

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCH AT
THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**

**EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**

Presiding Officer Marwick,
Honourable parliamentarians,
Members of the delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Canadian delegation, thank you for so warmly and graciously welcoming us to Scotland.

I would also like to extend a personal thanks to Presiding Officer Marwick for hosting this wonderful luncheon and for meeting with our delegation today. Please also accept my congratulations on your recent election as Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. It is an important role to which your distinguished parliamentary experience suggests you are well suited.

Canadians followed Scotland's recent election with great interest, and we are keen to learn about other political and economic developments here. At the same time, we are pleased to be able to bring you up to date on the situation in Canada.

Exchanges like this provide us with the opportunity to share information and viewpoints. Equally importantly, they provide us with the chance to build on the long and enduring relationship between our nations.

Ours is a relationship that dates back to the 17th century, when the Kingdom of Scotland established a colony in Nova Scotia. While this colony did not flourish, Scots immigrated to Canada by the thousands during the 19th century. By 1871, nearly 16% of Canada's population was of Scottish origin, and by 2001, more than four million Canadians – or 14% of the population – claimed some Scottish ancestry.

The Scottish presence in Canada is reflected in the many places that have Scottish origins – places such as Craigellachie, British Columbia; Lanark, Ontario; and Inverness, Nova Scotia. Scottish identity is particularly strong in the Maritime Provinces, and Cape Breton Island is known across the country for its traditional Scottish fiddle music.

Scots have played a critical role in Canada's history and development. They dominated the fur trade, the timber trade, and the banking and railway sectors. The first two Canadian Prime Ministers, John A. Macdonald and Alexander Mackenzie, were born in Scotland. Agnes Macphail, the first woman to be elected to the Canadian House of Commons, was also of Scottish origin.

Today, Canada's ties with Scotland are as strong as ever. Our peoples trade together, work together on the international stage, and travel to one another's country.

Although the foundation for a strong and prosperous relationship between Canada and Scotland is in place, there is always room to deepen our partnership and to seize new opportunities. It is in this spirit that we are with you today.

This exchange gives us the chance to build on our relationship and to offer mutual support to each other in our work as parliamentarians. It also provides us with an opportunity to engage openly with each other to find solutions to difficult problems.

Although each of the world's parliaments is unique, there is much we can learn from each other. By exchanging views and perspectives, I am confident that our relationship can be even stronger.

In closing, let me thank you all once again for warmly welcoming us to Scotland. I look forward to positive and productive discussions.