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Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament

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Thursday, May 7, 2015

—
Co-Chair

Mr. Richard Harris

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• (1200)

[English]

The Joint Clerk of the Committee (Mr. Kevin Pittman): Honourable senators, members of Parliament, as joint clerk of your committee, it is my duty to inform you that there's now a vacancy for the position of Senate joint chair, and to preside over the election of the joint chair from the Senate.

[Translation]

I am ready to receive a motion to elect the Senate joint chair.

[English]

The Joint Chair (Mr. Richard Harris (Cariboo—Prince George, CPC)): Thank you. It's my pleasure to nominate Senator Jim Munson for the position of co-chair of this committee.

[Translation]

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Kevin Pittman): Are there any other nominations?

[English]

It is moved, by Mr. Harris, that the Honourable Senator Munson be elected joint chair of this committee.

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

[Translation]

(Motion agreed to)

[English]

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Kevin Pittman): I invite the Honourable Senator Munson to take the chair.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Richard Harris): I look forward to spending many meetings with Senator Munson.

Would you like to say a few words, Senator? It was a tough campaign, I know.

The Joint Chair (Senator Jim Munson (Ontario (Ottawa / Rideau Canal), Lib.)): Yes, it was a very tough campaign. There is a sea of change in the country as we can see—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

The Joint Chair (Senator Jim Munson): No, it's a privilege and an honour to be a co-chair with you, Dick.

He and I worked together on Special Olympics projects. I truly am a parliamentarian who loves to work with others. I'm an empathetic person who has, I think, an understanding of Parliament, as Mr.

Chrétien said to me one time, “Jimmy, you've been around since a long time.”

I've been around since a long time. I came to the Hill in 1972. I went away for a while, but I covered Parliament Hill for 12 years, went away as a reporter, and came back. This is for those who don't know who I was. By the way, I have a saying now in the Senate: do you know who I think I was?

I know this is a public meeting, but this is the way I am. I do sit on our internal economy committee. I sit on our fisheries committee. I've always cared about the Library of Parliament, so being a co-chair with you is a wonderful thing.

I have some ideas for a meeting down the road, thinking of what the Library of Parliament can do for 2017, and I know there are some ideas around this table. I think we have an opportunity to be positive and creative in terms of highlighting what our Library of Parliament does, and what it does for Canadians not only just for parliamentarians. I think we have a opportunity to do that.

I've heard through the grapevine that you are pretty quick on the gavel, Co-Chair. With that, I'm looking forward to future meetings so that we can have a conversation about what we care about, which is our Parliament, and the Library of Parliament is an integral part of that.

With that, it's a pleasure to be a part of this prestigious division.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Richard Harris): Thank you, Senator.

That is the only item we have on the agenda today. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Scott Simms (Bonavista—Gander—Grand Falls—Wind-sor, Lib.): Chair, if I may, before that, please...?

I think that it was actually a year ago that my motion was passed, regarding the dissemination of information to the public when it comes to the Library of Parliament—

The Joint Chair (Mr. Richard Harris): Let me just interrupt you, Mr. Simms.

• (1205)

Mr. Scott Simms: It's been one year.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Richard Harris): There's only one item on the agenda. In order to proceed with any other items or discussion, other than the item on the table, there has to be unanimous consent from the committee.

Before you continue, I have to ask this. Is there unanimous consent that Mr. Simms continue?

A voice: Yes.

Voices: No.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Richard Harris): I don't see unanimous consent, so I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rob Clarke (Desnethé—Mississippi—Churchill River, CPC): I so move.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Mr. Richard Harris): The meeting is adjourned.

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