

Independent Senators Group

On Thursday, December 14, Bill S-234, Visual Artist Laureate for Parliament, passed Committee stage and was tabled in the Senate for third reading. After passing Senate third reading it goes to the House of Commons for consideration, and, we hope, passage. As sponsor, I presented it on December 13th, 2017 to the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology. This would be a two-year creative posting, honouring a visual artist of national distinction. The position will serve as arts ambassador and creator of works related to Parliament, reflecting the work of Parliamentarians and societal issues being discussed by both Houses.

I believe the Visual Artist Laureate will be inspiring to all, opening new doors for many, youth, new Canadians, and citizens of all ages, diversities and regions of Canada. The visual arts are a language our children and youth understand. I contest by visually presenting what happens in the two Chambers of Parliament the engagement of youth will increase, as will their understanding of civil society and our democratic system. Creating this position will also demonstrate Parliament's leadership in underlining the importance of the arts in every societal and the significant contributions of artists. The Visual Artist Laureate will complement the Poet Laureate.

Artists reflect on multiple issues, just as we do in the Senate. They challenge, nudge, question and present social issues, often bringing issues to the fore long before society recognizes them. Thus, a Visual Artist Laureate will assist the Senate in greater understanding of various societal aspects.



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Senator Patricia Bovey
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