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Annual Report 2023-24

Activities and Expenditures of Senate Committees

Prepared by the Senate Committees Directorate

Annual Report: Activities and Expenditures
of Senate Committees 2023-24

Fiscal year from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024

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Message from the Management Team

Committees are at the heart of the Senate’s legislative and policy review work and Canadians contribute to that work every year by appearing as witnesses or by providing written testimony. Canadians can also follow the work of committees by watching webcasts or CPAC broadcasts, or by reading transcripts, briefs and reports on a committee’s website. Senators spend an enormous amount of time engaged in committee work. The Committees Directorate serves Senate committees in the areas of parliamentary procedure and practice, logistics and administration, and provides advice and resources to help committees to achieve their objectives.

This past year has been marked by a return to regular activity levels, with committees resuming full operations with no major interruptions in the parliamentary calendar, coupled with the ability to meet regularly according to the pre-pandemic committee schedule. Committees also resumed regular travel activities, with eight fact-finding missions and public hearings outside of Ottawa that were successfully completed. Committees met and reported on a range of topics such as housing, the foreign service, the impact of Islamophobia, Arctic security, suicide prevention, inflation, truth and reconciliation, anti-black racism and examined the structure and mandates of Senate committees, among countless other issues that matter to Canadians.

Building on the success of virtual technology, Senate committees again heard from over 2000 witnesses during the year. This past year, the Committees Directorate team worked in close collaboration with colleagues from other directorates and partners on Parliament Hill to successfully implement the use of mandatory headsets and advance technical testing for all videoconference participants to ensure safer proceedings. This new process has streamlined the identification and resolution of technical issues in advance of appearances, which resulted in a significant reduction in disruptions, and has led to more efficient and uninterrupted meetings.

The Committees Directorate takes great pride in providing senators with professional, non-partisan procedural, logistical and administrative support. Once again, our team consistently demonstrated their resilience and ability to adapt in an evolving work environment. Building the knowledge and capacity of our team remains a priority, as the coming year will bring important changes to the Directorate’s leadership. Through this period of transition, we have full confidence that our team’s focus remains on steadfastly supporting the vital work of senators and to promote the significant contributions of Senate Committees to all Canadians.

Shaila Anwar
Clerk Assistant

Maxime Fortin
Principal Clerk

Joëlle Nadeau
Principal Clerk

Committees Directorate

Management

Shaila Anwar, Clerk Assistant
Maxime Fortin, Principal Clerk
Joëlle Nadeau, Principal Clerk
Jodi Turner, Principal Clerk

Committee Clerks

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Karine Déquier
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Legislative Clerks

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Louise Martel
Natacha Umugwaneza
Natassia Ephrem
Osvaldo Lopes da Silva Jr.
Skylar Johnson (from September 2023)
Sofiya Sapeha (from September 2023 until January 2024)
Tracy Amendola

Logistics Officers

Annie Trudel
Lyne Héroux

Mission Statement

The Senate is a core component of the Canadian federal structure of government. Entrenched in the Canadian Constitution, it is designed to act as a complementary legislative body of sober second thought. A vital part of the legislative process takes place in Senate committees, where senators examine legislation and also undertake special studies on a wide range of topics linked to Canadian public policy.

The Committees Directorate serves Senate committees in the areas of parliamentary procedure and practice, and administration, and provides advice and resources to help committees to achieve their objectives.

Our mission is to provide exemplary, innovative and efficient support to facilitate the work of Senate committees. We are proud of our role at the Senate; we contribute to the promotion of its public image, and to that of Parliament in general. In line with this mission, we strive to excel through these three pillars:

Integrity

- We perform our duties ethically and honestly, in compliance with relevant laws, rules and procedures, and in the best tradition of the Senate, in order to maintain public trust.
- We uphold the principles of discretion and confidentiality.

Respect

- We demonstrate dignity, fairness and courtesy when dealing with parliamentarians, staff, partners and the public.
- We work collaboratively and with a shared purpose in order to achieve positive outcomes.

Service

- We provide non-partisan superior service to all senators.
- We serve with professionalism, competence and objectivity.

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Part 1: Overview of Activities and Expenditures

Structure of Committees

The Committees Directorate provides administrative, procedural and informational support to Senate committees, which included the following committees during the 2023-24 fiscal year:

- Eighteen standing committees (and six subcommittees); and
- Two standing joint committees and two special joint committees (composed of members from both the Senate and the House of Commons).

The size of committees, their general areas of study and the number of members required for quorum are set under rules 12-3, 12-6 and 12-7 of the *Rules of the Senate*.

Overview of Committee Activities

Committees account for much of the important work of the Senate. While all committees must respect the *Rules of the Senate* and the *Senate Administrative Rules (SARs)*, there are variations between committees with respect to how they undertake, organize and carry out their work. Some committees focus almost exclusively on legislation, while others give special studies most of their attention.

Committee activity continued at a steady pace during the 2023-24 fiscal year, as evidenced by the statistics presented later in this report. Joint committees were also active during the 2023-24 fiscal year. In October 2023, the Senate authorised joint committees to continue holding hybrid meetings, thereby extending an order which had expired at the end of June 2023.

In addition, committees undertook a significant amount of travel during the 2023-24 fiscal year. Eight committee trips were completed over the course of the fiscal year to various destinations within Canada and abroad.

Summary of Committee Expenses

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2023-24</i>
<i>Committee Travel and General Expenses</i>	\$394,189*
<i>Witnesses Travel and Videoconference Expenses</i>	\$267,863
<i>Meeting Hospitality</i>	\$52,684

*This amount also includes the expenses incurred under two budgets from the Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight (AOVS). These budgets are listed in the Committee Budget and Expenditures table which is found in Part 3 of this report.

Committee Operations

The following table compares the various activities of all Senate committees over the last five fiscal years.

