

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR
THE HONOURABLE MARCEL PRUD'HOMME, P.C.**

NOVEMBER 25, 2009

Senator Prud'homme,
Speaker Milliken,
Honourable Parliamentarians,
Distinguished guests,
Friends and family,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here in the Reading Room this afternoon to bid farewell to the Honourable Marcel Prud'homme. He has had a remarkable career in Parliament which began innocently enough when he won a by-election in 1964. That was followed by eight consecutive election victories. Were it not for his appointment to the Senate in 1993, he might well still be sitting in the House of Commons. I have even heard speculation that he might throw his hat back into the ring when Parliament is next dissolved.

Marcel Prud'homme was the consummate constituency man, always available, always ready to listen, always ready to help. Were it not for the risk of interruption, I might also add that he was always ready to speak. Few would disagree with the use of the word "loquacious" in any description.

Last month, I had the pleasure and privilege of leading a delegation of Senators to the Republic of Albania, the Holy See and Malta. Senator Prud'homme was a member of the delegation, and no one here will be surprised to learn that his affable good nature combined with his extensive experience served the delegation very well indeed. He seems to gain a popular following wherever he goes.

This has been evidenced by the whirlwind of lunches, dinners and receptions which have been marking his departure from the Senate throughout his last year. A veritable multitude of individuals, organizations, communities, legislatures and houses

of assembly, both in Canada and abroad, have all in their own way made a point of commemorating and celebrating Senator Prud'homme's remarkable career.

I will just mention that he sat on 78 parliamentary committees (48 committees in the House, 20 joint committees and 10 committees in the Senate). He was elected as the Chair of 14 of those committees.

Senator Prud'homme has what amounts to an institutional memory when it comes to Parliament Hill. Those who have written about him tend to use superlatives, a veritable lexicon of complimentary words. Just a few descriptors include: courageous, tireless, principled, humanitarian, open-minded, passionate, discrete, good-humoured, legendary, sage, respectful, caring, daring, role-model and perhaps most importantly, friend.

That is a reputation which is not easily earned. It arises in part because Senator Prud'homme has treated Parliament Hill as a place where people with diverse interests and diverse backgrounds meet in mutual respect, for mutual benefit. His is an example which all parliamentarians would do well to emulate.

At this point, on behalf of all honourable senators, I would like to present a small token of our esteem to Senator Prud'homme.