

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A DINNER HOSTED BY
THE HONORARY CONSUL FOR CANADA IN EDINBURGH**

**EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
AUGUST 31, 2011**

Honorary Consul Rafferty,
Lord Hamilton,
Lord and Lady Steel,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of all members of our delegation, thank you for taking the time to be here with us this evening, and for your warm and generous reception. We are both pleased and honoured to join you at this magnificent club.

I would like to extend a particular word of thanks to Honorary Consul Rafferty for hosting this event. Mr. Rafferty, you have served with distinction as Canada's Honorary Consul to Scotland since your appointment in 2004. Your knowledge of Scotland, and your understanding of the recent economic and political developments that have taken place here, will be of great benefit to us during our discussions. We look forward to your insights and thank you for your continued service.

Lord Hamilton, Lord and Lady Steel, it is a delight to make your acquaintance. We very much appreciate your presence this evening.

Edinburgh is a beautiful city with a long and storied history by any standard and certainly by comparison with cities in Canada. While we have been here for only a short time, we have been struck by Edinburgh's picturesque landscape. It is a city where the past lives comfortably with the present and one that makes an immediate impression upon visitors.

Over the course of our time here, we will have the opportunity to meet with many knowledgeable people who will enhance our understanding of Scotland. Most importantly, this visit will allow us to reaffirm the bond of friendship that exists between our peoples and to continue the important dialogue that has become a fixture of our relationship.

Even in this age of instant communication, face-to-face meetings offer great value and cannot be replaced. We gain a much better understanding of each other, an understanding that goes beyond what can be read in newspapers or seen on television. Once we have returned home, we will continue to follow developments in Scotland and look for ways to enhance our relationship.

Let me close by thanking you once again for your gracious hospitality, and for contributing to the success of our visit. Our delegation is looking forward to positive and productive discussions tonight and in the future.

In closing, and in the spirit of our gathering, I wish to propose a toast: "May the roof above never fall in; May we below never fall out. Slàinte!" [slanj'-uh; often shortened to slanj – (To your) Health!]