. Mary's University earlier this year.

There are a number of people present here today who are aware of another developing talent, namely that of chef extraordinaire. It isn't just Senate business that he has been serving up in recent years. Haute cuisine will never be the same.

Before closing, I want to express our appreciation to Linda and other members of Senator Oliver's family for sharing him with us for so many years. He maintained a full schedule right through to the day of his official retirement. Although I expect they hope to spend more time with him now that he has retired, it seems more likely that his schedule will continue to be packed for the foreseeable future. Wherever he goes and whatever endeavours he chooses to pursue, there is no doubt that people will benefit from his continuing public service.

While he was not able to respond in the Senate Chamber to the many comments offered by his former colleagues just a short time ago, it is only fair that he now be given an opportunity to provide an appropriate rejoinder. Please join me in welcoming the Honourable Donald H. Oliver, Q.C., to the podium.