

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION TO MARK THE DEPARTURE
FROM CANADA OF ROMANIA'S AMBASSADOR
HER EXCELLENCY ELENA ȘTEFOI**

**CHATEAU LAURIER
NOVEMBER 6, 2012**

Your Excellency Ambassador Ștefoi,
Excellencies,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you this evening as we bid farewell to an outstanding member of the diplomatic corps. Her Excellency Ambassador Elena Ștefoi has represented Romania in Canada with skill and dedication since her arrival in 2005.

Ambassador, thank you for your very successful efforts to strengthen the relationship between Canada and Romania during your time in Ottawa. Your leadership has been instrumental in diversifying and increasing our bilateral relations. Our two countries collaborate broadly on issues such as democracy, human rights, international security and the rule of law, as we continue to promote our shared values through multilateral fora.

Throughout your time here, you have strongly supported better commercial and investment exchanges. Romania is already Canada's largest trading partner in southeast Europe and Canadian firms are increasing direct investment in the resource business, as well as in automobiles, electronics and information technology and communications.

With your encouragement, Canadian firms have increased direct investments in Romania. You have assisted Romanian businesses that offer services to Canadian companies, and have supported Romanian trade missions to Canada, including the World Water Congress in Montreal and the Prospectors and Developers Association in Toronto.

From coordinating high-level visits to Canada, including Foreign Minister Baconschi in 2011, Speaker of the Romanian Senate, Mircea Geoana in 2010, and Secretary of State for Strategic Affairs, Bogdan Aurescu in 2009, to helping to raise awareness of important issues such as women's rights and gender equality; Ambassador Ştefoi has maintained an active agenda across the country.

Her leadership in the Canadian Diplomatic Association is also to be highly commended. The creation of the Canada-Romania Friendship Group in the Canadian Parliament last autumn reflects the strong links developing between Canadian and Romanian parliamentarians.

Although we are disappointed to see Ambassador Ştefoi leave us, she has many friends here in Canada who have come to treasure her as an individual and as a diplomat. Finally, it should be noted that Ambassador Ştefoi is a remarkable poet who somehow found time to pursue this activity during her posting here in Ottawa.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in a toast to continued excellent relations between Canada and Romania, and to our guest of honour this evening, Her Excellency Ambassador Elena Ştefoi. Ambassador, we trust that your new endeavours will meet with great success and we hope you will return to Canada soon.