SENATE SÉNAT

CANADA

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OFFICIAL REPORT
(HANSARD)

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

The Honourable RAYMONDE GAGNÉ,
Speaker

**CONTENTS**

(Daily index of proceedings appears at back of this issue).

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# THE SENATE

**Wednesday, November 25, 2026**

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the chair.

Prayers.

[*Translation*]

## SENATORS' STATEMENTS

### VISITOR IN THE GALLERY

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I wish to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of His Excellency Jean Claude Kugener, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

On behalf of all honourable senators, I welcome you to the Senate of Canada.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

### EMBASSY OF LUXEMBOURG IN CANADA

**Hon. Danièle Henkel:** Honourable senators, two years ago, His Excellency Jean Claude Kugener arrived in Ottawa with instructions to open the first embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Canada, which was officially inaugurated in June 2025. The decision to open the embassy had been made several years earlier and was driven by three considerations that speak volumes about the relationship between our two countries.

[*English*]

The first is historical. In 1940, after Nazi Germany invaded Luxembourg, Grand Duchess Charlotte, her family and Prime Minister Pierre Dupong found refuge in Montreal. From 1941 to 1944, Luxembourg's government-in-exile maintained offices in the city.

The second reason relates to Europe. Luxembourg was one of the six countries that laid the foundations for today's European Union. With the opening of its embassy in Ottawa, all 27 European Union member states now have embassies in Canada's capital. This comes at a time when Canada and the European Union are strengthening their ties.

Finally, there's the economic relationship. Luxembourg is now Canada's ninth-largest source of foreign direct investment. In 2025, Luxembourg's direct investment in Canada stood at $28.3 billion, spanning sectors from steelmaking and space technology to financial services.

[*Translation*]

Our cooperation continues to move forward. Last February, during a visit to Ottawa by the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Luc Frieden, our two governments agreed to strengthen their collaboration. I'm also delighted to see our cultural ties expanding, with a new film co-production agreement between Quebec and Luxembourg.

On a more personal note, having had the privilege of being received by the ambassador, I was especially struck by the graciousness of his hospitality and by that attention to detail which is a hallmark of fine hosting. Seeing the energy that he and his team have devoted to their work over the past two years, I am convinced that the relationship between Canada and Luxembourg hold many more wonderful surprises to come.

Thank you, *meegwetch*.

### VISITOR IN THE GALLERY

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I wish to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of Karliin Aariak, the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. She is the guest of the Honourable Senator Cormier.

On behalf of all honourable senators, I welcome you to the Senate of Canada.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

[*English*]

### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**Hon. Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler:** Honourable senators, November 25 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, a day to recognize the scope of violence and to commit to action for change. Today is also the start of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

While it is women and girls who are disproportionately affected, gender-based violence affects people of any gender, including men and boys, Two-Spirit, trans and non-binary people.

Women's rights advocates launched the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence global campaign in 1991. It runs through to December 10, which is International Human Rights Day, because living free from violence is a human right.

The scale of violence is clear and impacts individuals, families, generations and social, health and justice systems. The World Health Organization estimates that, worldwide, nearly one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence.

In Canada, last year, police recorded more than 133,000 victims of intimate partner violence — the highest rate since comparable record-keeping began in 2009. According to Statistics Canada, intimate partner violence often goes unreported, as victims may not recognize their experiences as criminal in nature, may not know how to seek help, may be

unable to report the crimes or may be dependent on the perpetrator. Thus, the police-reported data is likely to be an underestimation of the full scope of violence against women and girls in Canada.

This year, UN Women is using #NoExcuse to call for action across three mutually reinforcing pillars: first, ensure justice; second, protect survivors; and third, end impunity.

Ensuring justice means strengthening laws and improving how justice systems investigate, prosecute and decide cases involving violence against women and girls.

Protecting survivors means expanding access to legal information and legal aid, as well as providing emergency shelter, protection measures and mental health support, including in humanitarian emergencies.

Ending impunity means strengthening investigations and prosecutions to hold perpetrators accountable, providing remedies for survivors and improving institutional oversight.

Colleagues, the eradication of gender-based violence and violence against women and girls is collective work and is at a scale that demands action.

As we mark November 25 in the Senate and during each of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, let us protect survivors, support those working on prevention and build a country where everyone can live free from fear and violence.

Thank you. *Meegwetch*.

[*Translation*]

## VISITOR IN THE GALLERY

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I wish to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of Yves Trépanier, a former executive at the Royal Bank of Canada and chair of the organizing committee for the Tour du Silence du Suroît. He is the guest of the Honourable Senator Loffreda.

On behalf of all honourable senators, I welcome you to the Senate of Canada.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

• (1410)

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TRAGEDY AT ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

**Hon. Manuelle Oudar:** Honourable senators, I rise today on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which marks the beginning of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

These 16 days are an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of protecting women who experience violence and defending their rights. They are also a time to honour the memory of those we have lost and to help build a future in which no woman will have to endure violence, whether at home, in the workplace, in public spaces or online.

Violence against women takes many forms. It can be physical, psychological, sexual, economic or digital, and all too often it remains hidden.

These awareness days also invite us to recognize these realities and the impact they have on women's lives. They remind us of our collective responsibility to survivors and their families, to support the organizations that assist victims and, above all, to take action to prevent and eliminate violence.

