

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF A
PAINTING IN TRIBUTE TO THE RCMP**

**SPEAKER'S SALON
NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

Honourable Senators,
Mr. Jackson,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Speaker's Chambers, where we have come together on the occasion of the presentation of a colour print on canvas by New Brunswick artist Norman F. Jackson.

The original painting, which is entitled "Heroes in Our Hearts," commemorates the three RCMP officers who lost their lives while in performance of their duties in Moncton on June 4th, 2014.

The fallen officers – Constables Dave Ross, Fabrice Georges Gevaudan and Douglas James Larche – were shot as they went about their duties. Fortunately, their fellow officers were able to arrest the perpetrator before anyone else was harmed.

Mr. Jackson is a remarkable artist and we thank him for immortalizing these three heroes in this way.

During his career, Mr. Jackson created a number of commemorative paintings of events including the first landing on the moon and Hank Aaron breaking Babe Ruth's home run record. Among the many places graced by his works of art are the Neil Armstrong Museum, the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Astronaut's Hall of Fame in Florida.

Mr. Jackson, your paintings often celebrate triumph, but you commemorate tragedy as well. The fact that you completed this work so soon after the event, while the memories of that terrible day are still vivid in our minds, speaks to your mission as an artist.

Your painting captures the shock and disbelief that the shootings generated, as well as the gratitude the population of Moncton felt to the RCMP for resolving the situation and Moncton's determination to remain strong.

The entire country followed the events as they unfolded and Canadians' hearts and prayers went out to the families and colleagues of the victims.

As we stand here in this room, I would like to take a moment to draw your attention to the Latin epigraphs carved in the woodwork above the doorways.

One that seems particularly appropriate today reads: “Quod pulcherrimum idem tutissimum est.” This quote from Livy translates as “What is most honourable is most prudent (the safest).”

This is attributed to the Roman consul Marcus Porcius Cato, who, after placing his troops behind enemy lines, told them: “Nowhere, soldiers, is there any hope except in your courage, and I have deliberately acted so that there should be none. Between us and our camp is the enemy, and in the rear is the enemy’s country. *What is most glorious [honourable] is also the safest: to place our hopes in valour.*”

Mr Jackson, your painting honours the RCMP officers and other first responders who display valour every day by placing themselves in harm’s way to protect the values we hold dear.

In witnessing Mr. Jackson’s presentation, we share in the grief that the people of Moncton felt as a result of the shootings. We also share in their expression of support for the RCMP and its officers.

In closing, please join me in thanking Mr. Jackson once again for his thoughtful tribute.