

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON IN APPRECIATION OF THE
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED AT THE
2013 ST. JOHN AMBULANCE DAY ON THE HILL**

**OTTAWA
APRIL 9, 2014**

Speaker Scheer,
Chancellor Arthur,
M. Laurencelle,
Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you back to the Parliament of Canada, this time to express our deep appreciation for the work done in putting together last year's St. John Ambulance Day on the Hill. The event proved to be a great success and helped Parliamentarians to better understand the range of activities of St. John Ambulance and its many volunteers, who collectively contribute some two million hours of their time each year.

The Order of Saint John, of which St. John Ambulance is one element, has a broad mandate and provides worldwide assistance and care to all in need, without discrimination. Well known examples include South Africa during Apartheid and the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem which cares for Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities every day.

Participation in humanitarian works is at the core of what it means to be Canadian. The Order of St. John in Canada is dedicated to encouraging active and

informed citizens, as well as to relieving sickness and injury. Its members espouse Canadian values through works of service for the greater good.

Dedicated and selfless volunteers form the backbone of the organization. They enable the Order of Saint John to fulfil its primary mission as a humanitarian organization on a daily basis, not just in Canada but around the world. From saving lives to caring for the sick and injured, the Order of Saint John promotes values which transcend cultures and borders.

St. John Ambulance Canada has become synonymous with service and is instantly recognizable everywhere in Canada, enjoying well-deserved universal support.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your efforts with regard to St. John Ambulance Day on the Hill and for your continuing good work to ensure the health and well-being of all Canadians.

Thank you.