In a few days, on December 6, we will also commemorate an event that left a profound mark on our history, namely the tragedy that took place in 1989 at École Polytechnique de Montréal, where 14 women were murdered because they were women. Thirty-seven years later, their absence is still felt and their memories live on.

It is in their memory that 14 beams of light will rise into the Montreal sky. Once again this year, a fifteenth beam will be added to honour all women who have lost their lives to femicide, a powerful symbol of recognition and solidarity.

That solidarity is also reflected every day in the work of women's shelters, front-line workers and community organizations. They provide refuge, a listening ear and, at times, simply the chance to stay alive. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

The progress achieved so far is a testament to what can be accomplished, but the fight against violence against women is far from over. This is a shared commitment that does not belong to women alone.

I would like to take a moment to thank the men who choose to be allies, those who speak out, those who listen, those who take action and those who understand that women's equality and safety are everyone's responsibility.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign will come to an end on December 10, but our commitment must not end there. May the efforts we make today help future generations grow up in a safer world, and may the memory of the women who came before us, whom I honour today, remind us of the importance of never letting up in our efforts. Thank you, colleagues. *Meegwetch*.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

[*English*]

## VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I wish to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of Michael Phair, a former Edmonton City councillor, and Roger Lee, historian and recipient of a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. They are the guests of the Honourable Senators Wells (*Alberta*) and Simons.

On behalf of all honourable senators, I welcome you to the Senate of Canada.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I wish to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of the Honourable Alfred Lazarus Rimah, Minister of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening of the Solomon Islands; the Honourable James Bonuga, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Solomon Islands; and the Honourable Ashwant K. Dwivedi, Honorary Consul General of the Solomon Islands to Canada. They are the guests of the Honourable Senator Dhillon.

On behalf of all honourable senators, I welcome you to the Senate of Canada.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

## CANADA-SOLOMON ISLANDS RELATIONS

**Hon. Baltej S. Dhillon:** Honourable senators, today I have the privilege and pleasure of welcoming friends from the Solomon Islands and marking a milestone in our relationship: the first official visit to this chamber by elected representatives of their country. Welcome.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Senator Dhillon:** Joining us are the Honourable Lazarus Rimah, Minister of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening and Member of Parliament for East Central Guadalcanal, and the Honourable James Bonuga, Minister of Culture and Tourism and Member of Parliament for Temotu Pele.

As a point of interest, Minister Rimah shared with us yesterday that when he travels to the capital, it takes him a week by ship. It certainly puts into perspective some of our travel obligations.

I also welcome Mr. Ashwant Dwivedi, Honorary Consul General of the Solomon Islands to Canada, whose dedication has helped bring our communities closer together. This visit owes much to his sustained efforts to strengthen the ties between our two countries, and I thank him for the dedication and persistence that have helped bring us together today.

Colleagues, the value of a relationship between two countries is often best understood through the lives of the people it connects.

Minister Rimah has championed partnerships with Canada that have opened doors to education, skills development and employment for the people of Guadalcanal. Through Canadian education partnerships, including the work of Canadian International Training & Education Corp, opportunities also reach women and girls in communities such as Temotu Pele.

Our guests also bring perspectives that deserve our careful attention.

In Minister Bonuga's constituency, the effects of climate change are placing growing pressure on access to fresh water and food security. For the families he represents, these concerns are part of daily life.

Colleagues, relationships between our countries grow when we take the time to understand one another, follow through on our conversations and remain engaged after a visit is over.

I hope our guests leave Ottawa knowing they have friends in this chamber who take an interest in their communities and look forward to continuing the work we begin together here.

May the relationships strengthened here lead to lasting opportunities for the people of both our countries.

Thank you.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

## VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I wish to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of members of the Haitian diaspora in Canada. They are the guests of the Honourable Senator Youance.

On behalf of all honourable senators, I welcome you to the Senate of Canada.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

## HAITIAN COMMUNITY IN CANADA

**Hon. Suze Youance:** Honourable senators, it is with great pleasure that we welcome members of the Haitian diaspora to the Senate of Canada today. The Senate is a place that embodies the values of democracy, dialogue and inclusion that lie at the heart of our society.

Your presence among us provides an opportunity to highlight the exceptional contribution of the Haitian community in Canada. Through your work, your commitment, your creativity and your resilience, you enrich our country and play an active role in its development across every sphere of collective life. We also celebrate the deep ties that bind Canada and Haiti. These ties are rooted in shared values of solidarity, courage and hope.

They grow stronger every day thanks to the women and men of the diaspora who are building bridges between their roots and their host countries. During our discussions today, we spoke about Haiti's future and the conviction shared by many that overcoming the crisis will depend largely on the leadership and commitment of Haitian women. This reflection takes on special significance as the global campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign begins.

It is a powerful reminder that, although they are among the primary victims of the current crisis, Haitian women also remain some of the greatest bearers of hope, resilience and change for

the country. Your journey reminds us that a society is stronger when it values the diversity of its experiences, cultures and talents.

On behalf of all those welcoming you here today, I extend the warmest of welcomes to the Senate of Canada. Thank you for your presence, your commitment and your remarkable contribution to Canadian society. Thank you.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

[*English*]

### CANADA-JAMAICA RELATIONS

**Hon. Rosemary Moodie:** Honourable senators, I rise today to recognize the sixtieth anniversary of the bilateral agreement between Canada and Jamaica that established the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program in 1966.

