



House of Commons
CANADA

Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics

ETHI • NUMBER 001 • 3rd SESSION • 40th PARLIAMENT

EVIDENCE

Thursday, March 11, 2010

—
Chair

Mr. Paul Szabo

Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics

Thursday, March 11, 2010

•(1115)

[Translation]

The Clerk of the Committee (Mr. Jacques Maziade): Good day to all of the members of the committee.

[English]

I see a quorum. We can now proceed with the election of the chair. I'm ready to receive motions to that effect.

Mr. Easter.

Hon. Wayne Easter (Malpeque, Lib.): I move that Mr. Szabo be chair.

The Clerk: It has been moved by Mr. Easter that Mr. Szabo be elected chair of the committee.

Are there any further motions? No.

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

(Motion agreed to)

The Clerk: I declare the motion carried and Mr. Szabo duly elected chair of the committee.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Clerk: Before inviting Mr. Szabo to take the chair, is it the wish of the committee to proceed to the election of the vice-chairs?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Clerk: I'm now prepared to receive motions for the first vice-chair.

Mr. Siksay.

Mr. Bill Siksay (Burnaby—Douglas, NDP): I move that Pat Davidson be the first vice-chair.

The Clerk: It has been moved by Mr. Siksay that Madam Davidson be elected first vice-chair of the committee.

Are there any further motions?

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

(Motion agreed to)

The Clerk: I declare the motion carried and Madam Davidson duly elected vice-chair of the committee.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

The Clerk: I am now ready to receive motions for the position of second vice-chair.

Mrs. Carole Freeman (Châteauguay—Saint-Constant, BQ): I nominate Mr. Bill Siksay for the position of second vice-chair.

The Clerk: Mrs. Freeman moves that Mr. Siksay be elected second vice-chair.

Are there any other motions?

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

(Motion agreed to)

The Clerk: I declare the motion carried and Mr. Siksay duly elected second vice-chair of the committee.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Clerk: I invite Mr. Szabo to take the chair.

[English]

The Chair (Mr. Paul Szabo (Mississauga South, Lib.)): Thank you, Jacques, for starting us off on the best committee on Parliament Hill—and the hardest working. I know the members here have had an opportunity to work with each other in the past, and we do have some very interesting work.

I'm proposing that next Tuesday, since our routine motions as to the construct of the steering committee are in place, our steering committee would meet at our regular meeting time. We'll give notice of that meeting for the members: Madam Freeman, Mr. Siksay, Madam Davidson, and myself.

I'm suggesting that each of the members of the steering committee would circulate to the others any general suggestions for consideration at the steering committee, so we could come somewhat prepared to formulate a recommendation to the full committee when our first full committee will occur on that following Thursday.

Madam Davidson.

Mrs. Patricia Davidson (Sarnia—Lambton, CPC): Thanks, Mr. Chair.

Are we going to circulate them through the clerk?

The Chair: No, no, I think the members informally, because I think that would be expeditious.

Mrs. Patricia Davidson: We'll do it amongst ourselves. Okay.

The Chair: There is only one other item, although it is not on our agenda. I have had some consultation with each of the parties. It has to do with the 10th and 11th reports of this committee from the last session. They were tabled in the House. We requested a response from the government within 120 days. We did receive a response from the Minister of Justice on both those reports. The committee considered the response of the minister and we have had correspondence requesting, and the minister has agreed to provide, a comprehensive response, which will be coming forward. We will continue to pursue that for the committee's consideration.

Prorogation, however, has taken those two reports that we referred to the House off the table. So in consultation with the parties, I would propose that those two reports be retabled in the House. I will specifically state that we are not requesting the government response within 120 days, simply because the government has already responded, but we have ongoing work there.

Mr. Siksay.

Mr. Bill Siksay: I'll propose a motion to that effect. With regard to the report of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics, entitled "The Privacy Act: First Steps Towards Renewal", I move that it be retabled in the House.

The Chair: Thank you.

Is there any discussion?

Mr. Poilievre.

Mr. Pierre Poilievre (Nepean—Carleton, CPC): I'm sorry. I was premature. I think that seems reasonable, but I had a separate point on a separate report that related to the investigation on the Google mapping systems. I don't want to take us off subject.

The Chair: Is there anything further on Mr. Siksay's motion?

There being nothing further, all those in favour?

