

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY**  
**ALUMNI RECEPTION**

**SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS, OTTAWA**  
**OCTOBER 29, 2014**

Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,  
President Russell,  
St. Thomas University Alumni,  
Distinguished Guests,

Good evening and thank you all for joining us in the historic quarters of the Speaker of the Senate, where we are gathered to meet with faces both new and familiar from the community of St. Thomas University.

This year, the University marks its 50<sup>th</sup> year in Fredericton, having moved from Chatham. Many of you will recall that it was just four years ago that we celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year as a leading institution of higher education. In a country which is just approaching its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this is no small feat.

Occasions such as these provide an opportunity to reflect on the shared experiences and values that distinguish graduates of this

institution, to acknowledge the successes of alumni, and to consider how we can support the important and dynamic role of the University in the rapidly evolving future of New Brunswick, Canada and the world.

Many universities try to summarize their mission through a memorable phrase or motto, often in Latin. The one that adorns the crest of St. Thomas meets both of these criteria as it comes to us from scripture and in the preferred language of Aquinas. Faculty and students are more likely than most to grasp its meaning and to heed its calling: "Doce Bonitatem Scientiam et Disciplinam," which in the modern vernacular becomes, "Teach me Goodness and Knowledge and Discipline."

In your time at St. Thomas you drew many lessons from your professor and peers, but the most important and enduring lesson is the one echoed by this verse, which was carefully chosen from Psalm 119 by the founding Basilian priests and which unites all generations of alumni with the same lived experience of these words.

One of the features of these rooms is the inclusion of Latin inscriptions in the woodwork. One of my favourites is from the Roman poet Horace which you can see inscribed in the wooden panel above the door. "Sapere aude" means "Dare to be wise". It is not always easy to determine let alone to do the wise thing, but just as Horace was giving advice to a friend, you have a network of fellow alumni who are all

cheering for you to take on that dare and who are always available to offer their wisdom and support.

In Ottawa and on Parliament Hill, you never seem to be too far from a St. Thomas graduate. They are invariably the ones working hardest and making interesting things happen.

Some of you may recall a distinguished St. Thomas alumnus, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, whose achievements have been recognized in recent years with a building in his name on our campus. My own office has benefitted richly over the years from the contributions of alumni. Our master of ceremonies, J-P Duguay, was a member of my staff until recently, and we also have with us today Christina Cail, who graduated in 2010 in Human Rights and History. She brings her specialized studies and her strong St. Thomas liberal arts background to diverse and demanding projects.

The President of St. Thomas, Dawn Russell, is also with us this evening. Over the past four years she has exemplified the cardinal St. Thomas virtues of goodness, knowledge and discipline. A graduate of St. Thomas University, Dalhousie University and Cambridge University, President Russell intimately understands the identity and mission of St. Thomas as an institution rooted proudly and firmly in Atlantic Canada, but committed to preparing its students for national challenges and a globalized world. Please join me in welcoming President Russell and in inviting her to say a few words.