

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING OF COMMEMORATIVE
PLAQUES IN HONOUR OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO SERVED
DURING THE 40TH PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESENTATION
OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FORMER
PARLIAMENTARIANS' DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

**OTTAWA
JUNE 4, 2012**

Speaker Scheer,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Former parliamentarians,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this gathering for the unveiling of the most recent additions to the series of Commemorative Plaques. Inscribed on these plaques are the names of Senators and Members of the House of Commons who served our country.

Each of the two Houses has a commemorative plaque for every Parliament since confederation, with all of them on display for thousands of Canadian and international visitors to see in the corridors on the first floor of Centre Block and in the Visitors Centre. Today's ceremony will reveal the plaques for the 40th Parliament, a generous donation of the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association. They have sponsored these bronze plaques at the end of each Parliament since 1996.

In addition to the unveiling, we will be recognizing and celebrating the past and continuing work of one of our former colleagues with the presentation of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians' Distinguished Service Award.

Among the most significant hallmarks of working in Parliament are the collegiality, respect, and dedication we have the opportunity to observe and cultivate. These are qualities which transcend partisan affiliations. Despite the differences of opinion which are the focus of so much media attention, Canadian Parliamentarians have always shown and continue to show the deepest commitment to Canada. We are united in the esteem with which we hold the institution of Parliament and our peers, as well as in our commitment to serving Canadians.

With this in mind, it is a pleasant occasion when we take time from our routine business specifically to celebrate elements of fundamental importance to the functioning of the institution of Parliament, namely collegiality, unity and service. The Commemorative Plaques and the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians' Distinguished Service Award bring us together to do just that.

In closing, I want to extend sincere thanks to the two organizations spearheading today's initiatives. It should also be noted that the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association has a broader engagement with Canadian democracy, as they provide sponsorship for the Parliamentary Internship Program, which provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to experience the work of Parliament, and to renew their commitment to their communities.

Thank you.