

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

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF
THE HONOURABLE GERRY ST. GERMAIN

SPEAKER'S DINING ROOM
OCTOBER 30, 2012

Senator St. Germain,
Honourable Senators,
Friends and Family,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are gathered here this afternoon to celebrate the remarkable parliamentary career of the Honourable Gerry St. Germain, one which began with a victory in a by-election in August of 1983 and has continued with one interruption to the present day. This is an occasion on which to thank him for his service to the nation and also to thank the members of his family for sharing him with us for a little more than 24 and a half years.

Before finding his home in Parliament, Senator St. Germain tried his hand at a number of different things, always with success. After a stint as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force, he served as a police officer for 5 years in Winnipeg and Vancouver. Land development then captured his attention, along with large scale poultry farming. A number of us have had the pleasure of visiting his property in British Columbia where horses and cattle ranching are still a part of his life.

His deep involvement in politics brought him to the presidency of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1989. Combined with his excellent service in the House of Commons, both as a back bencher and as a Minister, it seemed that Gerry St. Germain might also do well in the Upper Chamber. Such has proven to be the case and I wonder if the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney was simply saving the best for last, as Senator St. Germain turned out to be the final one of his 57 appointments to the Senate.

Many committees on Parliament Hill benefited from his talents over the years, with the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, of which he has been Chair for the last 6 years, perhaps being foremost among them. An active and deeply committed Senator, his presence will be missed in the Senate and its committees.

Although he may be hoping for a quiet retirement on the ranch, it would surprise me if his wisdom and talent are not sought out. His temperament combined with his devotion to the nation and wide-ranging interests suggest that he will continue to be deeply engaged in any number of diverse activities in the coming years. Despite this, I anticipate that he will be spending more time with his family and they in turn will no doubt be pleased to see a little more of him.

With that, perhaps Senator St. Germain would like to say a few words.