

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



Senators reach a deal in new sessional order

OTTAWA, November 7, 2017 – An agreement has been struck between the political caucuses and the Independent Senators Group (ISG) in the Senate on the distribution of committee seats and leadership positions on those committees. A Motion to implement this agreement was tabled today by Senator Joseph Day, Leader of the Independent Liberals, and seconded by the leaders of the other groups in the Senate.

A key principle in informing the negotiations, which is reflected in the final agreement, was the need for proportionality in the distribution of Senate resources and responsibilities relative to the size of parties and parliamentary groups in the Chamber. “The deal we have reached reflects the current balance of numbers in the Senate. Over the life of this Parliament, the ISG will chair nine committees,” stated Senator Woo, Facilitator of the ISG. “With the conclusion of this deal, we are pleased to be able to return our focus to the legislative work of the Senate.”

While the negotiations have resulted in proportional allocation of committees amongst parliamentary groups and caucuses, there will be continued discussion on proposed changes to the *Rules of the Senate* to advance the full equality of independent senators relative to members of political caucuses.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Kate Proctor
Office of Senator Yuen Pau Woo
613-218-7797
Kate.Proctor@sen.parl.gc.ca