



Report

**Visit of the Honourable Noël A. Kinsella,
Speaker of the Senate,
and a Parliamentary Delegation,
England and Wales, United Kingdom; Netherlands**

May 16-23, 2014

The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate, and a Parliamentary Delegation visited England and Wales, United Kingdom and the Netherlands from May 16 to 23, 2014.

The delegation has the honour of tabling its

Report

The official delegation led by Speaker Noël A. Kinsella comprised the following members:

The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate;

Mrs. Ann Kinsella;

The Honourable James S. Cowan, Senator;

The Honourable David Tkachuk, Senator (United Kingdom);

Superintendent J. Greg Peters, M.V.O., Usher of the Black Rod (United Kingdom);

Ms. Janelle Feldstein, Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the Senate; and

Ms. Evelyne Côté, Secretary to the Delegation.

Objectives of the visit – United Kingdom:

The main objectives of the visit to England were to:

- Strengthen relations with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada and the Monarchy;
- Present the Loyal Address to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, on the occasion of the birth of Prince George of Cambridge;
- Strengthen relations between the Parliament of Canada and the Palace of Westminster;
- Discuss matters relating to parliamentary governance and recent procedural and administrative changes;
- Review issues of common interest, including the long term plans for the renovation of the parliamentary precinct and security of the parliamentary precinct;
- Examine a range of issues regarding the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; and
- Consider the appointments process at the House of Lords.

The main objectives of the visit to Wales were to:

- Strengthen relations between the Parliament of Canada and the National Assembly of Wales;
- discuss the devolution of powers from the Parliament of the United Kingdom to the National Assembly for Wales;
- Promote collaboration between container shipping ports; and
- Strengthen economic ties.

Context – United Kingdom

Canada and the United Kingdom share a sovereign, and both have among the oldest continuous traditions of parliamentary democracy. The Canada-United Kingdom relationship is further fostered today through partnership and cooperation in international organisations and recently both countries have placed a high priority on the security and defense relationship. Canada has a number of formal bilateral agreements with the United Kingdom, including on taxation, defence training and judicial matters. Following the visit to the United Kingdom, two important events were scheduled to happen: first, the eighth election to the European Parliament (May 22 - 25, 2014) and second, the Scottish independence referendum (September 18, 2014).

The visit to the United Kingdom coincided with the Royal Windsor Horse Show and included a unique opportunity to reinforce the Canadian Parliament's ongoing relationship with the Crown, through an audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the presentation of the Loyal Address and Proclamation on the Birth of His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge signed by the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons of the Parliament of Canada.

Meetings – United Kingdom

During their visit to the United Kingdom, the Speaker and his delegation had an audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, and met with Dr. Richard Ware, Director of Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal Project; Mr. Paul Martin, Director of Parliamentary Security; Dr. Meg Russell, Reader in British and Comparative Politics and Deputy Director of the Constitution Unit of University College London; the Right Honourable the Baroness D'Souza, Lord Speaker; Lord Kakkar, Chairman of the House of Lords Appointments Commission; Dr. William Shija, Secretary-General of the CPA; Baroness Randerson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales; the Honourable Dame Rosemary Butler, Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales; Mr. Callum Couper, Port Manager of ABP South Wales; Mr. Andrew Tuggey, Chief Executive and Secretary of CPA UK; Lord Alton of Liverpool; and Gordon Campbell, High Commissioner for Canada to the United Kingdom.

Presentation of the Loyal Address on the birth of His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, in the State Apartments at Windsor Castle

The Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons, accompanied by the Usher of the Black Rod, , attended a private audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, in the State Apartments at Windsor Castle. Following the presentation of the Loyal Address to The Queen, Her Majesty invited both Speakers as well as Senators Tkachuk and Cowan to tour the Royal Mews at Windsor Castle and view the Canadian horses presented to The Queen over the years. The tour was led by Mr. Terry Pendry, LVO, BEM, Royal Stud Groom to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Speakers and Senators attended a luncheon with members of the Royal Household and the Executives of the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Speaker Kinsella spoke with Mr. Simon Brooks-Ward, Esq. CVO, OBE, TD, to reiterate Canada's continued support and interest in celebrating the Queen's upcoming milestone as the longest ever reigning monarch in 2015. Speaker Kinsella also extended an invitation to Mr. Brooks-Ward to visit Ottawa to discuss Canadian involvement in the special event to be held at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May 2016 to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday. Speaker Kinsella was also invited to a bilateral meeting with His Majesty Sheikh Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, in His Majesty's Royal Suite at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Her Majesty invited the Speakers as well as the Senators to sit as her honoured guests in the Royal Box at the evening performance of the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Baroness D'Souza, CMG, PC, Speaker of the House of Lords, was also invited along with the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod from the House of Lords to enhance the already excellent relationship between our respective Parliaments.

