

**NOTES FOR A TOAST GIVEN BY
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA,
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**AT A DINNER HOSTED BY CANADA'S AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA,
HER EXCELLENCY MRS. MARTA MOSZCZENSKA**

MAY 19, 2009

Ambassador Moszczenska,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure that I rise to toast all those responsible for making this dinner a wonderful success. It is a great pleasure to be here tonight, and I would like to pay special tribute to the organizers of this event for all of the work that you have done.

Let me also personally thank Ambassador Moszczenska for being such a gracious and welcoming host. Your Excellency, we understand that you will be moving on to take a position as Canada's new Consular General in Buffalo, and we wish you well. You have been a tireless advocate of Canadian interests during your posting. On behalf of all Canadians, we extend our thanks to you for all of the hard work that you have done while serving as Canadian Ambassador in Romania.

During this visit we have had the opportunity to meet with many members of the Romanian parliament and with officials from the Romanian government. Our encounters with these public figures have been both insightful and informative, and they are experiences that I look forward to sharing with my colleagues back in Canada.

These encounters with Romanian officials have also been very revealing about the state of Canadian-Romanian relations. Beginning with only modest relations two decades ago, Canada and Romania have made remarkable strides in their political and economic relationship since 1989.

Progress has been particularly pronounced in terms of our economic relations. The Nuclear Power Plant in Cernavoda is perhaps the best example of Romanian-Canadian collaboration. This Nuclear Plant was designed in Canada by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and uses CANDU Reactor technology. The plant is now responsible for approximately 18% of Romania's electricity needs. This project represents an outstanding example of economic partnership between our two countries.

Trade is another example of economic partnership between Canada and Romania. Total bilateral trade between our countries was approximately \$300

million in 2007. Today, we are happy to say that Romania is Canada's largest trading partner in Southeastern Europe.

Beyond our economic relationship, Canada's political relationship with Romania has also significantly progressed. Benefiting in part by parliamentary exchanges, and also by the commitment that Canada and Romania have shown to multilateralism, the political relationship between our two countries continues to develop. Canada looks forward to continuing to work with Romania in international organizations like NATO, La Francophonie, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Despite the progress that we have made, we must be sure not to become complacent. There continue to be opportunities not yet seized and areas of commonality not yet explored. It is important that parliamentarians from both Canada and Romania continue to work together in a spirit of openness and dialogue in order to ensure that our relationship continues to evolve. By working together I am certain that our relationship can be even stronger in the future.

Let me close by once again expressing my sincere gratitude to all those who have made this dinner, and this trip, so successful. It has been a unique privilege to meet with so many Romanians who are equally passionate about their

country, as Canadians are about theirs. I look forward to continuing our dialogue together again very soon.