

Speaking Notes
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate

**On the occasion of a reception for the
Federal, Provincial and Territorial Chiefs of Protocol**

hosted by
The Speaker of the Senate and
The Speaker of the House of Commons

Room 216-N, Speaker's Salon, Ottawa
December 7, 2010

Speaker Milliken,
Secretary to the Governor General,
Clerk of the Senate,
Madam Clerk of the House of Commons,
Federal, Provincial and Territorial Chiefs of Protocol and Protocol
Practitioners,
Secretaries to Lieutenant Governors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Parliament of Canada. It is a pleasure to see you all here and to convey the high regard which Senators hold for the work of the Chiefs of Protocol as you promote our institutions and the many ambitious projects undertaken within Canada, which are a reflection of our nation.

There were many protocol milestone events in Canada this year. High profile events include the Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Games, two Royal visits, the G8 and G20 Summits, the installation of a new governor general, and numerous visits of heads of state and heads of government.

Sharing experiences at meetings like the ones just concluded help to strengthen partnerships between federal, provincial and territorial offices of protocol. As you know, Parliament is often the site of high ranking events and we rely on the collaboration of all protocol offices, including Canadian Heritage, Rideau Hall and Foreign Affairs, to ensure successful activities that deliver outstanding ceremonies and events.

In my capacity as Speaker of the Senate, I have been very fortunate to participate in a number of high level visits this year, including those of the Queen, the President of China and the President of Mexico. As honorary navy captain, I participated in the 100th Anniversary of the Navy, with the Navy Bell now gracing the Hall of Confederation in Centre Block. The Senate Chamber was the site of the G20 Speakers' Consultation for Presiding Officers of the Upper and Unicameral Houses of the G-20 this past September.

Speakers have both diplomatic and ceremonial roles and we do rely on protocol practitioners. Your knowledge is important when hosting visits, particularly when events hosted in this majestic building

are broadcast to television sets around the world. The lead up to the delivery of such events requires countless hours of work, enormous dedication, innumerable sacrifices, and true professionals such as you to produce superior programs with meticulous scenarios.

Thank you all once again for your dedication, your professionalism and support in our diplomatic duties.

In closing, I want to briefly commend the excellent work of Robert Peck as Chief of Protocol of Canada. He has proven to be a singular leader in protocol, having served the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Parliament with great distinction. Congratulations and best wishes in your future endeavours.

Thank you all for coming. I hope you found the meetings interesting and useful, and that you will enjoy the evening.