

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SCOUTS CANADA NATIONAL AWARDS
CEREMONY**

**OTTAWA
FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

Speaker Scheer,
Chief Commissioner Price,
Medal and Award Recipients,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to the historic quarters of the Speaker of the House of Commons and to join you at this afternoon's Scouts Canada National Awards Ceremony. This year has an additional and very special feature with the presentation of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. These medals are part of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the accession to the Throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada.

Her Majesty became the Queen of Canada on February 6, 1952. As Canadians mark this historic milestone, they honour Her Majesty's life of service and commitment to duty.

This commemorative medal is part of the Canadian Honours System, recognizing thousands of Canadians for their outstanding work in this country and abroad. It is more than a symbol of accomplishment; it is a symbol of responsibility. As His Excellency, David Johnson stated: "We must always strive

to improve the lives of others, to be smarter and more caring about how we build our country”.

The medal being presented this afternoon is a tangible expression for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service and care for our country. At the same time, it serves to salute the significant contributions and achievements of Canadians who have served and cared for their communities.

One side of the medal has the Royal CIPHER, consisting of the Royal Crown above the letters EIIR, which stands for Elizabeth II Regina, with the dates 1952 and 2012. On the other side is a crowned image of Her Majesty. The medals were manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa and are made of nickel silver.

Other awards being presented this afternoon also honour those who have made special efforts to help their communities. The Bronze Cross is awarded for gallantry, and the Bronze Wolf is awarded in recognition of outstanding services to International Scouting.

Those who perform the kind of services that are being honoured here today do so for altruistic reasons, out of a sense of duty and for the satisfaction of helping others. We are pleased to recognize these efforts and trust that you will wear the medals and awards proudly. You are an inspiration to the nation.