Indicators	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	Five-year average
Meetings	503	589	217	165	287	352.2
Reports	77	81	60	43	72	66.6
Hours in committee	835.6	994.4	364.7	303	565	612.54
Sitting weeks	24	26	23	13	14	20
Hours in committee per week	34.8	38.2	15.9	23.3	40.3	30.5
Witnesses	2,045	2,458	914	592	1,367	1,475.2
Bills*	51	40	39	9	42	36.2

Subject matter studies*	15	19	10	2	14	12
Special studies*	57	42	50	24	87	52
Estimates	10	6	6	6	14	8.4
Trips	8	9	0	0	4	4.2
Fact-finding hours	185.25	69.1	0	0	0	50.87

* These figures have been updated for the last five years to include all orders of reference available to committees during a fiscal year (whether or not meetings were held on these orders of reference during the fiscal year).

The following table illustrates orders of reference considered by Senate committees during the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Orders of reference	Meetings	Total meetings (percent)	Hours	Total hours (percent)
Bills and subject matter studies	195	43.2%	304.4	43.9%
Special studies	232	51.4%	351.1	50.7%
Estimates	24	5.3%	37.3	5.4%
Total	451	100%	692.9	100%

Contributions to Public Policy Development: Special Study Reports

The following list highlights special study reports that were completed during the fiscal year.

Foreign Affairs and International Trade (AEFA)

Strengthening Canada’s Autonomous Sanctions Architecture: Five-Year Legislative Review of the Sergei Magnitsky Law and the *Special Economic Measures Act* ([Tenth Report](#) [Interim] – tabled on May 16, 2023)

This study examined the provisions and operation of Canada’s two core pieces of autonomous sanctions legislation: the *Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act (Sergei Magnitsky Law)* and the *Special Economic Measures Act*. The committee’s study was an opportunity to examine the effectiveness and functioning of these two Acts, particularly in the context of geopolitical challenges. The study began months after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, during a period in which the use of autonomous sanctions had become a preferred diplomatic course of action by Canada and many of its allies in response to the war in Ukraine and other international crises.

The committee’s study found that Canada would benefit from better tools to assess the impact and effectiveness of its sanctions, including unintended consequences. Among its 19 recommendations, the committee called on the Government of Canada to provide the public and private sector with written guidance on the interpretation of Canada’s sanctions laws and regulations. The committee also recommended that the Government of Canada work with its allies to establish a formal mechanism for the coordination and implementation of autonomous sanctions and for the sharing of best practices on how to maximize sanctions effectiveness.

More than a Vocation: Canada’s Need for a 21st Century Foreign Service ([Twelfth Report](#) [Interim] – tabled on December 6, 2023)

The first substantive examination of the Canadian foreign service in more than 40 years, this study examined whether the Canadian foreign service remained fit for purpose. The committee’s study took place at a time when the Government of Canada and many of Canada’s allies were in the process of performing diplomatic modernization exercises. Overall, the committee’s study found that the Government

of Canada needs to reinvest in Canadian diplomacy to ensure that Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the Canadian foreign service are prepared to meet the complex global challenges of the decades to come.

Drawing on witness testimony and lessons learned during fact-finding missions to the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and Norway, this report offers 29 recommendations for modernizing Canadian diplomacy. The committee's recommendations span areas that include organizational structure and coherence, recruitment, career management, and conditions of foreign service. For example, the committee recommended that GAC run an annual entry-level foreign service officer recruitment campaign to fill all foreign service vacancies and better enable the deployment of surge resources in emergency situations. As well, it recommended that GAC establish a pathway in the Canadian foreign service for specialists who would be expected to maintain, with the support of relevant training, specific geographic, functional and/or linguistic expertise and competencies over the course of their career.

Indigenous Peoples (APPA)

Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders 2023: Celebrating Leadership in Indigenous Education

([Sixteenth Report](#) [Interim] – tabled on November 15, 2023)

On June 7, 2023, the committee held their annual event entitled Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders (formally known as Youth Indigenize the Senate), which has been taking place annually since 2016.

The committee invited eight Indigenous youth leaders from across the country to discuss their perspectives on Indigenous education, including participants' experiences and challenges within various education systems and their vision for the future of Indigenous education. The committee's report summarized the testimony. The report also referenced submissions the committee received from Indigenous youth as part of the application process for Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders. A brief comprising all these written submissions was published on the committee's website.

Honouring the Children Who Never Came Home: Truth, Education and Reconciliation

([Fourteenth Report](#) [Interim] – tabled on July 19, 2023)

On March 21, 2023, the committee held a meeting on the work of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) and the Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools.

The interim report provides an overview of this meeting and highlights the testimony from Independent Special Interlocutor Kimberly Murray, NCTR Executive Director Stephanie Scott, and Indian Residential School Survivor and Elder Barbara Cameron. The report includes a table produced by the NCTR summarizing a list of records that are outstanding by various entities and organizations. In the report, the committee committed to holding additional hearings with entities and organizations that have not released the records that were included in this list. The report also made additional recommendations which focused on supporting residential school survivors, families and communities.

On the Outside Looking In: The Implementation of the *Cannabis Act* and its effects on Indigenous Peoples

([Twelfth Report](#) [Interim] – tabled on June 14, 2023)

In fall 2022, the committee studied the implementation of the *Cannabis Act* and how the legalization of cannabis has affected Indigenous peoples. The committee's report is intended to inform the work of the Expert Panel from Health Canada that is tasked with assessing the implementation of the *Cannabis Act* and highlights the problems identified by First Nations prior to the legalization of cannabis and its subsequent implementation.

Banking, Commerce and the Economy (BANC)

Needed: An Innovation Strategy for the Data-Driven Economy

([Eighth Report](#) [Interim] – tabled on June 15, 2023)

On March 8, 2023, the committee resumed its study on business investment after releasing an interim report on June 20, 2022. This time, the committee focused its

study more narrowly on business investment in the disproportionately fast growing digitally intensive sector, including those businesses that rely heavily on intellectual property (IP) and data. Over the course of eight meetings, the committee heard from a variety of witnesses across different sectors and received written briefs. In its report, the committee called for an urgent update in the federal government's policies related to incentivizing and retaining commercial value of businesses in Canada. In its report, the committee concludes that to stimulate business investment, it is imperative to adopt policies that foster a coordinated and targeted whole-of-system approach towards the generation and preservation of intangible economic value in Canada and explore five different approaches that could facilitate this approach.

