

SPEAKING NOTES
Speaker Noël A. Kinsella

Veterans Week and Remembrance Day Ceremony
November 6, 2009

Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Chief of Defence Staff,
Veterans and Families of Veterans,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Welcome to the Senate Chamber. It is a Chamber which contains symbols of our nation and our history, and as we mark the beginning of Veterans' Week I want to draw your attention particularly to the eight paintings which grace the walls of this place of sober second thought. They depict scenes from the First World War and are a constant reminder to those who gather here of the sacrifices and achievements of our armed forces in their effort to bring about peace.

This is the Chamber in which the three elements which together constitute the Parliament of Canada, namely the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons, come together when the presence of all three is required. These occasions include the Speech from the Throne, formal Royal Assent to bills which have been passed by both Chambers, and the installation of a Governor General.

It is thus a special place in Canada, an appropriate place for a gathering such as this, as we begin a week of remembrance of the valour and sacrifices made by our veterans and their families. Canadians are proud of them. And Canadians remember them.

This year, it is my privilege to convey the words of His Royal Highness, Prince Charles. He writes as follows:

(written)

**On the occasion of
the launch of Veterans Week 2009
November 6, 2009**

On behalf of my wife and myself, I am delighted to have this opportunity to mark the official launch of Veterans Week 2009.

Having arrived in Canada earlier this week, we have already had the privilege of meeting many veterans, spanning a diversity of campaigns, of varied disciplines and, indeed, of generations. But there is one factor that links them all and that is their selfless service to others. In a world which seems increasingly turned towards the self, our veterans stand as outstanding examples of timeless values; as exponents of what makes the ordinary extraordinary.

Il est important que, collectivement, nous prenions le temps de souligner la contribution, depuis un bon nombre d'années et au fil des conflits, des anciens combattants du Canada à la poursuite de la liberté et de la justice. Au cours de notre visite actuelle, nous avons déjà eu l'insigne honneur de rencontrer des centaines d'anciens combattants ainsi que des militaires des Forces canadiennes qui continuent de servir fièrement le Canada et, par le fait même, le monde entier.

The theme of Veterans Week, “How will you remember?”, reminds us of the courage and sacrifice of our Canadian Forces. Crucially, it reminds us of our duty never to forget. In a few days time, on November 11th, my wife and I will join the Governor-General, Prime Minister and others in paying our own personal tribute to those who have made the greatest sacrifice.

We salute each and every one of our veterans, not only during Veterans Week but throughout the entire year. We owe them all the greatest possible debt of gratitude.