

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

**Reception for the Retirement of the
Honourable Senator Marcel Prud'homme**

February 10, 2009

Senator Prud'homme,
Minister LeBreton,
Honourable Senators,
Members of the House of Commons,
Members of the diplomatic corps,
Distinguished guests,

I am delighted to welcome you here on such a happy occasion. We rarely take the time to express our appreciation for a colleague. Paradoxically, this happens most often when we no longer have the honour of working with the person. This evening we have the opportunity to salute the contribution of Senator Marcel Prud'homme. Today, February 10, 2009, marks 45 years in Parliament for Senator Prud'homme.

On November 8, 2007, while travelling with a parliamentary delegation to Moscow, I was proud to announce that the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, would honour Senator Marcel Prud'homme, PC, with the Order of Friendship in recognition of his outstanding contribution to developing and strengthening ties between Canada and Russia. It gives me great pleasure today to speak about the Honourable Senator's parliamentary contribution. Throughout his career, Senator Prud'homme has shown tremendous dedication to Parliament, in both the House of Commons and the Senate. His understanding and vision of productive interparliamentary relations are a proud example for fellow parliamentarians in Canada and around the world.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1964, Senator Prud'homme was parliamentary secretary to various ministers. Serving first as arms control and disarmament critic, he was appointed to the Queen's Privy Council in July 1992. He was named to the Senate in 1993 and served on the Board of Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration. He has since become the Dean of Parliament and a distinguished presence. His eloquence, charm and charisma are felt throughout Parliament. Senator Prud'homme is an iconic and vital figure, his height, tact and open-mindedness always making a strong impression.

Everyone who meets him appreciates his determination and tireless dedication to the humanitarian causes that he holds dear. A non-conformist, Senator Prud'homme sees his ideas through. He believes in the value of dialogue, which has always been effective for him. After 45 years, the Senator's passion, generosity and professional ethics are as strong as ever.

Senator Prud'homme is sensitive to the needs of others, always serving willingly and with the utmost tact. After a legendary political career and having made an invaluable contribution as a friend and colleague, Senator Prud'homme leaves the Senate of Canada a legacy of accomplishment and success.

Senator Prud'homme has also worked as a unifying force, bringing the people of Canada together, irrespective of race, language, beliefs or opinions. It is therefore a great pleasure of mine to help honour Senator Marcel Prud'homme here today.