

Appendix

(See p. 4074.)

ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING
OF THE SENATE TABLE CALENDAR

SENATE CHAMBER
MAY 29, 2013

[English]

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, we will now proceed to an event to unveil the new calendar in honour of Her Majesty's sixtieth anniversary on the throne. I invite you to stay for this short ceremony.

I invite the table officers to stand alongside.

With your agreement, honourable senators, it would be appropriate to have this event recorded by our stenographic reporters so that it may be prepared as a document to be tabled. Is it agreed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Hon. the Speaker: Also, honourable senators, I seek your consent to have photographers on the floor to provide a photographic record. Is it agreed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, the impetus for this splendid project was the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty was made aware of this initiative and we received the following message from Her Majesty the Queen, which I have the high honour of reading to you. Her Majesty writes:

I am pleased that a splendid pyramid-shaped calendar bearing my cipher has been commissioned to adorn the Table in the Senate Chamber where I have had the pleasure to read the Speech from the Throne on two separate occasions.

Surmounted by St Edward's Crown, this calendar commemorates the Diamond Jubilee of my reign as Queen of Canada and the sixtieth anniversary of my Coronation. Its prominent location in the Senate Chamber will serve as a visible testament to the important function and role of the Crown in the Parliament of Canada.

[Signed] Elizabeth R.

[Translation]

The prominence given to the crown in this calendar, as Her Majesty herself recognized, underscores the role and presence of the Crown in the Senate and in our parliamentary system.

Since it is a calendar, it should come as no surprise that its completion and presentation is on time, although just under the wire. Sunday, June 2, marks sixty years since the Queen's coronation, the last day that can be properly linked to the Diamond Jubilee.

[English]

The creation of the calendar as a Diamond Jubilee project was promoted by our Art Advisory Working Group over a year ago and approved by the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration. A silversmith was identified and a basic design was approved. Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Honourable Senator Fortin-Duplessis and the Honourable Senator Moore as well as the generosity of many senators, the table officers and other senior personnel, past and present, money was raised to cover the costs for this commission. The Honourable Senator Joyal took on the responsibility for monitoring its progress, from start to finish. Both Senator Joyal and Senator Fortin-Duplessis will provide the details of these efforts in a few moments.

First, it is time to finally see the result of all this work and to view the new Senate Diamond Jubilee table calendar. —We would thank all honourable senators for paying for it, together with the table officers and others. With great pleasure, I invite the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Honourable Senator Marjory LeBreton, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, the Honourable Senator James Cowan, to come forward to the table and unveil the Diamond Jubilee calendar.

I recognize the Honourable Senator Joyal to explicate.

[Translation]

Hon. Serge Joyal: Honourable senators, distinguished guests in the gallery, a number of projects for various audiences were carried out in 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada.

Ours was the only legislative body in Canada to have carried out special projects to mark the Diamond Jubilee for future generations.

The calendar unveiled this afternoon represents the Senate's third significant gesture to commemorate this historic milestone in Her Majesty's reign. The splendid stained glass window above the Senate entrance to the Centre Block and the stone corbel of the Queen carved by Dominion Sculptor Phil White — who is in the gallery and whom I would like to personally acknowledge —

in the Senate foyer are two of the major initiatives accomplished by the Speaker of this chamber. As we celebrate this remarkable event, we are also beholden to the Speaker for ensuring that restoration of the portrait of Queen Victoria — which hangs in the Senate foyer and once hung in the Parliament of the United Province of Canada prior to 1867 — was completed in time for the Jubilee year.

Mr. Speaker, we are deeply grateful.

[*English*]

The sovereign has a special place in the Senate Chamber. It is here that, for the first time in our history, Her Majesty read two Speeches from the Throne, first in 1957 and then in 1977. The Senate is also the chamber where the Queen or her representative, the Governor General, comes to Parliament to perform their constitutional duties. This explains why Her Majesty's throne and that of her husband, occupy the focal point of the chamber.

