

**Speaking Notes for  
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella  
Speaker of the Senate**

**On the occasion of a  
Ceremony of Roses to mark December 6  
The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women**

**Foyer of the House of Commons  
Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

Good morning, friends and colleagues.

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. This year, we mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a day that started out like any other but soon descended into horror, heartbreak and infamy. That day in 1989 a single gunman walked into l'École Polytechnique de Montréal and killed 14 young engineering students – simply because they were women.

In 1991, the Parliament of Canada established December 6 as the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women*. Since then, Canadians have taken the opportunity to reflect on the countless victims of violence against women and work to eliminate violence against women.

December 6 is also part of the United Nations' *16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence*, which calls on nations worldwide to act decisively on behalf of the girls and women who daily suffer and die at the hands of others, not just strangers but often husbands, fathers, sons, employers or even friends.

As Parliamentarians, we join the people of Canada in reaffirming our commitment to ending violence against women, today and in the days ahead, both in our country and abroad, to individually and collectively take action to remove violence – and the threat of violence – from the lives of women and girls.

Thank you.