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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
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The Right Honourable Mary Simon, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M, C.D.  
Governor General for Canada  
Rideau Hall  
1 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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July 29, 2021

Your Excellency,

First, let us thank you for accepting the invitation to serve as Canada's Governor General. Please extend our thanks to Whit Fraser as well. As Green Members of Parliament, both of us are thrilled and very grateful. You have a long record of sacrifice and service to Canada. The role of Governor General is critical in our democratic system of government.

We are writing to express our view as to the appropriate response to our Prime Minister should he seek to dissolve parliament and call an early election.

The Confidence Conventions are not rigid. We support Motion 93 tabled in parliament by the NDP MP for Elmwood Strathcona, Daniel Blaikie. Both Elizabeth and Daniel are part of an all-party caucus that is committed to better governance within the Westminster parliamentary tradition. The Democracy Caucus has been studying the matter of Confidence Conventions. Our work has been fortified by the advice of Professor Hugo Cyr of Laval University. We wish we had clarified and codified the confidence convention sooner, in order to make it clear that it should not be at the whim of a prime minister that elections are called, but rather requires parliament as a whole to have addressed the issue by clear review and vote.

Nevertheless, some general rules do apply. To dissolve parliament and call an election, the prime minister should *a priori* make the case that parliament is not working. Looking at the



number of difficult issues, in a pandemic emergency, that were dealt with in parliament, it is hard to make a case that nothing is working and we need an election. Over \$80 billion in emergency COVID supports was approved by unanimous consent. After we adopted rules to allow voting by remote means, we passed twenty-four pieces of complex government legislation, and numerous private members bills. Twenty-two of those government bills were also passed in the Senate, prior to summer recess. Many other pieces of legislation have not yet received Second Reading, but some are in the process of committee study. Of the recently passed pieces of federal legislation, some were confidence votes. Bills C-14 implementing the Fall Economic Statement and Bill C-30, implementing the April budget were both confidence votes and carried handily.

There is no evidence for the current Liberal Minority government lacking the confidence of the House.

Moreover, a snap summer election prior to passing Bill C-19, legislation that sets out new procedures as requested by Elections Canada, to manage an election in a pandemic is an unnecessary public health risk.

In fact, the evidence is to the contrary.

With deep respect and appreciation,



Elizabeth May, O.C.  
Member of Parliament  
Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada



Paul Manly  
Member of Parliament  
Nanaimo-Ladysmith