Senators Tkachuk and Cowan were invited to meet The Queen and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Senator Tkachuk reminisced with The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on having seen them on a tour of Saskatchewan as a young boy. Senator Cowan spoke to Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh regarding the affection that all Canadians have for our Sovereign and he extended his best wishes from his home province of Nova Scotia.

Meeting with Dr. Richard Ware, Director of Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal Project

Speaker Kinsella and Speaker Scheer met with Dr. Richard Ware, Director of the Restoration and Renewal Project of the Palace of Westminster, to discuss the similar challenges that both the Palace of Westminster and Parliament are currently facing.

Dr. Ware gave a presentation on the many challenges of the project, mentioning that since both Houses and committees need to be able to meet whenever needed, there is a significant backlog of work built-up. Furthermore, the Palace, being part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the busiest sites in England and the opportunity to do major work in the summer is negligible.

Dr. Ware then explained that a study was commissioned in 2011 that showed that there were three possible approaches: minimizing disruption by having members stay in the Palace, having members move out until work is completed or divide the work in two phases by having one of the Houses move out while work is being completed and have the second House move out only when the first House has moved back in. Members of both Houses requested an independent review of the three approaches and the results of this review should be published by the end of the year. Since an election is scheduled in the near future, Dr. Ware believes that no decision will be made until after the election.

The Canadian delegation and Dr. Ware then discussed the long term benefits of the restoration of the Palace since it is such an iconic building.

Meeting with Mr. Paul Martin, Director of Parliamentary Security

Mr. Martin welcomed Speaker Kinsella and Speaker Scheer, as well as the whole Canadian delegation. After explaining his role, Mr. Martin indicated that although he is employed by the House of Commons, he works equally and jointly for both Speakers and is also accountable to both of them. He mentioned that this is a position that was put in place in 2012 and that prior to this, both the House of Commons and House of Lords had their own security body, which proved to be problematic since Westminster needed a single voice to communicate with their partners. Dr. Ware noted that all security related decisions go through a House of Commons Commission and a House of Lords Committee before it becomes policy and that the security budget has to be approved by both Speakers.

Dr. Ware informed the delegation that the Police of London has a unit dedicated to the Palace of Westminster. The Canadian delegation briefly discussed current debate in the Senate on whether to have an armed unit.

Meeting with Dr. Meg Russell, Reader in British and Comparative Politics and Deputy Director of the Constitution Unit of University College London

Dr. Russell spoke of her recent book on the House of Lords as the second chamber of the Westminster Parliament and its central position in British politics. The book provides a first detailed portrait of the post 1999 House of Lords. It delves into who sits in the chamber of the House of Lords, how it operates, bicameralism and the impact it has on politics and parliament in Britain. Dr. Russell spoke of the House of Lords and the Senate of Canada being two unique democratic systems in the global context.

Following a landmark change in 1999 which removed most of its hereditary members, the Lords' role in the policy process has grown. Dr. Russell and the Speaker drew parallels to the structure of the House of Lords and the Senate of Canada. Dr. Russell also mentioned that the Committee work by the House of Lords is appreciated and helps in the way it is perceived. Senator Tkachuk spoke of the excellent policy studies that have been completed by the Senate of Canada in the realm of Mental Health and Health Care.

Speaker Kinsella noted that Canadian Senators participate in national caucuses. He also highlighted Canada's linguistic duality and that this reality makes for interesting coalitions across party lines. Senator Cowan underlined the fact that the Supreme Court of Canada mentions the Senate Debates more frequently in its rulings than the House of Commons debates.

Meeting with the Right Honourable the Baroness D'Souza, Lord Speaker

Baroness D'Souza welcomed the delegation and thanked Speaker Kinsella for the gracious invitation for her to attend the Royal Box as guest of Her Majesty the Queen at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. The opportunity enhanced the already excellent and strong parliamentary cooperation between the Parliament of the United Kingdom and the Canadian Senate. She praised Canada for its strong support of Her Majesty the Queen and the Monarchy. Speaker Kinsella discussed the importance of establishing stronger ties between national legislatures such as the United Kingdom, Ireland and Canada which include a second chamber under the Westminster model. He spoke positively of the relations between Canada and the United Kingdom and suggested a formal gathering of the three upper chambers to further explore and discuss current and future reforms. He mentioned that this forum could allow for frank discussions with regard to shared history, challenges and developing a better understanding of bicameralism in a modern context.