The bust of Queen Victoria, our sovereign at the time of the birth of Confederation and the great-grandmother of the present Queen, adorns the gallery over the throne. Moreover, the two pillars of the arches of the ceiling of the chamber, in the front of the public gallery at the back, present on the left the King of France's royal coat of arms and, on the right, the British monarch's coat of arms.

[*Translation*]

With that background in mind, I felt it was appropriate for us to express our gratitude to Her Majesty by creating a permanent testament to the unique nature of the Canadian Crown here in the Senate chamber.

[*English*]

It appeared to me that it is in acknowledging the underlying principle of the Queen in Parliament, embodied in our very system of constitutional monarchy, that the design of this commemorative calendar had to be conceived. However, the challenge resided in interpreting this principle in a visual manner. In other words, how to render the principle visible?

The commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty also presented us with an opportunity to permanently improve the heritage within our chamber.

It is quite obvious to us and to visitors that certain areas reserved for decorative elements within the chamber are in need of completion. One should be aware that after Parliament was destroyed by fire in 1916, most of the public budget devoted to ornamentation in the building was consumed by the House of Commons, leaving the Senate Chamber with some gaps.

For instance, the front panels of the two public galleries, at the end and in the front, were left empty, as were the walls over the wooden panelling behind the senators' seats on each side. It was only later, in 1921, that eight large war paintings commissioned and donated by Lord Beaverbrook were installed in the chamber to adorn the place. They are a permanent reminder of the sacrifices for freedom made by Canadians and Europeans during the First World War.

• (1610)

Finally, various necessary items on the clerk's table had been designed as temporary objects, as was the previous calendar, awaiting their replacement by better artwork by Canadian artists. Moreover, a commemorative project by senators could not be initiated at the expense of the public purse at a time when there are important reductions of personnel and services imposed upon Canadians.

I personally presented to our Speaker the proposal of commissioning a calendar for the clerk's table and sought his support for this commemorative initiative. It appeared to him in his wisdom that the preferred avenue was to appeal to the wallets of individual senators, as well as to those of all of the officers at the table, to make this undertaking possible. He is really wise, our Speaker.

What is particularly notable about this project is that it was quickly endorsed by the Art Advisory Working Group of the Senate and approved by the Internal Economy Committee. I would like to thank the chair of the committee, Senator Tkachuk. I would also like to thank Senator Moore and Senator Fortin-Duplessis, the chair and deputy chair, respectively, of the Art Advisory Working Group of the Senate. Senators Frum, Ataullahjan and Callbeck were only too happy to invite honourable senators to provide their contributions. I am personally deeply grateful to all of them for volunteering as solicitors for the project. Their natural kindheartedness no doubt made for an easier collection.

I also remain grateful to the honourable senators and all of the officers of the chamber who have risen to the occasion and made it possible for us to mark the commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in our own original way here in the Senate Chamber.

[*Translation*]

Why did we choose to have a calendar made?

Our attention was first drawn to the clerks' table and the fact that, when the Parliament Buildings were rebuilt, there was no budget to commission an original ornamental calendar stand to display the Senate calendar. The House of Commons commissioned an impressive calendar from Paul Beau, an ornamental iron artist from Montreal who crafted many of the best ornamental metalwork pieces in the Parliament Buildings.

The House of Commons calendar is decorated with specific symbols. At the base are the emblems of the four European cultural groups that were recognized at the time of Confederation: the French, the British, the Irish and the Scottish. In the middle are vine tendrils, which symbolize the passing of time. At the top is the Tudor crown. The symbolic significance of the House of Commons calendar is obvious: the different Canadian communities united in a dominion will prosper in the future under the Tudor crown. This crown, a symbol of the imperial era, was seen on coats of arms from the late 19th century until 1931, when the Statute of Westminster was passed. This crown is no longer used today.

Our calendar had to be different from that of the House of Commons.