Study on Housing Affordability - Interim Findings

([Eleventh Report](#) [Interim] – tabled on December 5, 2023)

On October 5, 2023, the committee resumed its study on Housing Affordability in Canada and held seven meetings to hear recommendations from a variety of witnesses. Some of these witnesses included the Governor of the Bank of Canada, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, Credit Unions, the Canadian Bankers Association, financial experts, and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Infrastructure Canada. The committee found that the recommendations from witnesses to increase housing supply in Canada fell under four themes: alignment, innovation, people and capital. In its report, the committee asked that the federal government consider these themes when preparing its upcoming budget.

Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources (ENEV)

HYDROGEN: A Viable Option for a Net-Zero Canada in 2050?

([Fourth Report](#) [Interim] – tabled on May 9, 2023)

In March 2022, the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources launched its study on hydrogen's potential role in the energy transition for Canada to achieve its goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (NZE2050), under its general order of reference. The study examined how Canada's goal in achieving NZE2050 would depend, in part, on low-carbon intensity (CI) electricity and low-CI fuels, including hydrogen. The committee held nine

meetings on this topic, hearing from 33 witnesses. The report concludes with fourteen recommendations seeking to improve and make transparent Canadian energy models and related methodologies, while investing in hydrogen hubs that will help achieve NZE2050 and focus on growing the domestic low-carbon intensity hydrogen supply and demand for critical sectors. Following its adoption, the Senate will request that the Government of Canada table a comprehensive response to this report.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs (LCJC)

Self-induced Extreme Intoxication and Section 33.1 of the *Criminal Code* ([Twelfth report](#) [Final] tabled on April 27, 2023)

On June 23, 2022, the committee began a special study on various issues pertaining to how section 33.1 of the *Criminal Code* applies in rare circumstances when a person commits the act of a violent crime while in state of self-induced extreme intoxication that is akin to automatism. Over the course of this fiscal year, the committee conducted a series of meetings and heard from 15 witnesses on the topic. On April 27, 2023, the committee reported its findings to the Senate, making six recommendations to the Government. The Government's response was subsequently tabled in the Senate on August 24, 2023.

Human Rights (RIDR)

Combatting Hate: Islamophobia and its impact on Muslims in Canada ([Sixth report](#) [Interim] deposited with the Clerk of the Senate on November 2, 2023)

The committee began its study on Islamophobia in June 2022. In total, 138 witnesses testified before the committee; many others spoke to senators informally during the committee's fact-finding mission in communities across Canada. The report outlines the committee's findings from its year-long study into the sources of Islamophobia in Canada, incidents of discrimination, physical violence and online hate against Muslims, and the effects of these events on individuals and communities. The report concludes with 13 recommendations to address the disturbing rise of Islamophobia in recent years and, following its adoption, the Senate requested that the Government of Canada respond without delay.

**Anti-Black Racism, Sexism and Systemic Discrimination
in the Canadian Human Rights Commission**

([Seventh report](#) [Interim] deposited with the Clerk of the Senate on December 11, 2023)

The committee began its study in May 2023. It heard from 24 witnesses and received many written briefs. The committee's study was prompted by a set of grievances filed against the independent Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) about its treatment of Black and racialized employees, which raised serious concerns about its decision-making processes when dealing with human rights complaints. Testimony, as well as written submissions to the committee, demonstrated a crisis of confidence in the federal human rights system and underscored that no institution is immune from systemic racism. The report makes 11 recommendations to immediately address the problems at the CHRC and to meaningfully confront the broader issue of systemic racism across the federal public service. Following its adoption, the Senate requested that the Government of Canada respond without delay.

National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs (SECD)

Arctic Security Under Threat: Urgent needs in a changing geopolitical and environmental landscape

([Sixth report](#) [Final] deposited with the Clerk of the Senate on June 28, 2023)

On March 21, 2022, the Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs began a study on Security and Defence in the Arctic, including Canada's military infrastructure and security capabilities. The committee held 13 meetings on the topic, hearing testimony from 68 witnesses, including the Minister of National Defence and officials from various departments, in addition to Indigenous leaders, academics, and experts on Arctic Governance and Defence Policy. The report makes 23 recommendations calling for the inclusion of Arctic security in the next defence policy, ongoing collaboration with Arctic Indigenous governments and treaty rights holders, and other Arctic nations, addressing issues with recruitment and retention of Canadian Rangers, and the improvement of Coast Guard and Defence infrastructure.

The Time is Now: Granting equitable access to psychedelic-assisted therapies
([Seventh report](#) [Interim] deposited with the Clerk of the Senate on November 8, 2023)

On April 27, 2022, the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs began a study on Emerging treatments for Canadian Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans suffering from occupational stress injuries. The committee held 11 meetings on the topic, hearing testimony from 23 witnesses, including officials from Veterans Affairs Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces, in addition to academics, experts from the medical community, and advocates for psychedelic research. The report recommends that the government launch and fund a large-scale research program on psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy for treating those mental disorders and other conditions that have been identified as potential targets for these therapies.

Social Affairs, Science and Technology (SOCI)

Doing What Works: Rethinking the Federal Framework for Suicide Prevention
([Fifteenth report](#) [Final] deposited with the Clerk of the Senate on June 8, 2023)

On February 9, 2023, the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology began a study on the Federal Framework for Suicide prevention. The committee held nine meetings on the topic, hearing testimony from 23 witnesses, including the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, as well as academics and expert advocates from organizations advocating for mental health. The report makes 11 recommendations to update the Federal Framework for Suicide Prevention, prioritizing the promotion of evidence-based interventions, data collection, and acknowledging the crisis of Indigenous overrepresentation in Canada's suicide rate.