At the end of the meeting, Speaker Kinsella committed to facilitate further discussions and develop the details surrounding the hosting of this inter parliamentary forum on bicameralism.

Meeting with Lord Kakkar, Chairman of the House of Lords Appointments Commission

After thanking Lord Kakkar for meeting with the delegation, Speaker Kinsella briefly spoke about the reasons the Canadian delegation was interested in finding out more about the Lords Appointment Commission. Lord Kakkar explained that the House of Lords Appointments Commission was established in May 2000 to serve as an advisory board to the Prime Minister, an intermediate step to the House of Lords reform.

He noted that the main function of the Commission is to thoroughly vet the candidates on subjects such as merit, contribution, political donations and what that specific candidate would bring to the House of Lords if nominated. He added that a security background is done on all candidates. Lord Kakkar indicated that if the Commission refuses a candidate, there is no negotiation and the individual will simply not be nominated by the Prime Minister. He also mentioned that people being vetted are not interviewed and are not aware of the process, unless someone from a political party informs them.

The Canadian delegation enquired about the public perception of the Commission and Lord Kakkar informed them that its work is well appreciated by all parties since it helped with the standardization of expectations. He also mentioned that there are approximately 150 sitting days in a year and a good and active peer should attend between 75% and 90% of them.

Meeting with Dr. William Shija, Secretary-General of the CPA

Dr. Shija welcomed both Speakers and thanked them for their interest in the CPA. Dr. Shija then briefed the Canadian delegation on the recent Executive Committee meeting, mentioning that there was good attendance and a lot of work had been done on the terms of reference. He noted that a report of the meeting should be sent by the end of July 2014 to the coordinating committee and then to the Executive Committee in Cameroon.

After Speaker Kinsella enquired about the upcoming CPA Chair election, Dr. Shija informed them that a letter would be issued in June 2014, with a deadline to respond in August 2014. The elections would be held on October 9, 2014 in Cameroon. The participants discussed potential candidates.

The Canadian delegation then enquired about the Internal Audit and its time line. They were informed that CPA was planning on doing a tender to find a firm that would be responsible for doing the audit. Dr. Shija mentioned that the tender process should be done by the end of June 2014. He added that the work of the firm would be carried out during the month of July and would have a report ready by the end of August in order to share it the Executive Committee members prior to the conference in Cameroon in October.

The participants asked about membership fees, what has been done and what could be done to reduce their cost since the CPA had savings of £8 000 000. The Canadian delegation wondered if it would be possible to divide a part of the reserve and return it to the members thereby decreasing the annual membership fee. Dr. Shija informed them that that could unfortunately not be done as most of the money would be spent on programs and assisting countries to attend conferences.

Meeting with Baroness Randerson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales

Baroness Randerson and the Canadian delegation discussed the many challenges of territorial representation in the House of Lords and the Senate of Canada. Baroness Randerson stated that even though she is the Coalition Spokesperson for Wales in the House of Lords, she does not see herself as representing the First Minister. Speaker Kinsella noted that in Canada, even though each senator is appointed in a specific province, they do not represent the government of that province, or the premier. She mentioned that there are about 40 Welsh Peers in the House of Lords and that 15 of them are very active. The participants briefly discussed the House of Lords Appointments Commission and Baroness Randerson noted that they have rigorous criteria but there are, however, some major issues with the appointment of party

candidates. Speaker Kinsella explained some of the principles of the Supreme Court of Canada decision on Senate Reform and that the focus of Senators is now on what can be done internally to modernize the Senate and its appointment process.

Baroness Randerson spoke of the transition period following the first elections of the National Assembly of Wales in 2006 and the many challenges facing the minority government. She added that since they now have a majority government, things are more political and proceeding faster. She briefly spoke about the Wales Bill introduced in Parliament last March that would give more power to the Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales.

Meeting with the Honourable Dame Rosemary Butler, Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales

Dame Rosemary Butler welcomed the delegation and Speaker Kinsella replied by thanking her for hosting the Canadian delegation. They went on to discuss higher education and the importance of youth mobility. The Speaker explained the importance of student and youth exchanges, both for the student and the country of origin, and then voiced concerns over the fact that only 3% of Canadian students take the opportunity to study abroad, partly because many students cannot afford to pay international tuition fees. The Presiding Officer noted that it is quite the opposite situation in Wales and they are losing their students to England, to the Netherlands, to Iceland and to other countries within the European Union. Speaker Kinsella suggested that some arrangements should be made to allow students to pay their regular tuition fee while studying in other countries.

