

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION IN HONOUR
OF PRINCE'S CHARITIES CANADA**

**SPEAKER'S DINING ROOM
JUNE 3, 2014**

Speaker Scheer,
Ms. Sherrington,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Parliament and to the quarters of the Speaker of the Senate for this gathering in honour of The Prince's Charities Canada. Our special guest is Ms. Amanda Sherrington, the President and CEO of The Prince's Charities Canada.

The Parliament Buildings are replete with reminders of the sovereigns of Canada, particularly on the Senate side of Centre Block. These include the portraits in the Senate foyer, the carved images in stone and the Diamond Jubilee stained glass window over the Senate entrance.

In these rooms, you will see royal cyphers carved in the Indiana limestone above the doors to the hallway. The cypher with the letters "GR" represents King George V, the grandfather of our current Queen. The second cypher, with the letters "MR" represents Queen Mary, the wife and Queen consort of King George V. The third cypher, the one most relevant to today's gathering, represents the

Prince of Wales who would become King Edward VIII. His cypher is most recognisable by its three feathers – the plumes of the heir to the throne.

The décor of this room reminds us of the strong ties between Canada and the United Kingdom. This relationship is based in part on our shared parliamentary heritage, including the Royal Family. These rooms in which we are gathered today are actually those of the Queen when she is on Parliament Hill.¹ The many connections between Canada and the U.K. have allowed us to combine our strengths to tackle common challenges.

The Prince's Charities Canada is an organization which helps charities connected to the Prince of Wales in Canada and in the United Kingdom to coordinate their efforts. These charities have achieved great success that perhaps they could not have achieved individually.

Renowned as a philanthropist, the efforts of the Prince of Wales have been focussed on disadvantaged youth, education, responsible business, the built environment, heritage and environmental sustainability. He has founded a group of 16 non-profit organizations in the United Kingdom to address these issues.

This group has rallied other charities and not-for-profits throughout the world. Collectively, they raise nearly \$200 million each year, across 38 different countries.

The Prince's Charities Canada has promoted several initiatives, including the development of a plan to provide children's books to First Nations in their own languages to promote literacy.

It fostered a partnership between the Prince's School for Traditional Arts in the U.K. and the First Nations University in Regina. The Prince's School offers post-

¹ Additionally, the Queen takes residence at Rideau Hall when in Ottawa.

secondary programs in arts and crafts and teaches students about their underlying philosophies. It now benefits from the First Nations University's unique perspective on aboriginal art.

The Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada developed a program to teach math and science using drama, music and visual arts. The Prince's Charities Canada is taking this successful program to the U.K. to be implemented by the Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts.

These are just a few examples of the benefits of sharing ideas and of the fine work being carried out by The Prince's Charities Canada. We look forward with optimism to seeing our strengthened community ties at work.

Please join me in a toast to these many good works and to our guests: to long friendship, to safe journeys, and to maintaining our strong connections.

Cheers!