



House of Commons  
CANADA

# **Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates**

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OGGO • NUMBER 053 • 1st SESSION • 38th PARLIAMENT

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**EVIDENCE**

**Monday, October 17, 2005**

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**Chair**

**Mr. Leon Benoit**

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## Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates

Monday, October 17, 2005

•(1535)

[*English*]

**The Clerk of the Committee (Ms. Miriam Burke):** Honourable members of the committee, I see a quorum.

Your first order of business is to elect a chair. I'm now prepared to accept nominations.

Mr. Preston.

**Mr. Joe Preston (Elgin—Middlesex—London, CPC):** I would move Leon Benoit to be the chair.

**The Clerk:** Are there any other nominations? No?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Clerk:** I declare Mr. Benoit duly elected chair of the committee, in absentia.

I will now move to vice-chair. I'll proceed to the first vice-chair on the government side.

Madame Marleau.

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Sudbury, Lib.):** I nominate Mr. Szabo for vice-chair.

**The Clerk:** Madame Marleau moves that Mr. Szabo be elected vice-chair for the government.

Are there any other nominations?

**Mr. Pierre Poilievre (Nepean—Carleton, CPC):** I nominate Mr. Boshcoff.

**Mr. Ken Boshcoff (Thunder Bay—Rainy River, Lib.):** Thank you very much for that. I respectfully decline.

Thank you, though.

**The Clerk:** Okay.

[*Translation*]

**Ms. Louise Thibault (Rimouski-Neigette—Témiscouata—Les Basques, BQ):** I'm sorry, but I didn't catch that.

[*English*]

You declined?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ken Boshcoff:** Yes.

**Ms. Louise Thibault:** Thank you.

[*English*]

**The Clerk:** Okay.

**Mr. Joe Preston:** May I nominate Mr. Godbout?

**Mr. Marc Godbout (Ottawa—Orléans, Lib.):** Mr. Godbout will decline. I sense a pattern, but I'm flattered.

**Mr. Pierre Poilievre:** I would like to nominate the Honourable Madame Marleau.

**Hon. Diane Marleau:** I can't. I'm parliamentary secretary.

**Mr. Pierre Poilievre:** Okay, that's unfortunate.

**An hon. member:** Mr. Scarpaleggia, will you decline?

**Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia (Lac-Saint-Louis, Lib.):** You asked me once, and it's definitely no.

**Mr. Joe Preston:** Will someone please tell Mr. Szabo that we tried our best not to have him?

**The Clerk:** The nominations are now closed.

(Motion agreed to)

**The Clerk:** I declare Mr. Szabo duly elected vice-chair of the committee.

I'll now proceed to election of the opposition vice-chair. Are there any nominations?

Madame Thibault.

[*Translation*]

**Ms. Louise Thibault:** I move that Mr. Pat Martin of the New Democratic Party be elected second Vice-Chair.

[*English*]

**The Clerk:** Are there any other nominations?

Nominations are now closed.

(Motion agreed to)

**The Clerk:** I declare Mr. Martin duly elected vice-chair of the committee.

He's going to take the chair, I think.

**The Vice-Chair (Mr. Pat Martin (Winnipeg Centre, NDP)):** It all happened very quickly. Have they changed my title already?

This is a great honour. I understand from the clerk that the only order of business is actually to move to adjourn, but I don't want to do that quite yet now that I have assumed the chair for the first time ever.

Mr. Simard.

[Translation]

**Mr. Christian Simard (Beauport—Limoilou, BQ):** Have we received confirmation that Mr. Dingwall will be here on Wednesday?

[English]

**The Vice-Chair (Mr. Pat Martin):** No, there is no agenda. I understand we have no confirmation about witnesses or guests for the Wednesday meeting at this time. You'll be notified as soon as—

[Translation]

**Mr. Christian Simard:** I imagine the clerk will notify us once she has received confirmation so that we can prepare ourselves accordingly.

[English]

**The Vice-Chair (Mr. Pat Martin):** You'll have to be notified at the earliest possible convenience—I hope by e-mail—so they can make preparations. Later today, we hope to have a confirmation one way or the other.

**Mr. Gary Lunn (Saanich—Gulf Islands, CPC):** The Wednesday meeting is not confirmed yet?

**The Vice-Chair (Mr. Pat Martin):** There is a meeting scheduled, but the witnesses are not confirmed. We don't know if Mr. Dingwall can or will be joining us on Wednesday.

There is an interesting point, though. We understand that the audit we've been waiting for, dealing with Mr. Dingwall's expenses at Canada Post, will in fact be ready on Wednesday. So we're hoping that would—

● (1540)

**The Clerk:** It's the Mint.

**The Acting Chair (Mr. Pat Martin):** What did I say? Did I say Canada Post? I'm sorry. I get my scandals mixed up sometimes.

Mr. Epp.

**Mr. Ken Epp (Edmonton—Sherwood Park, CPC):** Just for clarification, may I ask if he has been given an invitation, or has the committee communicated to him that we demand his appearance?

**The Vice-Chair (Mr. Pat Martin):** The terminology we're using is that he has been called to appear, and if he fails to attend, with that invitation, as it were, he can be sent for. I believe that's the next escalation. By a motion of the committee, he can be sent for, which has the force of law then.

**Mr. Ken Epp:** So at this stage it's at the invitation or polite level.

**The Vice-Chair (Mr. Pat Martin):** At this stage he's been called to appear before the committee. In other words, the invitation has been extended, and with a fixed date. It's not an RSVP invitation, I believe.

**Mr. Ken Epp:** Good, thank you.

We have a motion to adjourn. Can I call the question?

**The Vice-Chair (Mr. Pat Martin):** It's non-debatable. It doesn't need a seconder, right?

I can do this.

The meeting is adjourned.







**Published under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Commons**

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