

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION TO WELCOME
QATARI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO CANADA**

**CHATEAU LAURIER, OTTAWA
JULY 20, 2011**

Your Excellency,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to be here with you this evening, and I would like to begin by thanking Ambassador Al-Shafi for organizing this wonderful event. Most of you are studying here in Ottawa and some are in Montreal. In both cities, you will find yourselves attending world-class institutions in a safe learning environment in communities rich with history and culture.

It is only fair to warn you that Canadian culture includes a strong predilection for winter sports. Do not be lulled into a false sense of security by the pleasant weather we have been experiencing of late. Winter will be here soon enough and you may expect that it will more than fulfil your expectations. Hockey may be the official winter sport of Canada, but grumbling about the weather is a national pastime.

As international students, you become *de facto* ambassadors for your home country. Relationships between states are based on the relationships of their people and I urge you to spend time making connections with your fellow students,

whether from Canada or from other nations. Friendships formed in university years stand the tests of time and distance. Relationships you make here and take with you will not only bring you as a Qatari closer to Canadians, but Qatar closer to Canada.

While you are here, please take some time to see other parts of Canada. Our country has much to offer and study breaks and academic conferences will give you excellent opportunities to travel to other universities and communities. In using your time to explore as well as study you will broaden your horizons and enrich your experience here in countless ways.

Having taught classes in university for some 42 years, I still appreciate opportunities such as this to meet students. Standing here before you, there is a tremendous temptation to turn this into a lecture. However, my staff often reminds me that the title of Speaker is not a license to speak without limit.

In closing, I wish you every success in your studies and trust that your time in Canada will prove to be an interesting and enjoyable experience.

Thank you.