

# Policy motion: Preventing appointments to boards and commissions that unfairly bind a future government

**Whereas,** The previous government in its last weeks “stacked” agencies, boards, and crown corporations with at least one new and dozens of renewal appointments that are due to start well into the future, including securing appointments to the National Energy Board that prevent the new government from making any temporary appointments until 2018 and prevent it from making any permanent appointments until 2020,

**And Whereas,** The previous government negotiated severance packages with selected agency, board, and commission members that would trigger a large severance if the appointee were terminated early

**And Whereas,** Government passed the *Federal Accountability Act* in 2006, which called for creation of a Public Appointments Commission to ensure an open and transparent appointment process, but this commission does not currently exist,

**And Whereas,** Legislation does not currently prohibit agency, board, and commissions appointments that start well into the future,

**And Whereas,** Existing Privy Council guidelines covering behaviour between dissolution of parliament and the date of an election, call on the incumbent government to “restrict itself – in matters of policy, expenditure, and appointments – to activity that is routine, or non-controversial, or urgent and in the public interest, or reversible by a new government without undue cost or disruption, or agreed to by opposition parties...,” and “[to] act...with restraint during an election, confining itself to necessary public business.” This *caretaker convention* applies because during an election period there is no elected chamber to which government can be held accountable.

**Therefore be it resolved that** The *Federal Accountability Act* [2006] be amended such that the *Salaries Act* substitutes the word “shall” for “may” in the first section of Section 1.1 (1) so that it reads:

“The Governor in Council shall establish a Public Appointments Commission,...”

**Be it further resolved that:** The *Federal Accountability Act* [2006] be updated with specific wording regarding appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions as follows:

"No new or renewal appointments may be made with terms that commence more than six months following the date the appointment Order in Council is approved."

**Be it finally resolved that:** The *Guidelines on the Conduct of Ministers, Ministers of State, Exempt Staff, and Public Servants During an Election* as promulgated by the Privy Council Office have specific wording inserted into the appropriate section as follows:

"No new or renewal appointments may be made to agencies, boards, or commissions with terms that commence more than six months following the date the appointment Order in Council is approved."