

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION MARKING THE
RETIREMENT OF SENATOR ROBERT PETERSON**

**SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS, OTTAWA
OCTOBER 18, 2012**

The Honourable Senator Robert Peterson,
Honourable Senators,
Friends and family,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you this afternoon to these historic rooms where we are gathered to bid farewell to our colleague, Senator Robert Peterson. His term comes to an end tomorrow with the celebration of his 75th birthday, after providing nearly 8 years of stellar service to the nation in the Senate.

Although I have come to view this as a relatively short tenure, he has used his time effectively and has managed to squeeze in a tremendous amount during those years. The list of committees on which he has served or substituted is truly impressive – no less than 9 committees saw his presence in the last session.

As a former Whip myself, I know that it is often challenging to find people who are willing and able to step forward when unavoidable absences occur, as they inevitably do, and I expect that his current whip, Senator Munson, will be one of those who will regret his departure the most.

Senator Peterson's background in engineering and real estate development were no doubt helpful during his service on the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, where he was a regular member

right through to the present. He was also nominated to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples in 3 sessions, where he proved to be an able defender of the interests of Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

Senator Peterson, on behalf of all us here today, I want to congratulate you on your time in the Senate and wish you well in the years to come. Although you have already had an opportunity in the Senate Chamber to reply to the laudatory comments of your colleagues, and to provide rebuttal where required, I hope you will not be averse to saying a few more words to those gathered in this room and suggest that you once again take heed of the Latin inscription carved in the woodwork which reads: "sapere aude" or "dare to be wise".