



## **Welkomstwoord**

van de Voorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal, dr. M.L. (Mei Li) Vos, ter gelegenheid van het bezoek van de Voorzitter van de Senaat van Canada, Raymonde Gagné.

*Datum* 19 mei 2026

Dear Madame Speaker,  
Dear members of the delegation,

On behalf of the States General, both Houses of the Dutch Parliament, I would like to welcome you here in the Dutch Senate.

*Bienvenue.*

It is an honour to receive you here today,  
together with my colleague from the House of Representatives, Mr Thom van Campen and members of both houses of the Dutch Parliament.  
From the Senate I'd like to introduce Mr Koen Petersen, chair of the committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Development Cooperation.

Canada has been a friend of our country for a very long period of time.  
In this light, I would not only like to underline again the role that Canada played in the liberation of our country, something that will never be forgotten.  
But also the continuous support of the Canada to pursue justice and accountability with regard to the downing of flight MH17, which also cost the life of one Canadian.

Former Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands spent four years in Canada during the Second World War and went to school in the city of Ottawa.  
She once said: 'The insight that your own well-being partly depends on other countries, makes you look outward.  
Our strength lies not in isolation, but in cooperation'.

I believe her words did not lose any of their relevance over the years.  
Progress is only possible if we work together on the international stage.  
In current turbulent times, we should even more rely on the values of multilateralism and a rules based world order.

I hope that today we can speak about democracy, the rule of law and the parliamentary process in both our countries.

Allow me to give the floor to Mr Van Campen.

Thank you.