Dame Butler informed the delegation that over the last few years, the city of Cardiff has been going through a “renaissance” and that it now feels like a true European city. She added that this was achieved through private development of the harbor area. Speaker Kinsella indicated that he would be interested in discussing the Atlantic Gateway and the shipbuilding industry in Wales, to which Dame Rosemary Butler replied that Associated British Ports (ABP) was managing the harbor.

Following the meeting, the Presiding Officer hosted a lunch and the delegation had the opportunity to meet with members of the Commission who will be travelling to Ottawa in October 2014 on a working session. At the end of the lunch, Speaker Kinsella briefly spoke about the Parliamentary Officers' Study Program organized by the Parliament of Canada and delivered a letter of invitation.

Meeting with Mr. Callum Couper, Port Manager of ABP South Wales

Speaker Kinsella started the meeting by thanking Mr. Callum for taking the time to meet the delegation. Speaker Kinsella discussed the many advantages of going through Canadian ports when delivering cargo to North America and observed that the Canadian railway system can offer transportation of cargo anywhere on the American continent.

Mr. Callum mentioned that ABP used to bring in Canadian timber but the coming into force of the European Union altered the dynamic of many industries, including timber. Mr. Callum went on to explain that ABP South Wales was focusing primarily on cargo services between the United Kingdom and Ireland. Mr. Callum added that the global financial crisis of 2009 had a huge impact on ABP and that the company is keeping an eye on new possibilities and is very keen on building new business relationships. He added that ABP is open to investing in facilities and handling services if they are certain of a return on their investment.

Mr. Callum mentioned that he was happy to have a better understanding of the Port of Halifax and the Port of Saint John and that since ABP is always open to new possibilities, he would be happy to report back on what was discussed during the meeting. Speaker Kinsella thanked Mr. Callum for his time.

Meeting with Mr. Andrew Tuggey, Chief Executive and Secretary of CPA UK

Speaker Kinsella thanked Mr. Tuggey for agreeing to meet the Canadian delegation on such short notice. Speaker Kinsella then shared with Mr. Tuggey what had been discussed at the meeting with the Secretary General of CPA and the meeting with the Lord Speaker regarding the internal audit report, the terms of reference and the £8 000 000 trust-fund (all present agreed that the auditor should look into the trust fund).

The participants then briefly discussed the situation surrounding the actual treasurer and his legal battle in Swaziland and the impact that it is having in the reputation of the Association. Mr. Tuggey mentioned that many believe that the treasurer should resign but he does not want to since he does not regard it as a threat to the reputation of the organization. Mr. Tuggey stated that the position of Treasurer of the CPA, just like the Chair's position, would become available since the post is coming to term in the coming months. He explained that the current Executive Committee would meet before the annual conference in Cameroon to elect a treasurer and the nomination would be presented at the General Assembly for ratification.

The Canadian delegation informed Mr. Tuggey that Canada was thinking of putting a name forward in the upcoming elections since it had been more than ten years since either Canada, Australia or Pacific countries had held a leadership position. Mr. Tuggey mentioned that African countries tend to usually vote together, they are the biggest region and the conference will be taking place there. His recommendation was that the candidate in question would need a champion in Africa, potentially Ghana. He then recommended that Canada should do its best to convince branches to send delegates to Cameroon for the actual vote.

Objectives of the visit – Netherlands:

The objectives of the visit were to:

- Enhance relations between Canada and the Netherlands;
- Discuss matters relating to parliamentary governance and highlight the importance of parliamentary diplomacy;

- Discuss the important role of parliamentary organizations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);
- Discuss the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA);
- Boost collaboration between container shipping ports;
- Promote the potential of the Atlantic Gateway;
- Reinforce the importance of the human rights ;
- Promote educational exchanges; and
- Highlight Aboriginal works of art.

Context – Netherlands

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has been a sovereign state and constitutional monarchy since 1848. The Kingdom includes four parts, one in Europe and three in the Caribbean (Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten). King Willem-Alexander ascended the Throne in 2013. While the delegation was in the Netherlands, the eighth election to the European Parliament was being held.