Nearly a century later, in 2012, I felt it would be a good time to think about the evolution of the Crown in Canada, as our fellow Canadians see it today. Unlike her predecessors on the throne, Queen Elizabeth II has held the specific title of Queen of Canada since she began her reign. A law that was passed by Canada's Parliament on February 11, 1953, confirms that, but it was not really conceivable before 1931. For example, on page 239 of the April 30, 1897, *Senate Debates*, we learn that when the Senate was debating a bill to commemorate the 1897 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II's great-grandmother, a certain group made the suggestion that "Her Majesty [Queen Victoria also be given] the title of Queen of Canada", but at the time, senators did not understand the merits or the appropriateness of this suggestion and rejected it on the grounds that it was — and I quote the *Senate Debates* from the time — "fanciful". At that time, it was unthinkable for an institutional distinction to be made between the Crown of the United Kingdom and the Crown of Canada. Yet, some 55 years later, Queen Elizabeth II was given that very title — Queen of Canada — at her coronation on June 2, 1953.

I thought it would be a very good idea to commemorate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee with a visual representation of the distinctive evolution of the Crown in Canada on this new calendar.

How did we do this?

We wanted to show that, in Canada, the Crown traces its history back to the French Crown, represented by a shield featuring the fleur-de-lys, the emblem of the French sovereign.

[English]

It is the one honourable senators will see on both sides — the fleur-de-lys, which is the emblem of the French sovereign, under the Crown of which we have been living as a country for more than 250 years.

[Translation]

It also traces its history back to the British Crown, represented by a shield featuring the Tudor rose.

[English]

If honourable senators look on the other side, they will see the Tudor rose, which is the emblem of the British Crown.

[Translation]

These two symbols are placed on either side at the base of the calendar. The two Crowns, French and English, established in a new country...

[English]

The maple leaf branches seen on both sides symbolize the fact that those two Crowns have taken root in Canada.

[Senator Joyal]

[Translation]

This evolution is symbolized by the maple leaf branches that are rooted at the base and rise up the four corners.

[English]

One sees that the four branches at the base of the calendar rise up into those branches of maple leaves all along the side of the calendar.

[Translation]

They represent the new identity that was created when the two Crowns were transplanted to Canadian soil. They gave rise to the new title of Queen of Canada, represented by St. Edward's Crown at the top. This crown was worn once by Her Majesty at her coronation in June 1953, during a solemn and ancient ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

[English]

Honourable senators will remember that it is this crown, the St. Edward's Crown, that the Queen is wearing on the Jubilee Medal that the Speaker gave to each of us in February 2012.

[Translation]

The Queen's Jubilee, which we are commemorating, is represented by the four diamonds featuring Her Majesty's cipher, "EII R" — Elizabeth II Regina — and the number 60, placed on a garland of maple leaves, which is found on the top of the calendar, on the crenels of a square tower, over which sits the crown.

[English]

Those have the symbols or emblems of the jubilee, as honourable senators will remember and, as they will see on the program, they are clearly what makes this jubilee a Canadian celebration. It is clearly identified with Her Majesty's name, since there is the cipher of Her Majesty — E2R — and the number 60, so that we will remember forever that this celebration is for the sixtieth anniversary of the crowning of Her Majesty.

The general shape of the calendar is a pyramid. As we know, even dating back to ancient Egypt, and for the Chaldeans and the Maya, for instance, pyramids symbolize eternal life. The crown that adorns the top of the pyramid over the crenels of a square tower, symbolizing its secular fortitude, is the embodiment of our nation and its continuing existence. It is also a reminder that it is under the Crown that Canada has become a vibrant democracy, with an unparalleled respect for the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

• (1620)

[Translation]

Honourable senators, we are particularly grateful to Montreal goldsmith Manuk Inceyan, art conservator Paul Maréchal, and Dominion Sculptor Phil White for their original contribution to this commemorative calendar. They are here in the gallery, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to them. The French

firm Texier gilded the ornamentation on the calendar. We benefited from the assistance of Marie-Agnès Saury. We would also like to thank David Monahan, art conservator at the House of Commons, who made it easier for us to access the calendar that sits on the clerk's table in the other chamber. Obviously, we did not want to simply copy the House of Commons calendar, as I explained earlier. We wanted to create an original calendar with the symbolism we chose to highlight.

