MEDIA ADVISORY

Recall of the House

Ottawa, Ontario – April 9, 2020

Pursuant to Standing Order 28(3), the Honourable Anthony Rota, Speaker of the House of Commons, has given notice for the House to meet on Saturday, April 11, 2020, at 12:15 p.m., for the consideration of measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional background

On Tuesday, March 24, Bill C-13, An Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19 was adopted at all stages in the House. The House also adopted a motion by unanimous consent to provide that it may be recalled to consider measures to address the economic impact of COVID-19 and its impacts on the lives of Canadians.

On Wednesday, March 25, Her Excellency the Governor General signified royal assent to Bill C-13 by written declaration.

The House has been recalled on 13 other occasions, including the recall of March 24, 2020. For a list of previous recalls during adjournment periods, please refer to Appendix 12 of House of Commons Procedure and Practice, Third Edition, 2017, “Recalls of the House of Commons During Adjournment Periods Since 1867.”

Standing Order 28(3) provides the means by which the House may be recalled. This process usually begins with a government request made in writing to the Speaker. The decision to recall is taken by the Speaker, after consultation with the government and once the Speaker is satisfied that the public interest would be served by an earlier meeting of the House. Unless a motion is adopted that provides for a change to the daily order of business, proceedings are held in the usual manner depending on the time of the meeting of the House. When the House sits on a Saturday or Sunday, the order of business will be that of a Friday sitting.

For more information related to the Speaker’s role or the daily order of business of the House following a recall, see the section entitled “Recall of the House During an Adjournment” in Chapter 8 of House of Commons Procedure and Practice, Third Edition, 2017.

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