Medical Assistance in Dying (AMAD)

MAID and Mental Disorders: the Road Ahead
([Third report](#) [Final] deposited with the Clerk of the Senate on January 29, 2024)

The committee was tasked with reviewing the state of the field in Canada and evaluating the degree of preparedness attained for a safe and adequate application of MAID in cases where a mental disorder was the sole underlying medical condition (MAID MD SUMC) in advance of the eligibility of MAID MD SUMC coming into force

on March 17, 2024. The witnesses that appeared before this special joint committee expressed a range of opinions on the topic. The committee heard that governments, regulators, and practitioners had taken significant action to prepare for MAID MD SUMC eligibility, and that work was ongoing. At the same time, many witnesses remained preoccupied by the challenges of assessing irremediability, distinguishing requests for MAID from suicidality, and protecting the most vulnerable members of society. While some witnesses felt that Canada was ready, others felt that it was not adequately prepared, and some felt that readiness will never be attained.

The report ultimately recommended that, at this time, Canada's medical system was not prepared for MAID MD SUMC, and that the practice should not be made available until the federal Health and Justice ministers conclude, in consultation with their provincial and territorial counterparts and with Indigenous Peoples, that its safe and adequate provision is possible. The report also recommended that the committee be re-established one year in advance of the law permitting MAID MD SUMC coming into force to study the question again.

The committee's final report was tabled a few days before Bill C-62 was introduced in the House of Commons. The bill received royal assent on February 29, and had the effect of extending the date at which MAID MD SUMC would become eligible by three years, to March 17, 2027.

Part 2: Committee Profiles



The following section provides information and general statistics about each committee that met during the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Please note that the table in the section “Reports to the Senate” includes the number of witnesses who appeared on each order of reference that was reported to the Senate during the fiscal year, even if their appearance was in previous fiscal years. The table in the section “Committee Activities” includes the total number of witnesses heard during the fiscal year, including those on orders of reference which were not reported to the Senate during the fiscal year.

Photo: © Senate of Canada

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (AEFA)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade has the mandate to examine legislation and matters relating to foreign and Commonwealth relations, including treaties and international agreements, external trade, foreign aid and territorial and offshore matters.

During the fiscal year, the committee studied and reported back to the Senate on the subject matter of certain elements contained in Divisions 4, 5, 10 and 11 of Part 4, and in Subdivision A of Division 3 of Part 4 of Bill C-47. The committee also studied and reported back to the Senate on Bill C-57.

Over the course of the fiscal year, the committee completed its comprehensive review of the provisions and operation of the *Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act* (Sergei Magnitsky Law) and the *Special Economic Measures Act*, pursuant to section 16 of the *Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act* (Sergei Magnitsky Law). It also completed its study on the Canadian foreign service and elements of the foreign policy machinery within Global Affairs Canada. In October 2023, the committee began a study on Canada's interests and engagements in Africa.

The committee also undertook one fact-finding mission during the fiscal year: to London (United Kingdom), Oslo (Norway) and Berlin (Germany) in September 2023.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Thirteenth	Bill C-57, An Act to implement the 2023 Free Trade Agreement between Canada and Ukraine	February 29, 2024	5	Bill C-57, without amendment

Twelfth	Examine and report on the Canadian foreign service and elements of the foreign policy machinery within Global Affairs Canada	December 6, 2023	66	Final report entitled <i>More than a Vocation: Canada's Need for a 21st Century Foreign Service</i>
Eleventh	The subject matter of those elements contained in Divisions 4, 5 10 and 11 of Part 4, and in Subdivision A of Division 3 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023	June 1, 2023	13	Divisions 4, 5 10 and 11 of Part 4, and in Subdivision A of Division 3 of Part 4 of Bill C-47
Tenth	Comprehensive review of the provisions and operation of the Sergei Magnitsky Law, and the <i>Special Economic Measures Act</i>	May 16, 2023	26	Final report entitled <i>Strengthening Canada's Autonomous Sanctions Architecture: Five-Year Legislative Review of the Sergei Magnitsky Law and the Special Economic Measures Act</i>
Ninth	Examine and report on the Canadian foreign service and elements of the foreign policy machinery within Global Affairs Canada	April 25, 2023	0	Special Study Budget 2023-24 (Canadian Foreign Service)

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	32	46	39	121	5
2022-23	35	48.8	13	148	7
2021-22	9	11.2	0	39	2
2020-21	3	3.4	0	8	2
2019-20	17	21.5	0	57	6

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget expenditures	\$ 101,796
Witness expenses	\$ 2,438
TOTAL	\$ 104,234

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Boehm (Independent Senators Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Harder, P.C. (Progressive Senate Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Boehm, Boniface, Coyle, Deacon (*Ontario*), Gerba, Greene, Harder, P.C., Housakos, MacDonald, Ravalia and Woo

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Anderson, Busson, Cardozo, Dean, Duncan, Greenwood, Hartling, Lankin, P.C., MacAdam, McNair, Patterson (*Ontario*) and Plett

Committee support:

Chantal Cardinal, Clerk of the Committee
Louise Martel, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Brian Hermon, Analyst
Nadia Faucher, Analyst

Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (AGFO)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has the mandate to examine legislation and to study issues related to agriculture and forestry. The agriculture and agri-food portfolio covers all departments and agencies that are under the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food. While most of the forest on Crown land is managed by the provinces, the federal government is responsible for many forest-related matters.

During this fiscal year, the committee studied and reported back to the Senate on Bill S-236 and Bill C-234. The committee continued to hold meetings on its study on the status of soil health in Canada and on the government response to the committee's report entitled *Treading Water: The impact of and response to the 2021 British Columbia floods*.