[*English*]

Honourable senators, it is right and just that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, is acknowledged as the Queen of Canada. We should all feel very proud and grateful for having lived during the reign of such a remarkable sovereign. Through her 22 visits here, the Queen has developed a profound understanding and appreciation of this country. She knows the Canadian identity in all its linguistic and cultural complexity. Her own words testify to this. In 1967, during the Centennial celebrations, the Queen put it this way:

[*Translation*]

The experiment that has been conducted for 100 years in this country, with some failures, of course, but also with increasing hopefulness, cannot leave our torn era indifferent.

It seems to me that it is in that direction that Canada will be great; not by its power, but by giving, by its radiance, by its example.

[*English*]

Ten years later, while in Montreal for the Olympic Games in 1976, Her Majesty revealed again her deep understanding of the fundamental character of Canada:

[*Translation*]

To achieve that ideal requires great generosity, an open mind and the determination to understand and appreciate others. Canadians have amply demonstrated those qualities throughout their history. That is what makes Canada great.

[*English*]

During the Queen's long reign, she has been advised by eleven Canadian prime ministers. She has crossed the country from coast to coast. Her Majesty has followed the development of Canada over the years, witnessing its astounding successes and also its more difficult moments. As a nation, we are privileged to have been able to strengthen our unity under such an exceptional and selfless Queen.

This gilded calendar in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, represents a respectful testimony of our gratitude and admiration of Her Majesty's prosperous Canadian reign, and we should all be proud of it.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Suzanne Fortin-Duplessis: Honourable senators, clerks and senior Senate officials, when the members of the Senate's Artwork Advisory Working Group met for the first time, they

wanted to undertake one final commemorative project to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

We chose to commission a new Senate calendar, first because it is a lasting and visible reminder of Her Majesty's many visits to Canada and second, because it emphasizes the importance of the Crown in this chamber, the only place in the country where the three parts of our Parliament come together.

As you may know, the working group did not have the funding to create this calendar. This project could not have been carried out without the generous personal contributions of my honourable colleagues, the table officers and senior officials of the Senate.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and point out that your valuable support is now engraved on this plaque. The plaque will be affixed to the base of the calendar as soon as the donor list is completed.

I would also like to thank my colleague and Deputy Chair of the working group, the Honourable Wilfred P. Moore, for his diligent efforts with his caucus to solicit donations.

I am very grateful to the Honourable Catherine Callbeck, the Honourable Linda Frum — who could not be here with us today because her father has passed away — and the Honourable Salma Ataullahjan for working tirelessly to help us attain our objectives.

My sincerest thanks to the Honourable Serge Joyal, who was the instigator of this project and took responsibility for monitoring its progress with Manuk Inceyan, the goldsmith. I also want to thank you for the background you just gave us. It was extremely interesting.

I am also very grateful to Charles Robert, the clerk of the working group, for his generosity, the knowledge he shared with us and his exemplary guidance throughout this adventure.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the contribution of my executive assistant, Carole Hupé, who helped coordinate this project. She was the one who sent you the letters with the photocopies of what our calendar could be. She too deserves our sincere thanks.

Proudly and prominently displayed on the clerks' table, close to the mace, the new Senate calendar is a tangible sign of our respect for the sovereign and her exemplary service to Canada during her 60-year reign.

[*English*]

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, this concludes our ceremony. Let me thank all who participated under the great leadership of Senator Joyal. I thank everyone for their contribution.

If you have a few minutes, I would be happy to receive you in my chambers. I would also ask our collaborators in the gallery to please join us.

(Proceedings concluded.)