

**DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES
HON. NOËL A. KINSELLA**

**PRESENTATION OF
HONOURARY DIPLOMA OF THE FEDERATION COUNCIL
(FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION)
TO SENATOR PRUD'HOMME
MAY 10, 2006**

[Phonetically:

Hello and welcome. I am pleased to welcome our Russian visitors to the Speaker's Salon.]

Zdravstvuite i dobroo pozhalovat'! Ya rad
privetstvovat' nashikh rossiiskikh gostei v priyomnom zale
spikera.

Good evening and welcome to the Speaker's Quarters.
Tonight we have the distinguished privilege of hosting
members of the Federal Council of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation. Our Russian counterparts join
us this evening to recognize the outstanding parliamentary
contribution of our colleague, Senator Marcel
Prud'Homme.

Senator Prud'Homme was first elected to the House of Commons in 1964 and has served in either the House of Commons or the Senate for the past 42 years. This remarkable record of service is the product of a committed parliamentarian who has dedicated a career to acting the public interest. Senator Prud'Homme is currently the longest serving Parliamentarian on Parliament Hill. Never afraid to confront sensitive issues head on, nor to shirk his duty to defend the rights of minorities, the Parliament of Canada is fortunate to have had the benefit of Senator Prud'Homme's steadfast commitment to Canada for over forty years.

Senator Prud'Homme has often walked to the beat of his drum and has refused to be pigeon holed into any one category. He is a unique Politician in that he has enjoyed

great success throughout the years without tying himself to any one interest, party or group.

He has always represented the people in his riding, first and foremost. His constituents have often been new Canadians facing the struggle of joining a new country and overcoming the trials of their pasts. Before he was even elected in 1964, Senator Prud'Homme made international peace and understanding one of his priorities. He has advanced that cause with great tenacity and diligence on a daily basis for almost half a century. His involvement in promoting international diplomacy through the use of Parliamentary Associations has enriched Parliaments all over the world.

Canada owes Senator Prud'Homme a debt of gratitude for his unwavering service and it is fitting that he be awarded this honour in an international setting. However, I'll warn the representatives of the Federation Council that they may have to return for more celebrations. As you may know, Senators are obliged to retire upon attainment of the age of 75 and rumour has it that Senator Prud'Homme could handily win his old seat back if he decides he still hasn't had enough!

Thank you and please welcome the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Peter Milliken.