• (1420)

For six decades, this program has been a cornerstone of the relationship between our two countries, built on cooperation, mutual respect and shared prosperity. The contributions of Jamaican agricultural workers to Canada cannot be overstated. Their hard work and dedication have helped sustain Canadian farms, strengthen rural communities and support our country's food security. At the same time, the wages earned and the remittances sent home have supported Jamaican families, funded education, improved housing and contributed to economic development across Jamaica.

This partnership has benefited both our countries, while creating lasting connections between Canadian communities and Jamaican workers. Over the years, the program has evolved through collaboration between both governments, agricultural employers and worker representatives. Improvements to working and living conditions, health and safety standards and employment agreements have helped strengthen worker protections and ensure the program continues to meet the needs of both workers and employers.

Jamaica has also invested in preparing its workers for the demands of the Canadian agriculture sector through enhanced orientation, training and skills development. As Canadian agriculture adopts new technologies and modern production practices, these investments will help ensure that Jamaican workers are equipped to contribute to an increasingly innovative industry.

We must also recognize the important work of the Jamaican Liaison Service, which provides essential support to workers throughout their employment here in Canada. Through workplace visits, advocacy, guidance and welfare assistance, this service plays a vital role in protecting workers and strengthening the program.

Honourable senators, the success of this program is ultimately a testament to the thousands of Jamaican workers who have contributed their skills, time and dedication to our Canadian agriculture over the past 60 years.

We also recognize our Canadian farmers and employers who have helped make this partnership possible. As we celebrate this milestone, let us renew our commitment to strengthening and modernizing this program with continued attention to worker well-being, fair working conditions and skills development. May the next 60 years build on this remarkable legacy of friendship, cooperation and shared prosperity between Canada and Jamaica.

Thank you.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING BILL

SEVENTH REPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE PRESENTED

**Hon. Paulette Senior,** Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, presented the following report:

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

The Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights has the honour to present its

SEVENTH REPORT

Your committee, to which was referred Bill S-235, An Act respecting the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, has, in obedience to the order of reference of May 26, 2026, examined the said bill and now reports the same with the following amendment:

1. *Clause 3, page 3*: Replace lines 24 and 25 with the following:

"ficked — including First Nations, Inuit, Métis, Black, South Asian and Asian women and girls, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, Black boys, at-risk youths and migrants — by pro-".

Respectfully submitted,

PAULETTE SENIOR

*Chair*

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

(On motion of Senator Senior, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.)

## ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE OF MOTION

**Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate):** Honourable senators, I give notice that, at the next sitting of the Senate, I will move:

> That, when the Senate next adjourns after the adoption of this motion, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 2 p.m.

## PARLAMERICAS

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP 30), NOVEMBER 10-21, 2025—REPORT TABLED

**Hon. Michael L. MacDonald:** Honourable senators, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the report of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas concerning the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30), held in Belém, Brazil, from November 10 to 21, 2025.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, MARCH 25-27, 2025—REPORT TABLED

**Hon. Michael L. MacDonald:** Honourable senators, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the report of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas concerning the Parliamentary Delegation to Washington, held in Washington, D.C., United States of America, from March 25 to 27, 2025.

# QUESTION PERIOD

## GLOBAL AFFAIRS

HUMAN RIGHTS IN TÜRKIYE

**Hon. Leo Housakos (Leader of the Opposition):** Government leader, in Davos, the Prime Minister told the world that Canada would practise value-based realism. In Canberra, he promised that Canada would match our values with our actions. Then he flew to Ankara and called President Erdoğan an "exceptional partner."

This is a president who has his boot to the throat of the LGBTQ community, has infringed upon all freedom of religion practices in that country, and, of course, we can't forget that he's in competition with Iran in trying to imprison any opposition voices.

Furthermore, it has been close to five decades now that we have had a UN Security Council resolution calling on Türkiye to withdraw from occupied northern Cyprus. There has been a long tradition in this country going back to the 1970s that, regardless of government, we stand by that UN Security Council resolution calling on Türkiye to withdraw. Has that position changed under this current government?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** No, Senator Housakos, it hasn't changed. I have answered that question on a daily basis for the past two weeks. The government raises human rights issues, including labour rights and freedom of expression, consistently and directly with countries around the world, including with trading partners. We have Canadian values. Those values are dear to the government, the Prime Minister and Canadians, and we are defending them all over the world.

**Senator Housakos:** Are these values so dear that, when Prime Minister Carney went to Ankara, he discussed the treatment of the LGBTQ community? Did he discuss freedom of religion in that country? Did he discuss the imprisonment of opposition politicians in Türkiye? Did he discuss all these things or did he only discuss trade? If he did, is that an example of trading your values down the river in exchange for a few shekels?

**Senator Moreau:** You have enough experience, Senator Housakos, to know very well when you're asking that question that it is impossible to publicly report what those discussions are all about. However, I will say that there is one thing the government is committed to, and it is to defend our values.

I wonder if Prime Minister Harper publicly discussed the information he gathered from other leaders. Senator Batters was probably present because she's answering yes.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PARKS CANADA

**Hon. Michael L. MacDonald:** Senator Moreau, the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site and Museum in Cape Breton, commemorates the life and legacy of this great inventor and humanitarian.

Close by is his summer estate of Beinn Bhreagh, where he and his wife are buried, and where his descendants migrate to every summer.