2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Netherlands, and 2015 will mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation from Nazi occupation in 1945. Canada and the Netherlands will celebrate these anniversaries and the strong people-to-people ties and rich military and royal history they recall. There is a one-million Dutch diaspora community in Canada. The Netherlands and Canada are close bilateral partners on counterterrorism, cross-border criminality and cyber threats. The Netherlands will be part of the Canada and European Union's Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Meetings – Netherlands

During their visit to the Netherlands, the Speaker and the Senate delegation met with Dr. Geert ten Dam, President of the Education Council of the Netherlands, Professor Frank A. van der Duyn Schouten, Rector Magnificus, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and Mr. Adrie van de Rest, Secretary of the Education Council of the Netherlands; Her Excellency Ankie Broekers-Knol, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Mr. Wopke Hoekstra, Senator and Mr. Rene Leegte, Member of Parliament; Mr. Frans van Keulen, Manager of External Relations, Rotterdam Port Authority; Professor Alex Geer Castermans, Professor Ton Liefwaard, Professor Titia Loenen, Professor Pablo Mendes de Leon, Dr. Gelijk Molier and Ms. Machteld Zee of Leiden University; Ms. Garance Reus-Deelder, Managing Director, Mr. Jan Erik Dubbleman, Director of Educational Projects, and Ms. Julie Couture, Canadian Project, of Ann Frank House; and Ambassador James Lambert.

Meeting with Dr. Geert ten Dam, President of the Education Council of the Netherlands, Professor Frank A. van der Duyn Schouten, Rector Magnificus, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and Mr. Adrie van de Rest, Secretary of the Education Council of the Netherlands

Speaker Kinsella and the Canadian delegation met with members of the Education Council of the Netherlands. Dr. Ten Dam explained the Dutch experiences and challenges with higher education and that the number one area of priority is to improve the quality of education in general, starting in preschool up to university.

Speaker Kinsella shared his interest in building more exchange possibilities between faculties and students in the Netherlands and Canada, in the hope that more Canadian students will study abroad. He added that it is crucial for Canada to have some students participating in such exchanges if only to be an active participant in the “Global Academy”.

The Council shared some examples of successful efforts to attract students from other countries such as offering 80% of its master’s courses in English in order to be more attractive to exchange students and to facilitate the Netherlands as becoming a study destination. Furthermore, Dutch universities are now offering more general programs that are not as specific as they used to be in order to be more appealing. They also mentioned that they are slowly moving away from university to university relationships as students now have all the tools to find the information on studying in the Netherlands on their own.

Speaker Kinsella thanked the members of the Council and concluded the meeting by mentioning that he hopes to see the number of Canadian students participating in exchanges in countries such as the Netherlands increase in the future.

Meeting with Her Excellency Ankie Broekers-Knol, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

President Broekers-Knol made a few welcoming remarks regarding the strongly connected historical ties and values between both countries and noted that 2014 celebrates 75 years of bilateral relations. Speaker Kinsella thanked President Broekers-Knol for her kind remarks and added that the two countries will always be allies and close friends. They reviewed the constitutional situation and current trends of both Senates, which have much in common as “*chambres de réflexion*”.

Mr. Hans Franken, Vice-President of the Eerste Kamer, and Mr. Frank van Kappen, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Development Cooperation, made impassioned pleas for Canada to continue involvement in international parliamentary exchanges, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Speaker Kinsella replied that he saw great value in demonstrating solidarity with embattled counterparts and countries should commit to supporting democracies at risk. Speaker Kinsella noted the need to keep budget constraints in mind and mentioned membership fees of certain parliamentary associations. The Dutch side stressed the particular value of bilateral Canada-Netherlands parliamentary

exchanges in fields such as foreign relations given their similar view of global challenges. Mr. Van Kappen spoke about the shared risks that countries such as Canada and the Netherlands will confront in the years ahead, including energy security, scarcity, environmental degradation and emerging threats. Speaker Kinsella suggested that both sides should explore video conference options for foreign affairs discussions.

Following the meeting, the President of the Senate hosted a lunch and, at the end of the lunch, Speaker Kinsella made mention of the Parliamentary Officers' Study Program organized by the Parliament of Canada and delivered a letter of invitation.

Meeting with Mr. Wopke Hoekstra, Senator, and Mr. Rene Leegte, Member of Parliament

Speaker Kinsella introduced himself and Senator Cowan, noting that they are both senators representing the East Coast and that they have a great interest in port industries. He provided a briefing about the Atlantic Gateway infrastructure and how Canadian energy products could be linked to Europe. He also explained that European traders could link to the American heartland through Canadian railways. Since both Senator Hoekstra and Mr. Leegte have private sector experience, they showed deep interest in the numerous trade possibilities.

