

Speaking Notes
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate

On the occasion of
University of Moncton Alumni Reception

Ottawa, November 4, 2009

Rector Fontaine,
University of Moncton Alumni,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us this evening in the historic quarters occupied by the Speaker of the Senate. It is always an occasion of note when the alumni of the University of Moncton gather together. This is an opportunity to share information, and to see how the education and life experience gained by students while at the University of Moncton may have influenced them and assisted them in their endeavours following graduation. Alumni receptions are also an opportunity to become reacquainted with the community from which you came. Your presence here this evening reaffirms your continuing membership in this community.

In a large sense, your education shaped how you engage, interpret and act in the world around you. The life experiences you gained during your undergraduate years contributed greatly to the development of your character spurred you on to a greater level of independence and ultimately helped to prepare you to deal with life's twists and turns. Relationships developed during this process are often lasting ones, as you are united by this bond of common changes experienced, marking an important period in your lives.

The University of Moncton has a history rooted in New Brunswick and a proud tradition of excellence. The success of its alumni is both a reflection of and testimony to this excellence. I encourage all of you to think about how you have contributed to and shared in that tradition, as well as how you can continue to do so.

Founded in 1963, the University of Moncton has become a focal point for the cultural and intellectual life of Francophone New Brunswick. With its campuses in Moncton, Edmundston, and Shippagan, the University is the only Francophone institution of its size outside of Quebec. Today it welcomes students from not only New Brunswick, but from across the Maritimes, Canada and the world. The University of Moncton is a unique place to receive an education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Yvon Fontaine, Rector and Vice Chancellor of University of Moncton. A nationally distinguished administrator, Dr. Fontaine has tremendous insight into the distinctive role the University of Moncton plays in Canada's framework of post-secondary education institutions. Moreover, he brings extensive experience in academic and administrative leadership. At this time, I would like to offer him a clock that bears the emblem of the Senate of Canada.