(Motion agreed to)

The Chair: Madam Freeman.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Carole Freeman: I'm proposing that the report on the Access to Information Act be tabled once again to the House. I would like to make that a motion.

• (1120)

[*English*]

The Chair: That's the eleventh report.

Is there any discussion? All those in favour?

(Motion agreed to)

The Chair: Mr. Poilievre.

Mr. Pierre Poilievre: What was your plan, Mr. Chair, regarding studies that we commenced and in fact completed, like the one on the Google mapping system, but whose reports are not yet authored? Do we have a plan to reopen the study just for the purpose of report drafting? Would you wrap them in a motion to that effect?

The Chair: I believe our standard practice is that, first of all, at our first full meeting, there would be a motion to bring forward the

evidence, minutes, and transcripts from the prior session and adopt that into the current session. Then we could proceed as you have suggested, in that we would take the necessary steps to complete that work and report it to the House. But because of the prorogation, we don't have that testimony and that information still.

There's a precedent for that. We had a case with the Afghan study in the prior session. We actually brought forward the whole study and the report was done in one session. It came forward, we adopted it, and actually produced that report.

Mr. Pierre Poilievre: We'll just deal with that at the next meeting.

The Chair: Yes. I think we will possibly have some further discussion as to the content of that report because it hasn't been drafted, but certainly that's something I think we should do since we have invested some good time in it.

Mr. Pierre Poilievre: So you would welcome a motion at the next meeting.

The Chair: I think we'll certainly be discussing this at the steering committee meeting next Tuesday. I'm very sure that it will be on our list of matters to suggest to the committee on how we might proceed.

Mr. Pierre Poilievre: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Easter.

Hon. Wayne Easter: On that matter, we all sit on other committees, and certainly on the agriculture committee that I sit on we had a competitive study that went way back to last February, actually, and was lost to a great extent because of prorogation. All we did was put a motion that all the evidence received on the issue of the competitive study be brought forward to this session. Then you can get on and do the report, but you need the motion to be able to do it. So we'll do it at the next meeting.

The Chair: I think we have a plan. So we'll have steering committee next Tuesday and the first full committee on Thursday. Proper notices will be issued by our clerk, Jacques Maziade.

I hope that you get to know our clerk and Alysia and Dara, our analysts, who have provided excellent service, support, and assistance to our committee in the past. We are very blessed to have them.

It's nice to see all of you.

By the way, we had a baby, right?

Ms. Alysia Davies (Committee Researcher): We did.

The Chair: You didn't.

Ms. Alysia Davies: Oh, oh; that's how rumours get started.

Voices: Oh, oh!

The Chair: No, there was another analyst, but Alysia, maybe you could advise the committee.

Ms. Alysia Davies: Élise Hurtubise-Loranger had a little boy named Émile. He came to visit us in the office a few days ago. He's very cute and doing very well, so everyone is happy.

The Chair: That's excellent.

Well, that's a very good start for us.

Colleagues, I know we're all busy. There's no further business, so we're adjourned.

MAIL  POSTE

Canada Post Corporation / Société canadienne des postes

Postage paid

Port payé

Lettermail

Poste-lettre

**1782711
Ottawa**

If undelivered, return COVER ONLY to:
Publishing and Depository Services
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5

*En cas de non-livraison,
retourner cette COUVERTURE SEULEMENT à :*
Les Éditions et Services de dépôt
Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0S5

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

SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its Committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the *Copyright Act*. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a Committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the *Copyright Act*.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its Committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

Additional copies may be obtained from: Publishing and
Depository Services
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5
Telephone: 613-941-5995 or 1-800-635-7943
Fax: 613-954-5779 or 1-800-565-7757
publications@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca
http://publications.gc.ca

Also available on the Parliament of Canada Web Site at the
following address: <http://www.parl.gc.ca>

Publié en conformité de l'autorité
du Président de la Chambre des communes

PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

On peut obtenir des copies supplémentaires en écrivant à : Les
Éditions et Services de dépôt
Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0S5
Téléphone : 613-941-5995 ou 1-800-635-7943
Télécopieur : 613-954-5779 ou 1-800-565-7757
publications@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca
http://publications.gc.ca

Aussi disponible sur le site Web du Parlement du Canada à
l'adresse suivante : <http://www.parl.gc.ca>