

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON FOR UNITED
NATIONS AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO CANADA**

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Your Excellency Ambassador Grant,
Your Excellencies the Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Distinguished United Nations Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to be with you here today and meet with a group of talented people selected to represent their countries. You come to the United Nations with diverse backgrounds and from all around the world.

Ambassador Grant, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, is our gracious host and merits thanks for his hard work and dedication. Ambassador, your background seems to be especially well-suited to assisting Canadian parliamentarians in their understanding of the current complexities confronting the United Nations. Since joining The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development in 1994, you have held a number of important positions including in Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey, Argentina, and Mexico.

You also served as Director of International Trade Canada's Middle East Division and as Director of International Security Policy with the Department of National Defence before being named Canada's Ambassador to Libya in 2012. Your wealth of experience is undoubtedly of benefit to the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations during this pivotal time in international relations.

I am also grateful for this occasion to thank the Ambassadors to the United Nations with responsibility for also ensuring good relations with Canada for their service. From Comoros to Cambodia, Mauritania to the Maldives, you have come to New York as individuals representing a range of national interests but also as collaborators in a globalized world.

In addition to diplomatic representation through your work as Ambassadors, your responsibilities within multilateral organizations such as the United Nations provide appropriate venues to come together to seek solutions to common challenges.

The United Nations has helped us mediate our varied interests and conflicts and tended to those in need. More than that, it is through this global institution that we have come to agree upon those values and principles that define our common humanity.

In addition to the normal diplomatic connections, there is considerable direct contact between parliamentary institutions. Members of the diplomatic corps are often called upon to help support this parliamentary diplomacy, which includes multilateral and bilateral parliamentary associations, inter-parliamentary groups, parliamentary exchanges, and numerous unofficial friendship groups. Whatever the occasion and wherever they go, diplomacy is a daily feature of the work of parliamentarians as they serve those they represent. We value the contributions and support we receive from the diplomatic corps for all of our international exchanges.

It has been my privilege to lead a number of parliamentary delegations abroad. Doing so has given me a deep appreciation of the importance of international relationships, and of how helpful it is to have representatives of other nations immediately at hand.

Among other things, each country's system of governance has its own particular way of functioning. Some have been around for hundreds of years and have evolved complex procedures. Others are more recent and are still establishing their structures. No matter how long an institution has been in operation, our systems of governance are always evolving and changing. Through the process of sharing best practices, we learn about the challenges others face.

Diplomats offer a unique perspective on both the wider world and their own countries. As we seek to address existing and emerging global challenges, having good people on the ground is the key to success.

In closing, it is my pleasure to raise a toast to our Ambassadors – thank you for your impressive efforts at the United Nations and in fostering closer cooperation with Canada.

Cheers.