

Leader du gouvernement  
à la Chambre des communes  
Lieutenant du Québec



Leader of the Government  
in the House of Commons  
Québec Lieutenant

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

Chair  
Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

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Dear Chair:

Pursuant to Standing Order 109 of the House of Commons and on behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to provide the Government's response to the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs entitled, "Parliamentary Duties and the COVID-19 Pandemic."

The Government would like to thank the committee for its thoughtful consideration of ways in which Members can fulfill their parliamentary duties during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the ongoing risks that COVID-19 poses, the committee has made important recommendations about implementing measures for virtual meetings of the House. These measures reflect public health guidance and allow the House to continue to hold the Government to account while at the same time protecting Members, their staff, parliamentary personnel, and our communities. Many of the recommendations contained within the report aligned with how the House has operated since March and guided the House as it moved from virtual proceedings of the Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic to hybrid proceedings of the special committee and the House. The work of the committee was critically important to the success of this process.

The committee's recommendations fall exclusively within the purview of the House of Commons and its recognized parliamentary privilege to regulate its own internal affairs. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of Members to determine the most appropriate way for the House to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic or any other exceptional circumstances, and the Government remains committed to supporting this process.

The Government remains open to continue working with the House of Commons Administration in implementing decisions related to public health guidance, interpretation services or the security of videoconferencing platforms and information technology systems.

The Government would also like to recognize the professionalism, agility and responsiveness of House Administration, interpreters and security personnel in supporting the modified sittings of the House, the meetings of the Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the meetings of House standing committees during this period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Pablo Rodriguez', written over a light blue horizontal line.

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, P.C., M.P.  
Leader of the Government in the House of Commons