

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF SUDBURY'S CENTENNIAL**

**SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS, OTTAWA
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

President Zundel,

Senator Charette-Poulin,

Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,

University of Sudbury Alumni,

Distinguished Guests:

Thank you for joining us this evening in the historic Chambers of the Speaker of the Senate. It is a great pleasure to welcome the successful and proud alumni of the University of Sudbury as we celebrate its centennial year.

One of the defining virtues of our country is the commitment to protect and promote cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. Since its 1913 origins in the Collège du Sacré-Coeur, the University of Sudbury has been a pillar of the Franco-Ontarian community. It was the first, and for a long time, the only college in that part of the province.

As we reflect on the University's growth and evolution over a century, it is apparent that the memories run far deeper, and the influences reach far wider, than this gathering or even this generation.

The University has become a leading destination for the education of our First Nations and Métis students, and has garnered praise for the curriculum in Indigenous Studies as well as for initiatives in inter-cultural understanding. It remains firmly rooted in its Jesuit approach to integral humanistic education and Roman Catholic traditions, while emphasizing the importance of inter-faith dialogue, ecumenism and student diversity. It encourages students in their engagement with the broader world.

During your years at the University of Sudbury, the ideas which your professors encouraged you to explore and the relationships you formed both with classmates and teachers expanded your horizons. They prepared you to deal with life's twists and turns.

A gathering together of alumni provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of peers and to reflect on the shared academic and life experiences which helped shape how you engage with and act in the world.

Your presence this evening also reaffirms your ongoing membership in this community. Perhaps it will prompt you to consider

some ways in which you can carry forward that goodwill and help to ensure similarly enriching experiences for future students.

The Laurentian Federation includes both Laurentian University and the University of Sudbury. We have with us this evening a distinguished alumna of Laurentian University and a Sudbury native, the Honourable Marie Charette-Poulin. She has seen firsthand the vibrant role that the University of Sudbury plays in the community, as well as its impressive modern development.

Senator Charette-Poulin has been serving Canadians as a member of the Senate for the past 19 years, exemplifying the spirit which is a common feature of the alumni of the University of Sudbury and its sister schools.

Please join me in welcoming the Honourable Senator Charette-Poulin and in inviting her to say a few words.