

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

ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPEAKER'S ANNUAL BBQ

OTTAWA
JUNE 16, 2010

Honourable Senators,
Members of the Senate Staff,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Annual Barbecue. This event brings Senators and Senate staff together in an informal atmosphere and is an opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work during the course of the year. I want to begin by offering thanks to those responsible for organizing this event, notably the employees of the Parliamentary Precinct Services, the Office of the Black Rod and my own office.

As in the past, all profits from the barbecue will be donated to the Senate's Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign. I want to thank Senators and Senate staff for their generous contributions.

It is once again my great pleasure to present the Speaker's Award for Excellence. This award takes into account a number of factors, recognizing:

- Work performance at an unusually high level over an extended period of time;
- The performance of duties under extraordinary circumstances in a manner that constitutes a contribution of unusual merit to the Senate;
- The successful completion of an assignment by an individual or team, the results of which are of exceptionally high order of achievement;

- Significant accomplishment in the legislative, research or administration fields.

This year the Awards Committee recommended four nominees.

The nominees are:

1. The Accommodation Planning and Projects Team represented by: Doug Colman, Pina Di Franco, Louise Lapointe, Daniel Larose, Suzanne Leblond, and Michelle Turner.

This team is collectively responsible for all accommodation and real property issues involving the Senate. Most recently, they worked tirelessly on the National Press Building Renovation of the 8th and 9th floors to provide new space for Debates and Publications. All team members demonstrated their expertise and competence throughout the project. They worked long hours and were attentive to detail.

2. The Debates Services Team represented by: Christine Burbridge, Doug Fowler, Janet Lovelady, David Mackay, D'Arcy McPherson, and Monique Roy.

Offices of senators are unanimous in saying that the Debates Services Team responds to requests quickly and efficiently. One visit to their new offices will show you all the work that they do. They do the proof-reading and correct errors where necessary. These people work behind the scenes, making sure the Senate looks good - all the time. This team exhibited an exceptional level of work performance.

3. Kathera Akbari, who presently works in the Finance Directorate.

Kathera coordinated all the activities related to the audit in the Finance Directorate, meaning two internal audits: the audit of opening balances and of financial statements. Kathera is an independent worker and succeeded brilliantly with these files.

4. Jean-Marc Dumoulin, France Lagacé, Robert Legault, and Lisa Yan from both the Finance Directorate and Information Services.

This team conceived and developed a new application to estimate a senator's pension upon retirement. The application is precise and user-friendly, permitting a faster and more efficient estimate. Reports are produced easily and the risk of errors is greatly reduced.

I would like to congratulate all the nominees.

It is a challenge each year to choose from among the excellent candidates, but I know you are all anxious to hear the final selection.

The envelope please...

I am pleased to announce that the winner of the Speaker's Award for Excellence is **The Debates Services Team** represented by Christine Burbridge, Doug Fowler, Janet Lovelady, David Mackay, D'Arcy McPherson, and Monique Roy.

Congratulations.

I wish you and yours a safe, wonderful and well-deserved summer filled with good friends and happy memories. Once again, thank you all for your dedication and excellent work.