• (1430)

Bell's greatest interest was in helping the deaf communicate. His mother was born deaf, as was his wife, Mabel. Like many of his generation, Bell once thought that marriages between deaf people should be discouraged, believing that any offspring would have a greater chance of being deaf as well.

Parks Canada has now decided to accuse Bell of being guilty of eugenics. Bell had nothing to do with eugenics. He opposed compulsory sterilization or laws preventing such marriages. It is an unjustified and disgraceful smear. His descendants are outraged, and so are Cape Bretoners.

Senator Moreau, will the government reverse this outrageous decision and ensure that Bell's remarkable legacy is presented accurately and in its full historical context?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** I am not aware of this decision made by Parks Canada. Now that you raise the question, I will certainly gather the information and get back to you with whatever I can find.

I'm sure I can have your collaboration to bring me all the information, and I will do the job.

**Senator MacDonald:** Senator Moreau, outside of this Senate building, there are statues of the Famous Five, and their contribution to Canada is rightly celebrated. However, four of the five were strident supporters of eugenics and the sterilization of those deemed undesirable. This is all well documented. If Parks Canada wants to revisit eugenics, there are genuine examples in this country they can embrace.

Senator Moreau, can the government assure Canadians that Parks Canada applies consistent standards of historical fairness and balance when reviewing the legacies of all Canadian historical figures?

**Senator Moreau:** I can assure you that I will inquire into that question and how Parks Canada treats this situation. I will get back to you with the proper information.

## PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

### NATION BUILDING

**Hon. Rosa Galvez:** Senator Moreau, since the government introduced, on an accelerated basis, a series of omnibus bills, including Bill C-31 and Bill C-39, the international context has evolved. The U.S. mid-term results have led experts to predict major shifts in their geopolitical position and to foresee major legislative shifts.

Also, Canada has recently strengthened trade partnerships with Europe and Asia. Despite these changes, the government insists on fast-tracking the study of these complex bills.

Does the government not agree that major nation-building projects are delivered faster when they are built on rigorous parliamentary scrutiny, meaningful consultation and public confidence?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** The government agrees with that, which is the reason we are now studying Bill C-39. I think you're aware of the work of the special committee that is studying Bill C-39, including labour, environmental and other matters.

The idea behind that is to make sure that major projects will be built rapidly in this country. That's the commitment of the government, and that's why the government is acting as it is.

**Senator Galvez:** In the last few months, legal challenges and constitutional concerns have been raised by Indigenous and labour organizations, scientists and environmental groups, including nearly 8,000 Canadians calling on Parliament to amend Bill C-39 through a House of Commons petition sponsored by a Liberal MP.

Is the government measuring success by how quickly it can remove legal safeguards or by how quickly Canadians will actually see durable infrastructure —

[*Translation*]

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Thank you, Senator Galvez.

[*English*]

**Senator Moreau:** You are well aware that Bill C-39 is still in the House of Commons; we are pre-studying it. There is a long list of witnesses who will be here. That has already started in the Senate. We will wait for the report on Bill C-39.

## EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**Hon. Tony Loffreda:** Senator Moreau, according to Statistics Canada, unemployment among young Canadians aged 15 to 24 rose to 13.7% in October, more than double the national rate of 6.7%.

A first job provides more than income; it builds experience, confidence and a foundation for financial independence. The government's support for summer jobs, student work placements and skills development is welcome. These opportunities must also help young Canadians establish lasting careers.

What concrete steps will the government take to expand year-round, paid, entry-level opportunities, especially for recent graduates, and help employers retain young workers once federal wage subsidies end?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** Thank you for the question. The government knows, Senator Loffreda, that young Canadians are feeling the pressure right now, and that is why there are investments in key programs that support youth as they enter the job market. This year, the government is supporting more than 175,000 jobs and skills-building opportunities for young Canadians through Canada Summer Jobs, the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, the Student Work Placement Program and the Innovative Work-integrated Learning Initiative.

I can advise you that the government increased Canada Summer Jobs from 70,000 positions to 100,000 so that more young people can get their feet in the door and land their first jobs.

Through the Workforce Alliances program, the government is bringing employers, unions and training institutions together so that young workers have the skills and tools they need to succeed.

**Senator Loffreda:** Thank you for that answer. It's great to see Canada supporting youth with 175,000 jobs. Wow.

Will the government commit to publishing employment outcomes 6 and 12 months after participation in federally funded youth employment programs so that Canadians can assess whether these investments are leading to sustained employment?

**Senator Moreau:** Let me first add that the government's AI strategy will support up to 90,000 jobs and work placements to help young Canadians start their careers as well.

To your question, every year, the department reports its results, which are published online through the Departmental Results Report. This forms a key part of the federal government's expenditure reporting cycle, which outlines what each department or agency achieved over the past fiscal year and indicates whether they met the goals and commitments set out in their departmental plans.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### PARKS CANADA

**Hon. Karen Sorensen:** Senator Moreau, Parks Canada is facing approximately $145 million in funding cuts over the next three years, with a goal of $75 million in savings every year after. Ironically, this budget also provides $75 million to reimburse Parks Canada for revenues lost during the free summer entry program under the Canada Strong Pass. One would think $75 million would be better reinvested in our national parks, rather than subsidizing a pass for visitors who would have otherwise paid their own way.

I understand the Canada Strong Pass is intended as an affordability measure to promote tourism within Canada. That is a laudable goal. However, in my experience, the cost of a Parks Canada Discovery Pass has never been a major barrier to Canadians hoping to visit our national parks.