The committee also undertook three fact-finding missions during the fiscal year as part of their study on soil health: a visit to Guelph, Ontario in April 2023; a visit to Rome, Italy in July 2023 to attend the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and a visit to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Calgary, Alberta in August 2023.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Twelfth	Bill C-234, An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act	October 26, 2023	24	Bill C-234, with amendments and observations
Eleventh	Examine and report on the status of soil health in Canada	June 1, 2023	0	Special Study Supplementary Budget 2023-24 (Soil Health) - Travel activity (Rome, Italy)

Tenth	Bill S-236, An Act to amend the Employment Insurance Act and the Employment Insurance Regulations (Prince Edward Island)	May 17, 2023	17	Bill S-236, it was recommended that the Senate not proceed further with the bill
Ninth	Examine and report on the status of soil health in Canada	May 11, 2023	0	Special Study Supplementary Budget 2023-24 (Soil Health) - Travel activity (Alberta and Saskatchewan)

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	31	48	76.75	124	4
2022-23	33	51	2.5	128	8
2021-22	7	11.3	0	25	1
2020-21	1	0.5	0	0	1
2019-20	14	22.1	0	46	4

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget expenditures	\$ 94,487
Witness expenses	\$ 28,317
TOTAL	\$ 122,804

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Black (Canadian Senators Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Simons (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Black, Burey, Cotter, Dalphond, Jaffer, Klyne, McNair, Mockler, Oh, Petitclerc and Simons

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Arnot, Audette, Bellemare, Cardozo, Cormier, Dagenais, Deacon (*Ontario*), Duncan, Dupuis (retired), Gerba, MacAdam, MacDonald, Miville-Dechêne, Osler, Pate, Saint-Germain, Wells, Woo and Yussuff

Committee support:

Ferda Simpson, Clerk of the Committee
Elda Donnelly, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Joanne Markle LaMontagne, Analyst

Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight (AOVS)

General Information

The Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight was created on October 1, 2020, based on the principles of integrity, independence, transparency, and accountability. These principles are essential to fulfilling the committee's mandate to provide oversight and report on the Senate's spending. The committee is authorized, on its own initiative, to exercise the review, monitoring and inquiry function of the Senate's financial operations. More specifically, it is responsible for: retaining the services of and overseeing the external and internal auditors; supervising the Senate's internal and external audits; reviewing the Senate's quarterly financial reports and the audited financial statements for information purposes; and tabling before the Senate all relevant financial documents, including an annual report with observations and recommendations. It is also tasked with reviewing the Senate Administration's action plans to ensure that they adequately address the recommendations and findings that may arise from internal and external audits and that they are effectively implemented.

Throughout the year, the committee worked on selecting a Chief Audit Executive to lead a new internal audit function while also examining practices and lessons learned from other legislatures. During the summer recess in July 2023, the committee conducted a fact-finding mission to London, United Kingdom, where they met with counterparts from both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. This study provided valuable insights on how to enhance oversight on key matters and support the transition to a new internal audit function. The committee's findings are detailed in its Tenth Report to the Senate.

The committee completed its search and appointed a Chief Audit Executive in October 2023. Following a successful onboarding process, aided by the committee's guidance and contributions from Senate Administration management, the committee shifted its focus to the Senate's governance, risk management and control arrangements.

Every year, in June, the committee releases an annual report. This report summarizes the work of the committee for the previous fiscal year and includes observations from committee members on key audit and oversight issues identified over the fiscal year.

In 2023-24, the committee presented a total of four reports to the Senate.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Tenth	Supervise and report on the Senate's internal and external audits and related matters	November 7, 2023	0	Interim report entitled <i>Study on the Fact-Finding Mission on Audit and Oversight Practices in the United Kingdom Parliament</i>
Ninth	Supervise and report on the Senate's internal and external audits and related matters	June 20, 2023	0	Report entitled <i>Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight: Activities and Observations for Fiscal Year 2022-2023</i>
Eighth	Supervise and report on the Senate's internal and external audits and related matters	April 25, 2023	0	Supplementary Budget 2023-24 (travel outside Canada)
Seventh	Supervise and report on the Senate's internal and external audits and related matters	April 20, 2023	0	Budget 2023-24 (general expenses)

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Four Fiscal Years, 2020-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	12	21.9	16	3	4
2022-23	11	14.1	0	8	4
2021-22	8	13.75	0	6	5
2020-21	4	5	0	5	2

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Accounting and Audit Services	\$ 32,075
Management Consulting Services	\$ 8,050
Training and Membership Fees	\$ 1,270
Travel: Fact-Finding Mission	\$ 35,142
External members expenditures	\$ 87,672
Witness expenses	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 164,209

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Klyne (Progressive Senate Group)

Deputy chairs:

The Honourable Senator Wells (Conservative Party of Canada)

The Honourable Senator Yussuff (Independent Senators Group) (as of January 2024)

The Honourable Senator Dupuis (Independent Senators Group) (until January 2024) (retired)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Deacon (*Nova Scotia*), Klyne, Wells and Yussuff

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Downe and Dupuis (retired)

External members of the committee:

Hélène F. Fortin and Robert Plamondon

Committee support:

Maxime Fortin, Clerk of the Committee

Stéphanie van Beek, Recording Secretary

Amipal Manchanda, Chief Audit Executive

Brigitte Martineau, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Lindsay McGlashan, Analyst

Rosemonde Samedy, Analyst

Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples (APPA)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples has the mandate to study matters relating to the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, the committee studied and reported back to the Senate on Bills C-45, C-51 and C-29.

The committee completed its interim report on the implementation of the *Cannabis Act*, as well as its interim report on the work of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and the Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools. The committee also completed its interim report on its annual Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders event.

