



House of Commons Debates

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VOLUME 148    1    NUMBER 179    1    1st SESSION    1    42nd PARLIAMENT

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**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Speaker: The Honourable Geoff Regan

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**Infrastructure**

**Ms. Dianne L. Watts (South Surrey—White Rock, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, it is Wednesday, so can the Prime Minister please clear this up?

The finance minister claims that the Liberals' so-called infrastructure bank will be independent, but if the minister read his own legislation, he would see clearly that it is exactly the opposite. The Minister of Finance will approve loan guarantees. The Liberal cabinet will appoint boards of directors and the chairperson. The Liberal cabinet will have the final approval over the CEO.

Which is it? Is the bank going to be independent, or will the bank continue to be just an arm of the PMO, cabinet, and the finance minister to reward their Liberal friends?

**Hon. Amarjeet Sohi (Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Lib.):**

Mr. Speaker, after consultation with Canadians from wide experience and backgrounds, we have been able to create the right balance. We will make sure that the bank is an independent arm's-length crown corporation that is able to make decisions on its own but at the same time will be accountable to this House, to the people's House, to Parliament. As well, we will make sure that we are there to protect the public interest, that we are there to ensure that private bank funds are in the public interest and are needed to meet the needs of Canadian communities.

That is our goal. That is exactly what we are doing.