At a time when Parks Canada funding is being cut, why do we continue to cut off a valuable revenue stream for Parks Canada, using tax dollars to make up the shortfall?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** I know you have a lot of experience in that matter, Senator Sorensen, but the Canada Strong Pass serves a broader economic purpose: making domestic tourism more affordable, encouraging Canadians to spend their dollars at home and supporting businesses and communities surrounding our national parks. The government recognizes the financial implications of offering free admission, which is why dedicated funding has been provided to Parks Canada to support the implementation of the Canada Strong Pass.

Separately, as with other federal organizations, Parks Canada is reviewing its operation to identify efficiencies and prioritize resources toward the delivery of its core mandate. Making our national parks more accessible to Canadians, which the Canada Strong Pass is doing, does not diminish this government's commitment to their conservation and long-term sustainability.

**Senator Sorensen:** Many national parks struggle with capacity issues during high tourist seasons. Last year, under the Canada Strong Pass, these parks saw a 13% increase in visitation. It is unreasonable to expect Parks Canada to accommodate increasingly large influxes of visitors as their funding is being cut.

Other than verbal assurances, how does the government plan to maintain our national parks on a reduced budget as they incentivize and subsidize visits from non-paying tourists? Would the government at least consider changing the dates so the free entry period —

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Thank you, senator.

**Senator Moreau:** Thank you for the question. The government recognizes that increased visitation brings additional operational pressures, particularly at our most popular national parks during peak tourism season. As Parks Canada officials indicated before the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, the agency's Main Estimates have increased compared to the previous year. The government is ensuring they preserve the ability to deliver on their core mandate, maintain critical infrastructure and accommodate visitors across its network.

• (1440)

## PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

### APPOINTMENTS TO CROWN CORPORATIONS

**Hon. Krista Ross:** Senator Moreau, in the Auditor General's *Commentary on the 2025-2026 Financial Audits*, she identified a weakness in board oversight.

In 2025, 36 out of the 41 Crown corporations audited had delays in appointments of vacant or expired positions in their governing bodies. As the Auditor General pointed out:

> Delays in appointments can weaken oversight and, in some cases, prevent boards from making necessary decisions. For example, from June to November 2025, the International Development Research Centre did not have enough appointed governors to meet the statutory quorum . . . required for valid proceedings and decision making.

What is the government doing to ensure timely appointments to Crown corporations to strengthen oversight? I'm especially concerned, given this government's pivot to creating new Crown corporations in the last year.

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** Thank you for the question. Well, there is a commitment by the government to make sure that the Auditor General's recommendations are followed. Every time we have a report from the Auditor General, the government welcomes their recommendations.

I am not able to tell you exactly what the government is doing to make sure that this recommendation will be implemented, but I can get back to you with a more specific answer.

**Senator Ross:** Thank you, Senator Moreau.

Not only were there delays in filling vacancies, but in 2025-26, 66% of Crown corporations that prepare corporate plans did not have an approved plan at the beginning of the fiscal year. Corporate plans include expected results and performance measures, operating and capital budgets, and planned borrowing. How can parliamentarians accurately assess the functioning of Crown corporations within the context of fiscal spending if they can't be timely with their own plans?

**Senator Moreau:** You can do it by asking a question like the one you're asking right now. When you ask that kind of question, it brings the issue to the attention of the minister and the department, which results in answers. If it does not result in answers, it will raise more questions. That's the way parliaments work. You're doing a great job.

SENATE PUBLIC BILLS

**Hon. Denise Batters:** Senator Moreau, Senator Moodie's Bill S-212, An Act respecting a national strategy for children and youth in Canada, which was a Senate public bill, passed the Senate unanimously.

The day before the bill was due to be debated in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Children and Youth Anna Gainey stated that the Liberal government would not support it or allow it to advance in Parliament. Then, Braedon Clark, the Liberal MP who sponsored the bill, failed to show up twice — in person and online — for the bill's two hours of second reading debate. This resulted in the bill being dropped from the Order Paper.

Senator Moreau, you attend the cabinet's Operations and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, which, I assume, deals with such Senate bills. As the Leader of the Government in the Senate, did you recommend to the Liberal government not to proceed with this bill that passed the Senate unanimously?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** Have you never been part of a government or attended a cabinet operations meeting, Senator Batters? You have been in your position for 10 years, so I guess you wouldn't have experience with these things. If you did, you would know that it is not permitted to publicly disclose what is discussed there. You may have questions, but I can't answer that particular one.

**Senator Batters:** Senator Moreau, our Senate Rules Committee is currently considering creating a list of best practices for Senate public bills. Maybe one of those best practices for independent senators should be about not getting Liberal MPs to sponsor Senate public bills they worked so hard to pass in the Senate.

Senator Moreau, as the Senate's representative to the government and the Liberal government's representative to the Senate, what responsibility do you take for the dismissive way this government treated Senator Moodie's bill?

**Senator Moreau:** None.

## HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Hon. Yonah Martin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Government leader, your government promised Canadians a housing plan that would restore affordability by building homes at a scale and speed not seen in generations. Yet, recent reports indicate that your government has not only abandoned its speed and housing start targets but has also narrowed its focus to projects concentrated solely in Toronto and Vancouver.