The committee also continued its special study to examine the constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. It also received an order of reference to examine the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2021*.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Sixteenth	Examine the federal government's constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and any other subject concerning Indigenous Peoples	November 15, 2023	8	Interim report entitled <i>Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders 2023: Celebrating Leadership in Indigenous Education</i>
Fifteenth	Bill C-29, An Act to provide for the establishment of a	October 26, 2023	57	Bill C-29, with amendments and observations

	national council for reconciliation			
Fourteenth	Examine the federal government's constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and any other subject concerning Indigenous Peoples	July 19, 2023	5	Interim report entitled: <i>Honouring the Children Who Never Came Home: Truth, Education and Reconciliation</i>
Thirteenth	Bill C-51, An Act to give effect to the self-government treaty recognizing the Whitecap Dakota Nation / Wapaha Ska Dakota Oyate and to make consequential amendments to other Acts	June 22, 2023	7	Bill C-51, without amendment
Twelfth	Examine the federal government's constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and any other subject concerning Indigenous Peoples	June 14, 2023	29	Interim report entitled <i>On the Outside Looking In: The Implementation of the Cannabis Act and its effects on Indigenous Peoples</i>
Eleventh	Bill C-45, An Act to amend the First Nations Fiscal Management Act, to	June 13, 2023	16	Bill C-45, without amendment

	make consequential amendments to other Acts, and to make a clarification relating to another Act			
Tenth	Examine the federal government's constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and any other subject concerning Indigenous Peoples	April 20, 2023	0	Budget for fiscal year 2023-24 (Examine the constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples)

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	41	60.38	0	171	7
2022-23	32	49.2	0	141	7
2021-22	10	27.75	0	106	4
2020-21	1	0.3	0	0	1
2019-20	19	48.1	0	115	8

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget expenditures	\$ 6,147
Witness expenses	\$ 56,219
TOTAL	\$ 62,366

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Francis (Progressive Senate Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Arnot (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Arnot, Coyle, Francis, Greenwood, Hartling, Martin, Plett, Prosper, Sorensen, Tannas and White

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Audette, Boniface, Busson, Cormier, Dalphond, Duncan, Dupuis (retired), LaBoucane-Benson, McCallum, McNair, Moodie Omidvar and Poirier

Committee support:

Andrea Mugny, Clerk of the Committee
Florence Blanchet, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Sara Fryer, Analyst
Antoine Csuzdi-Vallée, Analyst (as of January 2024)
Brittany Collier, Analyst (until September 2023)

Standing Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy (BANC)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy has the mandate to study issues related to banking, insurance, trust and loan companies, credit societies, caisses populaires and small loan companies. It is also responsible for considering customs and excise issues, taxation legislation, patents, royalties, corporate affairs and bankruptcy-related issues.

Over the fiscal year, the committee studied business investment and housing affordability under its general order of reference and reported back to the Senate. The committee also considered and reported back to the Senate on Bill C-42, Bill S-1001 and Bill C-34, as well as studied and reported back to the Senate on the subject matter of certain elements contained in Clauses 118 to 122 concerning crypto asset mining in Part 2, and Divisions 1, 2, 6, 7, 26, 33 and 37 of Part 4 of Bill C-47.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Twelfth	Bill C-34, An Act to amend the Investment Canada Act	March 21, 2024	11	Bill C-34, without amendment but with observations
Eleventh	Study matters relating to banking, trade and commerce generally	December 5, 2023	14	Interim report entitled <i>Study on Housing Affordability – Interim Findings</i>
Tenth	Bill S-1001, An Act to amalgamate The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Ottawa and The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation	December 5, 2023	2	Bill S-1001, with amendments

	for the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall, in Ontario, Canada			
Ninth	Bill C-42, An Act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act and to make consequential and related amendments to other Acts	October 24, 2023	5	Bill C-42, without amendment
Eighth	Study matters relating to banking, trade and commerce generally	June 15, 2023	28	Interim report entitled <i>Needed: An Innovation Strategy for the Data-Driven Economy</i> .
Seventh	The subject matter of those elements contained in Clauses 118 to 122 concerning cryptoasset mining in Part 2, and Divisions 1, 2, 6, 7, 26, 33 and 37 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023	June 1, 2023	31	The subject matter of those elements contained in Clauses 118 to 122 concerning cryptoasset mining in Part 2, and Divisions 1, 2, 6, 7, 26, 33 and 37 of Part 4 of Bill C-47

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	31	43	0	88	6
2022-23	33	54.8	0	108	5
2021-22	13	24.2	0	52	3
2020-21	1	0.5	0	0	1
2019-20	11	16	0	41	2

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget expenditures \$ 0
 Witness expenses \$ 4,771

TOTAL \$ 4,771

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Wallin (Canadian Senators Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Loffreda (Independent Senators Group) (as of September 2023)

The Honourable Senator Deacon (*Nova Scotia*) (Independent Senators Group) (until July 2023)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Audette, Bellemare, Deacon (*Nova Scotia*), Loffreda, Marshall, Martin, Massicotte, Miville-Dechéne, Petten, Ringuette, Wallin and Yussuff

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Cardozo, Carignan, P.C., Clement, Coyle, Dean, Duncan, Galvez, Gignac, Marwah (retired), Plett, Saint-Germain, Smith and Wells

Committee support:

Karine Déquier, Clerk of the Committee

Oswaldo Lopes Da Silva, Committee Assistant (as of September 2023)

Debbie Larocque, Committee Assistant (until September 2023)

Library of Parliament:

Adriane Yong, Analyst

Brett Howard, Analyst (as of February 2024)

Édison Roy-Cesar, Analyst (until February 2024)

Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration (CIBA)

General Information

The Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration has a mandate to consider all matters of a financial or administrative nature relating to the internal management of the Senate. It reviews and authorizes the budget applications of committees, sets guidelines and policies on items such as senators' travel and research expenditures and determines the propriety of any use of Senate resources. It should be noted that the committee is authorized to carry out its mandate on its own initiative rather than being dependent on an order of reference from the Senate (rule 12-7(1)).