Both Dutch parliamentarians discussed the topic of energy security as well as the Dutch views on environmental concerns linked to carbon. They also mentioned that with the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, it makes sense for the Dutch government to examine different options on sourcing and that fossil fuels will most likely be required for the foreseeable future.

As for the Atlantic Gateway, it was mentioned that the private sector would make its decisions about the movement of goods on an economic basis but that they took good note of the information that Speaker Kinsella had offered and that they would raise awareness. Both offered to follow up and provide some useful contact points to establish some connections between the Chamber of Commerce of the Netherlands and the Canadian Embassy. Speaker Kinsella thanked both Senator Hoekstra and Mr. Leegte for their time and valuable input.

Meeting with Mr. Frans van Keulen, Manager of External Relations, Rotterdam Port Authority

Upon their arrival at the Rotterdam Port Authority, both Speaker Kinsella and Senator Cowan were introduced to Mr. Paul R.J.M. Smits, Chief Financial Officer. Speaker Kinsella briefly spoke about the numerous advantages of going through Canadian ports, instead of American ports, when trying to reach the North American heartland, and the importance of building relationships between the two countries.

Mr. van Keulen offered a brief overview of the Port of Rotterdam, explaining that it is the largest port in Europe, handling 420 million tons of cargo yearly, and that it is an important gateway for Canadian products. Mr. Van Keulen also explained that the Port has a dedicated cargo railway connecting all the container terminals.

Following the briefing, Mr. Van Keulen gave an interpretive tour through the port infrastructure allowing him to demonstrate its scale, dimension, high-level security in combination with its openness, the ability to move around freely and its innovativeness. Following the tour, Speaker Kinsella thanked Mr. Van Keulen for his time and concluded by recognizing the degree of organization of the Port of Rotterdam as a “best practice” in the field.

Meeting with Professor Alex Geer Castermans, Professor Ton Liefwaard, Professor Titia Loenen, Professor Pablo Mendes de Leon, Dr. Gelijn Molier and Ms. Machteld Zee of Leiden University

Speaker Kinsella and the Canadian delegation attended a lunch with five faculty members and a student at Leiden University where he raised the importance of participating in the “global academy”. Speaker Kinsella also suggested specific areas where Leiden University may want to explore partnerships, for example with the Canadian center of excellence specializing in human rights and international studies. Some of the faculty members showed interest in gathering information about endowed chairs in Canada that would be interested in offering sabbatical opportunities.

Speaker Kinsella and his hosts also had the opportunity to discuss issues such as children's rights, religious diversity and women's rights.

Meeting with Ms. Garance Reus-Deelder, Managing Director, Mr. Jan Erik Dubbleman, Director of Educational Projects, and Ms. Julie Couture, Canadian Project, of Ann Frank House

Speaker Kinsella and the Canadian delegation received a presentation by Ms. Garance Reus-Deelder, Managing Director, Mr. Jan Erik Dubbleman, Director of Educational Projects, and Ms. Julie Couture, Canadian Educational Specialist, about the museum's international programming, with a special focus on Canada.

Since the Ann Frank House is keen on broadening their impact in Canada through peer-to-peer youth education, Speaker Kinsella offered to identify useful contacts at some of the Canadian human rights institutions and Holocaust remembrance centers in areas where the Ann Frank House has not yet had the opportunity to be active.

Following the presentation, Mr. Dubbleman offered a tour of the Ann Frank House to the Canadian delegation.

Acknowledgements

The members of the Canadian delegation wish to thank the staff of the High Commission of Canada in London, in particular Ms. Gillian Licari, Head of VIP Visits Unit and Political Officer, and Ms. Dominique Lizé-Beaulieu, Visits Coordinator.

Finally, the members of the delegation offer their thanks to Mr. James Lambert, Ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands and the entire staff at the embassy, especially Mrs. Ann Flanagan Whalen, Counsellor, and Mr. Nicolas Sabourin, Counsellor, for their remarkable work in organizing the visit to the Netherlands.

They also wish to thank the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and the Library of Parliament for the documentation provided as part of the preparation for this visit.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate

Travel Costs

Visit of the Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate,
and a Parliamentary Delegation, England and Wales, United
Kingdom; Netherlands.

TRAVEL	\$ 34,725.86
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 14,630.50
PER DIEMS	\$ 5,880.02
PROTOCOL	\$ 2,832.69
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 58,069.07