Senator Moreau, in my home province of British Columbia, families are struggling to find affordable housing in Abbotsford, Kelowna, Prince George and communities across the province, including Vancouver Island and throughout Metro Vancouver. Regardless of where they live, Canadians are finding it harder than ever to secure affordable housing. Why has your government abandoned its commitment to address the housing crisis for all Canadians?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** The government's investment in housing is unprecedented. Budget 2026 will deliver on housing for all Canadians by building inclusive housing at scale and speed. The government will invest over $750 million into market housing to accelerate housing starts, along with $40 billion for rental construction and reduced development charges. Non-market housing is for all Canadians in poverty or in need. Build Canada Homes will help triple annual non-market housing starts to over 24,000 over the next decade.

Regarding homelessness, there will be $6.5 billion for prevention, $5 billion for integrated support and $10 billion for supportive housing, with the goal of ending homelessness within 10 years. It has never been done before by any government.

**Senator Martin:** However, the reality is simple: Your government is failing to deliver on its promises to Canadians. Your housing targets continue to decline, while mortgage delinquencies have reached their highest level in more than a decade, rising by 31.1% in the past year alone. When will your government stop building up empty promises and start building the homes Canadians need?

**Senator Moreau:** Again, I invite you to read Budget 2026 and Budget 2025 because both propose housing measures that no Conservative government has ever introduced. We can see the market results in Toronto and Vancouver, as you mentioned in your previous question. The government is acting, and the results are there.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENTS

**Hon. Mary Coyle:** Senator Moreau, I just returned from COP31 in Türkiye and was pleased to see Canada's $5.9-billion international climate finance announcement and the ambition to mobilize $13 billion, including from the private sector, by 2031.

According to FinDev's plans, 75% of these funds will be invested in upper-middle-income countries. However, lower-income and more climate-vulnerable countries often require grants to fund adaptation initiatives, and those may not be attractive to commercial investments.

Senator Moreau, will Canada ensure that the remaining 25% of the climate finance commitments reach small islands and developing states, which are on the front lines of the climate crisis — a crisis they haven't caused?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** Thank you, Senator Coyle, for the question. The government recognizes that not all climate adaptation projects lend themselves to commercial financing, which is why grants and other contributions remain important components of the international climate finance approach.

As you mentioned, the government made an important announcement at COP31, which included committing to $116 million in grants and contributions to support 12 international climate projects, with more than half of that funding supporting climate adaptation and resilience. This includes $11 million to help small island developing states to overcome barriers to accessing climate financing and $10 million to stream an early-warning system in some of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. While I cannot speak to specific allocations for future funding, the government remains committed to ensuring that Canada's international climate financing reaches the countries and communities where the needs are the greatest.

**Senator Coyle:** Thank you, Senator Moreau.

The Canadian Climate Institute's analysis indicates that Canada ". . . would be lucky to hit its 2030 emissions target by 2050, never mind net zero." Environment and Climate Change Canada's 2025-26 annual departmental report projects that Canada will fail to meet its 2035 emissions target by 13%. Senator Moreau, when can we expect the government to share with Canadians its concrete plans to achieve net zero by 2050?

**Senator Moreau:** The government recognizes that further action is needed to accelerate emissions reduction, and Canada remains committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. The government is focusing on practical measures to reduce emissions, mobilize investment and strengthen Canada's economic competitiveness. Budget 2026 advanced this approach with $50 billion in investment to expand Canada's clean and affordable electricity grid, which is a major investment, and $400 million to help industrial and manufacturing businesses improve energy efficiency and lower emissions.

At the same time, we recognize that we have to do more —

[*Translation*]

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Thank you, Senator Moreau.

• (1450)

[*English*]

## HEALTH

### PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS

**Hon. Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler:** My question is for the Government Representative in the Senate.

The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board's latest annual report shows that while the prices of medicines remained stable in Canada, prices declined in most comparator countries. As a result, Canada now has the seventh-highest list prices for medicines in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD.

And according to Statistics Canada, more Canadians are skipping doses or not filling their prescriptions because of cost: 13.3% of people in 2025, compared to 9% in 2021.

Given these concerning trends, what concrete measures is the government taking to lower the cost of medicines for Canadians?

**Hon. Pierre Moreau (Government Representative in the Senate):** Thank you for the question. The government is acting on several fronts. It is strengthening the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board's ability to review potentially excessive patented drug prices. The board has introduced new guidelines for staff, which were shared publicly in June 2025 and came into effect in January 2026. They provide a clear process for identifying prices that may require a hearing.

In June 2026, the Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Sector Task Force, launched by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Industry, published a final report with 39 recommendations to improve access to medicines and support a strong and competitive pharmaceutical and life sciences industry. The government is currently assessing the task force's recommendations. Further details will be announced in the coming months.

**Senator Osler:** Thank you.

A key recommendation in last year's final report of the National Pharmacare Committee of Experts was to lower drug prices by developing a national essential medicines strategy focused on affordability and accessibility. Will the government follow the expert committee's recommendation to lower drug prices?

**Senator Moreau:** I'm sure you will agree that lowering drug prices will require more than one tool. A national essential medicines strategy can support competitive procurement, better cost oversight, supply resiliency and evidence-based prescribing.

The government has begun, through the Pharmacare Act, initial coverage for contraception and diabetes medication. The government will continue working with provinces, territories and Indigenous partners to ensure any next steps are affordable, effective and sustainable for Canadians.

