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STATEMENT

Establishment of the Parliamentary Protective Service

Ottawa – June 23, 2015 – Earlier today, Bill C-59, *Economic Action Plan 2015 Act, No. 1*, received Royal Assent and a new statutory office called the Parliamentary Protective Service (PPS) was established. The PPS will be responsible for all matters relating to physical security throughout the Parliamentary Precinct and the grounds of Parliament Hill. The Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons are responsible for and provide general policy direction to this new service, which will be under the operational control and management of its Director. Both Speakers will protect the powers, privileges, rights and immunities of the Senate and the House of Commons, and their respective members.

At this time, we would like to officially welcome Chief Superintendent Michael Duheme, who will serve as Director of the PPS. As an experienced RCMP member with 28 years of service, he brings an extensive background in operational and protective policing. We are confident that his expertise will greatly contribute to leading effective integrated security operations.

The establishment of the PPS is an important step towards greater integration between three highly qualified security partners. Each brings unique expertise to the partnership, and this collaboration will serve to enhance our ability to protect the people and the site that are at the core of our democracy.

The need for greater operational coordination among the security partners has been a priority since the creation of the Master Security Planning Office, in 2007, by the Senate, House of Commons and RCMP. Recommendations by the Office of the Auditor General and parliamentary committees, as well as other legislative measures further reinforced the need for integration.

As of today, the PPS is fully integrated and well prepared operationally to deliver on its protective mandate proactively, efficiently and effectively. Officials within the three institutions have been working together for some time to ensure a seamless transition towards this new security model.

We are committed to our shared responsibility to ensure the safety of parliamentarians, employees and visitors. We are confident that the PPS will allow us to take this commitment one step further and place us in a better position to mitigate future threats while maintaining an open and secure Parliament.

The Honourable Leo Housakos
Speaker of the Senate

The Honourable Andrew Scheer
Speaker of the House of Commons

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