

## EXAMPLE OF A WRITTEN CONCEPT

### ARMORIAL BEARINGS PROPOSED FOR JOHN GREGORY PETERS, M.V.O., USHER OF THE BLACK ROD OF THE SENATE OF CANADA

By Bruce Patterson, Deputy Chief Herald of Canada, February 3, 2016

#### TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (IN BLAZON, THE LANGUAGE OF HERALDRY)

**Arms (shield):**

Gyronny Argent and Sable four pennons in saltire points outwards each per fess Gules and Argent;

**Insignia:**

*Two depictions of the Black Rod of the Senate of Canada crossed in an X behind the shield;*

*Member of the Royal Victorian Order (suspended from the shield, CENTRE);*

*Diamond Jubilee Medal (ditto, DEXTER);*

*RCMP Long Service Medal with silver clasp (ditto, SINISTER);*

**Crest (above the shield):**

*Upon a helmet mantled Gules doubled Or within a wreath of these colours: Issuant from the battlements of a tower Or, a demi-horse Sable gorged of the chain of office of the Usher of the Black Rod of the Senate of Canada and supporting the Black Rod proper;*

**Motto:**

PULSATE ET APERIETUR VOBIS (Luke 11:9); meaning "Knock and the door will be opened";

**Flag:**

A banner of the Arms;

**Flag:**

A standard, the arms in hoist, the fly per fess Argent and Gules charged with the Crest and two representations of the Badge all separated by two bends Argent edged and inscribed with the Motto in letters Sable;

**Badge:**

A lozenge per fess Gules and Argent charged with an oak leaf Or and surmounting a baton palewise Sable;

**Cadet shield:**

*For Bennett Keith Peters: the Arms debruised of a three-point label Or during his father's lifetime;*

**DESCRIPTION AND SYMBOLISM****Arms:**

The shield is divided in eight by four lines crossing in the centre. The segments created are alternately white and black. Over this are four pennons (flags with a tail of two points) coloured red over white and arranged in an X shape, their points outwards and their corners touching.

The pennons are carried by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Musical Ride, marking the fact that Mr. Peters was a rider in the Musical Ride for several years and served as its spokesman. This particular formation conveys the idea of coming together, thus referring to Mr. Peters' work in the field of strategic partnerships with the RCMP. The black in the background alludes to Mr. Peters' current role as Usher of the Black Rod of the Senate, black being not only the colour of the rod but also of the coat and hat he wears in this role. The diamond shape formed at the centre of the shield alludes to the diamond jubilee of H.M. The Queen in 2012, during which Mr. Peters had several significant responsibilities

**Crest:**

The upper half of a black horse with white hooves and a red tongue emerges from the battlements of a tower in gold. Around its neck is the chain of office of the Usher of the Black Rod of the Senate of Canada, primarily in silver, and between its hooves is the Black Rod itself. This is set on a steel helmet draped with cloth mantling in red and gold, set in place by a wreath of twisted cloth in these colours.

The horse refers to Mr. Peters' time with the RCMP and specifically with the Musical Ride, and the chain refers to his appointment as Black Rod of the Senate and to his role in the creation of this new item of insignia in 2014. The tower battlements allude to the Round Tower at Windsor Castle, marking the fact that Mr. Peters has served with the RCMP at Windsor Castle on several occasions.

**Motto:**

This phrase, from Christ's teaching recording in St. Luke's Gospel, alludes to Mr. Peters' most visible role as Usher of the Black Rod: the summoning of the members of the House of Commons to attend the Speech from the Throne in the Senate Chamber, a

ceremony involving his knocking three times on the closed door of House of Commons Chamber with the base of the Black Rod itself before being admitted inside. More generally, the phrase refers to the idea of seeking opportunity.

**Flag:**

The shield is arranged as a square flag.

**Flag:**

A long, tapering flag with the square form of the arms near the pole and the rest of the flag white over red with the crest and two depictions of the badge placed on it, between which is the motto on two diagonal stripes (white with black edging and lettering). A decorative gold fringe appears around the flag.

**Badge:**

A diamond shape divided horizontally red over white, on which is a gold oak leaf. This is placed over a vertical black baton.

The leaf alludes to the oak trees in the arms of Prince Edward Island. The diamond and the red and white colours are taken from the arms, and the black baton is a simplified allusion to the Black Rod of the Senate.

**Cadet shield:**

Mr. Peters' son Bennett will use the arms with a label in gold, a narrow strip with three pendent tabs running near the top of the shield.