# ORDERS OF THE DAY

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate):** Honourable senators, pursuant to rules 4-12(3), I would like to inform the Senate that as we proceed with Government Business, the Senate will address the items in the following order: Motion No. 101, followed by Motion No. 102, followed by all remaining items in the order that they appear on the Order Paper.

[*Translation*]

## STRENGTHENING CANADA'S DEFENCE SECTOR BILL

### NATIONAL SECURITY, DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO STUDY SUBJECT MATTER

**Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate),** pursuant to notice of November 24, 2026, moved:

That, notwithstanding any provision of the Rules, previous order or usual practice:

1. pursuant to rule 10-11(1), the Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs be authorized to examine the subject matter of Bill C-40, An Act respecting production, procurement and investment in relation to national defence and national security, introduced in the House of Commons on October 6, 2026, in advance of the said bill coming before the Senate;

2. if and when the bill is adopted at second reading, it stand referred to the committee; and

3. for the purposes of its examination of the subject matter and its study of the bill, the committee be authorized to meet even though the Senate may then be sitting or adjourned, with the application of rules 12-18(1) and 12-18(2) being suspended in relation thereto.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

(Motion agreed to.)

## THE SENATE

### MOTION TO RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER SUBJECT MATTER OF BILL C-42 ADOPTED

**Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate),** pursuant to notice of November 24, 2026, moved:

That, notwithstanding any provision of the Rules, usual practice or previous order, and without affecting progress in relation to Bill C-42, An Act respecting certain measures related to affordability and housing:

1. at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2026, the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on the subject matter of the bill;

2. the Committee of the Whole receive the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P., Minister of Finance and National Revenue, and the Honourable Gregor Robertson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada, accompanied by at most two officials each;

3. the committee rise no later than 70 minutes after it begins, excluding the chair's introductory remarks or any suspensions;

4. the ministers' introductory remarks be limited to a maximum of five minutes each;

5. if, during the Committee of the Whole, a senator does not use the entire period of 10 minutes for debate provided under rule 12-31(3)(d), including the responses of the witnesses, that senator may yield the balance of time to another senator;

6. if the bells are ringing for a vote at the time the committee is to meet, they be interrupted for the Committee of the Whole at that time, and resume once the committee has completed its work for the balance of any time remaining;

7. for greater certainty, all witnesses appear in person; and

8. for greater certainty, committees scheduled to meet on that day be authorized to meet, even though the Senate may then be sitting, with rule 12-18(1) being suspended in relation thereto.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

(Motion agreed to.)

[*English*]

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Leo Housakos (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I ask for leave of the Senate that Order No. 1 under the rubric Commons Public Bills – Third Reading, under Other Business, and Motion No. 126 on the Notice Paper, be brought forward and called now.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, is leave granted?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

## SERGEI MAGNITSKY INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS BILL

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

**Hon. Leo Housakos (Leader of the Opposition)** moved third reading of Bill C-219, An Act to amend the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act, the Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act (Sergei Magnitsky Law) and the Special Economic Measures Act.

He said: Honourable senators, I'm pleased to rise at third reading of Bill C-219, the Sergei Magnitsky law no. 3.

Colleagues, I would once again like to thank James Bezan, Member of Parliament for Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman, for his leadership in strengthening Canada's sanctions legislation. I would also like to thank Senator Harder for support in advancing this bill as the friendly critic to the stage, as well as Senator Boehm and the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee here in the Senate of Canada for their expeditious yet very thorough consideration of this legislation.

Colleagues, as Bill C-219 was being considered at committee last week, I met with representatives from two communities that have experienced the destructive reality of authoritarian regimes and transnational repression first-hand: the Cuban Canadians Coalition and Hong Kong Watch.

The Cuban Canadians Coalition, in particular, spoke about how repression by the Cuban regime, the oldest dictatorship in our hemisphere, continues unabated. In fact, only a week ago, the regime carried out yet another wave of arrests, targeting journalists and academics such as Camila Acosta, Yoani Sánchez and Jenny Pantoja Torres. They join more than a thousand prisoners of conscience whose only offence was standing up for liberty, democracy, the rule of law and fundamental human rights.

These stories of extraordinary courage serve as a stark reminder of why the tools contained in Bill C-219 are so urgently needed. Colleagues, I will not take much more of your time on this, but I would like to briefly address two points raised during the committee's consideration of this legislation.

The first thing is the long-standing consensus behind this bill. Senator Harder highlighted this point at committee, and Mr. Bezan reinforced it. The strength of this legislation lies not only in its provisions but also in the message it sends. Parliament and Canada are speaking with one voice to the autocrats and kleptocrats of Beijing, Moscow, Havana, Ankara and elsewhere; there are many of them around the world.

• (1500)

Canada stands united against human rights abuses and transnational repression directed at those who seek refuge in our country. Such actions will not be tolerated.

The second point relates to the preparedness of officials at Global Affairs Canada and their partners, including the Canada Border Services Agency and the RCMP, to implement and use the authorities contained in Bill C-219.

During committee hearings, Global Affairs Canada officials confirmed on record that they are ready to employ these tools and that no governmental or administrative obstacles will stand in their way once the bill is adopted.

Colleagues, the need is clear. The will of Canadians and of Parliament is clear and unanimous. Government officials are ready to act.

I hope we too can adopt Bill C-219 unanimously and send a clear, unequivocal message to Vladimir Putin — and dictators everywhere — that Canada stands united against international repression, corruption and the erosion of human rights around the world. Thank you, colleagues.