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Eleventh	Pursuant to rule 12-7(1), consideration of financial and administrative matters	February 27, 2024	5	Audited Financial Statements of the Senate of Canada for the year ended March 31, 2023
Tenth	Pursuant to rule 12-7(1), consideration of financial and administrative matters	December 15, 2023	3	Senate Main Estimates for the fiscal year 2024-25
Ninth	Pursuant to rule 12-7(1), consideration of financial and administrative matters	October 3, 2023	3	Annual Report on Parliamentary Associations' Activities and Expenditures for 2022-23
Eighth	Pursuant to rule 12-7(1), consideration of financial and administrative matters	May 16, 2023	2	Review of <i>Senate Administrative Rules</i> to streamline the Senate's intellectual property permissions process

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	11	22.7	0	68	4
2022-23	16	28.2	0	89	5
2021-22	9	13.4	0	56	3
2020-21	17	29	0	61	5
2019-20	18	27.9	0	49	8

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget expenditures	\$ 0
Witness expenses	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Moncion (Independent Senators Group)

Deputy chairs:

The Honourable Senator Carignan, P.C. (Conservative Party of Canada)

The Honourable Senator Dalphond (Progressive Senate Group)

The Honourable Senator Smith (Canadian Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Boehm, Boyer, Carignan, P.C., Dalphond, Forest, Francis, Loffreda, MacDonald, Moncion, Moodie, Plett, Quinn, Saint-Germain, Seidman and Smith

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Audette, Bovey (retired), Coyle, Dasko, Dean, Marshall, Mégie, Ringuette and Tannas

Committee Support:

Pascale Legault, Clerk of the Committee

Keli Hogan, Recording Secretary

Axel Saizonou, Senior Administrative Advisor

The Secretariat of Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration supports the work of the committee.

Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration (CIBA Steering Committee)

General Information

The Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure, also referred to as the steering committee, is composed of the chair and three deputy chairs of CIBA. It is responsible for making decisions on behalf of the committee with respect to its agenda, inviting witnesses and scheduling meetings. As well, the subcommittee examines and reports on issues related to Senate communications and broadcasting and provides advice on the Senate's communication strategy and its implementation including communication approaches used to promote the role and work of the Senate and senators. If the full committee is unable to meet, the steering committee is authorized by the *Parliament of Canada Act* to deal with and resolve immediate administrative problems deemed urgent and to report its decisions at the next meeting of CIBA.

Reports to the Committee

The steering committee presented the following reports in public to CIBA during the fiscal year:

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

- Sixteenth Report: Decisions reported to CIBA
- Seventeenth Report: Decisions reported to CIBA
- Twenty-Third Report: Efficiencies for Subcommittees and Working Group Meetings

Subcommittee Activities

The steering committee held 16 meetings in camera during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Moncion (Independent Senators Group)

Deputy chairs:

The Honourable Senator Carignan, P.C. (Conservative Party of Canada)

The Honourable Senator Dalphond (Progressive Senate Group)

The Honourable Senator Smith (Canadian Senators Group)

Subcommittee support:

Pascale Legault, Clerk of the Subcommittee

Keli Hogan, Recording Secretary

Axel Saizonou, Senior Administrative Advisor

The Secretariat of Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration supports the work of the subcommittee.

Subcommittee on Communications (COMS)

General Information

The Subcommittee on Communications is mandated by CIBA to examine and report on issues related to Senate communications and broadcasting.

Reports to the Committee

The subcommittee presented three reports to CIBA during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Activities

The subcommittee held three in camera meetings during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Smith (Canadian Senators Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Cardozo (Progressive Senate Group)

Members of the subcommittee:

The Honourable Senators Cardozo, Carignan, P.C., Jaffer and Smith

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Bovey (retired) and Boyer

Subcommittee support:

Joëlle Nadeau, Clerk of the Subcommittee

Tracy Amendola, Subcommittee Assistant

Subcommittee on Diversity (DVSC)

General Information

The Subcommittee on Diversity is mandated by CIBA to examine and report on issues of diversity in the Senate workforce.

Reports to the Committee

The subcommittee presented no reports to CIBA during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Activities

The subcommittee held one in camera meeting during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Moodie (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the subcommittee:

The Honourable Senators Boyer, Gerba, Moodie, Quinn and Seidman

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senator Bovey (retired)

Subcommittee support:

Jodi Turner, Clerk of the Subcommittee

Tracy Amendola, Subcommittee Assistant

Erin Virgint, Analyst

Subcommittee on Human Resources (HRRH)

General Information

The Subcommittee on Human Resources is mandated by CIBA to examine issues related to human resources in the Senate, including the harmonization of working conditions and benefits of Senate employees, whether they work for the Administration, for a senator, or for an officer of the Senate. It also examines the working conditions and benefits of Senate employees and conducts reviews of Senate policies referred to it by the committee.

Reports to the Committee

The subcommittee presented seven reports to CIBA during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Activities

The subcommittee held five meetings in camera during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Saint-Germain (Independent Senators Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Seidman (Conservative Party of Canada)

Members of the subcommittee:

The Honourable Senators Bellemare, Dean, Quinn, Saint-Germain and Seidman

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senator Bovey (retired)

Subcommittee support:

Maxime Fortin, Clerk of the Subcommittee

Brigitte Martineau, Subcommittee Assistant

Subcommittee on Long Term Vision and Plan (LTVP)

General Information

The Subcommittee on Long Term Vision and Plan is authorized by CIBA to, in coordination with the Senate Administration, supervise all steps, processes and decisions relating to the program of work for the long-term vision and plan for the parliamentary precinct. It also examines the best way to ensure that the renovations of Centre Block and all other buildings that will be occupied by the Senate respect the heritage and best interests of the institution.

Reports to the Committee

The subcommittee presented two reports to CIBA during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Activities

The subcommittee held six meetings in camera during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Tannas (Canadian Senators Group)

Members of the subcommittee:

The Honourable Senators Boyer, Dalphond, Forest, Plett and Tannas

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senator Loffreda

Subcommittee support:

Shaila Anwar, Clerk of the Subcommittee

Annie Trudel, Subcommittee Assistant

Subcommittee on the Senate Estimates and Committee Budgets (SEBS)

General Information

The Subcommittee on Senate Estimates and Committee Budgets is authorized by CIBA to examine and report on financial matters, including: any proposed estimates, keeping in mind the necessity for the Senate and its Administration to demonstrate responsible management of the public funds that are allocated to the institution; committee budgets and making recommendations on the allocation and release of funds; and Senate policies referred to it by the committee.

Reports to the Committee

The subcommittee presented seventeen reports to CIBA during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Activities

The subcommittee held nine meetings in camera during the fiscal year.

