

SPEAKING NOTES

**The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate**

**On the occasion of the Banquet
for the 2010 Intelligence Community Conference**

**Ottawa
June 21, 2010**

Senator Duffy,
Distinguished Guests,

It is a pleasure to join you this evening and to welcome you to the Parliament of Canada. In both my roles as Speaker of the Senate and as an honorary Captain in the Canadian Navy, I have seen firsthand how the work of the intelligence community protects our citizens at home and our forces abroad.

In Canada, Parliament has a responsibility to ensure that the citizens of Canada are free from threats to their rights and liberties. Whether it is by the creation of appropriate domestic criminal law or the funding of intelligence services, Parliament is the critical authority to provide the Crown, the executive, the means to achieve its objective of ensuring that Canadians enjoy “peace, order, and good government.”

One element in doing so is through cooperation and even formal alliances with like minded nations. I salute your work and your collaboration.

In today’s world, it is important for us to find more productive and efficient means of cooperation and sharing of best practices. Your work has taken on a greater sense of urgency in providing timely intelligence to our personnel in the

field as well as to law enforcement and to our legislators. Good intelligence is a critical component of effective decision making at all levels.

Parliamentarians are in your debt for the work you do. You gather and provide information required on relevant matters of peace and security, enabling us to better do our jobs as legislators. You also provide security services with information to help them achieve the objective of keeping safe our public institutions.

A key element in the effort to keep our Parliamentary precincts open to the people of Canada is cutting edge security intelligence, which is able to discover the plans of those who seek to act out ill-will toward our House of the people. An example of good intelligence work in this regard was seen just a few years ago with the interdiction of the so-called Toronto 18, who had plans to attack Parliament and hold its members hostage.

In my responsibilities as Speaker of the Senate, I know how important your work is in helping to keep our Parliament open and secure.

In my association with the Canadian Navy, I have come to recognize the value that intelligence has played in all conflicts as well as in times of peace. Through solid collaboration, we have come a long way in our intelligence work since the days of limited naval directional finding or using bearings on suspicious wireless transmissions. The role of solid intelligence is particularly important today not only in the protection of our troops in places such as Afghanistan, but also within our borders, where we see Canadian terrorists targeting our most important institutions, including Parliament. This situation, which is also being experienced by all Western countries, only points to the need for us to continue to

cooperate on matters of international security. Such cooperation is facilitated by conferences of working professionals such as this one.

Globalization has affected security issues both in their spatial and objective dimensions.

On one hand, the difference between internal and external security has blurred. As a result, security matters cannot stay within one nation's borders, but need to extend beyond those borders.

On the other hand, although the fight against terrorism still remains a priority, security issues have become multi-dimensional and dynamic. For example, over these last decades security concerns have expanded to include sectors such as energy, the food industry, the environment, information technology, transportation, and the economy.

These changes have influenced the role of intelligence services as well. When uncertainty and difficulties in prediction increase, a more efficient intelligence becomes necessary.

In my opinion, your work is also an essential component of our work as legislators. As indicated earlier, one of the roles of the legislator is to protect the rights and liberties of the citizenry from internal and external threats. One way we do this is by creating and supporting intelligence services. It is also essential that we ensure these services maintain their focus on protecting Canadians with minimal impairment to their rights and freedoms.

The great challenge for the legislator throughout history has been striking the balance between granting our services the power they need to perform their duties while safeguarding rights and freedom. Historically, many countries that

have fallen into tyranny have done so at times of crisis where the passions of the moment allowed people who truly believed they were doing the right thing to gain too much control without sufficient checks and balances. Finding a way to ensure that these competing interests are all satisfied is a very difficult and frustrating process for those involved, but it is a matter at the heart of our respective functions and a responsibility we all take on when we make the choice to serve the public.

For legislators to perform their role, they require your frank, professional assessments of the threats which face us. Our committees, such as the Senate of Canada's Special Committee on Anti-Terrorism, also require your professional advice. Just as there are good-natured disagreements between the government and opposition in Parliament grounded in competing ideas of what constitutes the public good, similar differences may occur between Parliament and the intelligence services. In my view the classical question: "*Qui custodes custodiat?*" – has as an answer: "people through the supervision of Parliament." Parliament can only meet this responsibility with your assistance and through your professionalism and integrity which is key to keeping Canada the safe and free country it is today.

We laud your work, which is so supportive in creating a lasting environment of peace and security for our respective nations and the global community. I hope your time in Ottawa has been a productive working session that has enhanced your ability to provide for our common interest in peace and security.

At the end of his book entitled "Best-Kept Secret", John Bryden (1993) writes that "Canada is still in the game". In my view, it is in the public interest of Canadians that this be the case.

Thank you.