**Hon. Peter Harder:** Thank you, Senator Housakos, for your third reading contribution. I will be very brief and underscore the two points you made: the ongoing, bipartisan, unanimous support these measures have had in the House, as well as the Senate, as we've dealt with this over the past number of years; and confirming — as we did during second reading debate — this is a significant step forward in our sanctions regime.

In our meetings with officials, it was clear that not only are they ready to move forward, but their ongoing collaboration with like-minded parties around the world on sanctions regime coordination will be strengthened by this measure as well.

My final point is this: I wish this to be adopted not only unanimously, but now. They are ready to implement it. It sends a terrific message, particularly to those in Kyiv experiencing the occupation and the assault from Russia, where our sanctions regimes are coordinated most acutely and are being felt.

Colleagues, I urge you to adopt this legislation as quickly as possible.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

(Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.)

[*Translation*]

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

### COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND DATE OF FINAL REPORT ON STUDY OF THE STRENGTHENING OF FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS' ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE RESPONSIBILITIES

**Hon. Allister Surette,** pursuant to notice of November 24, 2026, moved:

> That, notwithstanding the order of the Senate adopted on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, the date for the final report of the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages in relation to its study on the strengthening of federal institutions' arts, culture and heritage responsibilities in official language minority communities and in Canada be extended from March 31, 2027, to June 30, 2027; and
>
> That the committee be permitted, notwithstanding usual practices, to deposit reports on this study with the Clerk of the Senate if the Senate is not then sitting, and that the reports be deemed to have been tabled in the Senate.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

(Motion agreed to.)

[*English*]

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate):** Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 5-13(2), I move:

> That the Senate do now adjourn.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

(*At 3:04 p.m., the Senate was continued until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.*)

# CONTENTS

**Wednesday, November 25, 2026**

PAGE

## SENATORS' STATEMENTS


**Visitor in the Gallery**
The Hon. the Speaker . . . 3292

**Embassy of Luxembourg in Canada**
Hon. Danièle Henkel . . . 3292

**Visitor in the Gallery**
The Hon. the Speaker . . . 3292

**Gender-Based Violence**
Hon. Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler . . . 3292

**Visitor in the Gallery**
The Hon. the Speaker . . . 3293

**International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**
**Tragedy at École Polytechnique de Montréal**
Hon. Manuelle Oudar . . . 3293

**Visitors in the Gallery**
The Hon. the Speaker . . . 3293

**Canada-Solomon Islands Relations**
Hon. Baltej S. Dhillon . . . 3294

**Visitors in the Gallery**
The Hon. the Speaker . . . 3294

**Haitian Community in Canada**
Hon. Suze Youance . . . 3294

**Canada-Jamaica Relations**
Hon. Rosemary Moodie . . . 3295


## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS


**National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking Bill (Bill S-235)**
Seventh Report of Human Rights Committee Presented
Hon. Paulette Senior . . . 3295

**Adjournment**
Notice of Motion
Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson . . . 3296

**ParlAmericas**
United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30), November 10-21, 2025—Report Tabled
Hon. Michael L. MacDonald . . . 3296
Parliamentary Delegation to Washington, March 25-27, 2025 —Report Tabled
Hon. Michael L. MacDonald . . . 3296


PAGE

## QUESTION PERIOD


**Global Affairs**
Human Rights in Türkiye
Hon. Leo Housakos . . . 3296
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3296

**Environment and Climate Change**
Parks Canada
Hon. Michael L. MacDonald . . . 3296
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3297

**Privy Council Office**
Nation Building
Hon. Rosa Galvez . . . 3297
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3297

**Employment and Social Development**
Youth Employment
Hon. Tony Loffreda . . . 3297
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3297

**Environment and Climate Change**
Parks Canada
Hon. Karen Sorensen . . . 3298
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3298

**Privy Council Office**
Appointments to Crown Corporations
Hon. Krista Ross . . . 3298
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3298
Senate Public Bills
Hon. Denise Batters . . . 3299
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3299

**Housing, Infrastructure and Communities**
Affordable Housing
Hon. Yonah Martin . . . 3299
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3299

**Environment and Climate Change**
Climate Change Commitments
Hon. Mary Coyle . . . 3300
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3300

**Health**
Pharmaceutical Drugs
Hon. Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler . . . 3300
Hon. Pierre Moreau . . . 3300


## ORDERS OF THE DAY


**Business of the Senate**
Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson . . . 3301

# CONTENTS

## Wednesday, November 25, 2026


PAGE

**Strengthening Canada's Defence Sector Bill (Bill C-40)**
National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs Committee Authorized to Study Subject Matter
Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson . . . . . 3301

**The Senate**
Motion to Resolve into Committee of the Whole to Consider Subject Matter of Bill C-42 Adopted
Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson . . . . . 3301

**Business of the Senate**
Hon. Leo Housakos . . . . . 3302

**Sergei Magnitsky International Anti-Corruption and Human Rights Bill (Bill C-219)**
Bill to Amend—Third Reading
Hon. Leo Housakos . . . . . 3302
Hon. Peter Harder . . . . . 3302

PAGE

**Official Languages**
Committee Authorized to Extend Date of Final Report on Study of the Strengthening of Federal Institutions' Arts, Culture and Heritage Responsibilities
Hon. Allister Surette . . . . . 3303

**Business of the Senate**
Hon. Patti LaBoucane-Benson . . . . . 3303