Subcommittee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Forest (Independent Senators Group) (as of October 2023)

The Honourable Senator Moncion (Independent Senators Group) (until October 2023)

Members of the subcommittee:

The Honourable Senators Dalphond, Forest, Loffreda, Plett and Tannas

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Bovey (retired) and Moncion

Subcommittee support:

Shaila Anwar, Co-Clerk of the Subcommittee

Marie-Eve Belzile, Co-Clerk of the Subcommittee

Tracy Amendola, Subcommittee Assistant

Standing Committee on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Senators (CONF)

General Information

The Standing Committee on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Senators is responsible for all matters relating to the *Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code for Senators* (Code). It may give general direction to the Senate Ethics Officer, an independent officer of the Senate, concerning the interpretation, application and administration of the Code, and the committee is authorized to exercise these powers on its own initiative. The committee also considers any inquiry reports from the Senate Ethics Officer. The committee has reviewed and amended the Code a number of times since its inception.

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the committee received two orders of reference. In July, the committee began its consideration of an Inquiry Report from the Senate Ethics Officer, dated July 18, 2023. The committee held 8 meetings on this study during the fiscal year and presented its report on the matter in November. In December, the committee received an order of reference to examine and report on the case of privilege concerning events relating to the sitting of November 9, 2023, and to consider updates to the Code and the obligations of senators in the performance of their duties. The committee held 3 meetings on this study during the fiscal year.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
First	Consideration of an inquiry report of the Senate Ethics Officer	November 21, 2023	2	Consideration of Senate Ethics Officer's Inquiry Report concerning Senator Michael L. MacDonald, dated July 18, 2023

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	14	20.8	0	3	1
2022-23	14	18.7	0	3	0
2021-22	6	8.6	0	2	2
2020-21	12	18.3	0	2	3
2019-20	13	28.8	0	0	4

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget expenditures \$ 0

Witness expenses \$ 0

TOTAL \$ 0

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Seidman (Conservative Party of Canada)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Cotter (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Busson, Carignan, P.C., Cotter, Harder, P.C., Seidman and Smith

Committee support:

Shaïla Anwar, Clerk of the Committee

Joëlle Nadeau, Clerk of the Committee (until March 2024)

Debbie Larocque, Committee Assistant

Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:

Marc-André Roy, Senior Parliamentary Counsel

David Groves, Parliamentary Counsel

Library of Parliament:

Isabelle Turcotte, Analyst (since February 2024)

André Barnes, Analyst (since October 2023)

Sarah Dodsworth, Analyst (from August 2023 to February 2024)

Stephanie Feldman, Analyst (until August 2023)

Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources (ENEV)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources has a mandate to examine legislation and to study matters related to energy, the environment and natural resources generally, including mines; pipelines, transmission lines and energy transportation; environmental affairs; and other energy-related matters.

During the fiscal year, the committee examined and reported back to the Senate on Bill S-14 and examined the subject matter of those elements contained in Divisions 20 and 36 of Part 4 of Bill C-47. The committee also tabled its interim report entitled *Hydrogen: A Viable Option for a Net-Zero Canada in 2050?*.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Sixth	Bill S-14, An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act, the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act, the Rouge National Urban Park Act and the National Parks of Canada Fishing Regulations	December 12, 2023	19	Bill S-14, with amendments
Fifth	The subject matter of those elements contained in Divisions 20 and 36 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the	June 2, 2023	9	The subject matter of those elements contained in Divisions 20 and 36 of Part 4 of Bill C-47

	budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023			
Fourth	Study emerging issues related to the committee's mandate	May 9, 2023	35	Interim report entitled <i>Hydrogen: A Viable Option for a Net-Zero Canada in 2050</i>

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	25	36.6	0	85	3
2022-23	31	53.4	0	141	2
2021-22	12	19.9	0	59	2
2020-21	4	5.2	0	11	2
2019-20	33	83.4	0	242	3

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget expenditures	\$ 0
Witness expenses	\$ 7,102
TOTAL	\$ 7,102

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Massicotte (Independent Senators Group) (as of January 1, 2024)

The Honourable Senator Galvez (Independent Senators Group) (until January 1, 2024)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Verner, P.C. (Canadian Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Anderson, Arnot, Galvez, Massicotte, McCallum, Miville-Dechéne, Plett, Sorensen, Verner, P.C., Wells and White

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Audette, Batters, Boisvenu (retired), Carignan, P.C., Gerba, Gignac, Greenwood, MacDonald, Oh, Patterson (*Nunavut*), Prosper and Seidman

Committee support:

Raymond St. Martin, Clerk of the Committee (as of September 2023)

Mireille Aubé, Clerk of the Committee (as of September 2023 until January 2024)

Stéphanie van Beek, Clerk of the Committee (as of July 2023)

Jacques Maziade, Clerk of the Committee (until July 2023)

Lori Meldrum, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Jesse Good, Analyst

Sam Banks, Analyst (until September 2023)

Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs (LCJC)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs has the mandate to examine legislation and to study matters relating to legal and constitutional matters generally, including the criminal justice system and the *Criminal Code*, constitutional issues, electoral matters, linguistic and legal duality, federal-provincial relations, law reform, the judiciary and most private bills.

In spring 2023, the committee concentrated on the examination of government legislation, particularly Bills C-9, S-12, and the subject matter of certain elements contained in Bill C-47.

In fall 2023 and winter 2024, the committee examined and reported on Senate public bills S-212 and S-231, as well as government legislation C-48 and S-13. During this period, the committee conducted two periodic reviews of the *Statutes Repeal Act*, and a proposal to correct certain anomalies in the *Statutes and Regulations of Canada*.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Twenty-second	Bill S-231, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Criminal Records Act, the National Defence Act and the DNA Identification Act	December 12, 2023	17	Bill S-231, with amendment
Twenty-first	Document entitled <i>Proposals to correct certain anomalies, inconsistencies, out-dated terminology and errors and to deal with</i>	December 12, 2023	7	Report with recommendations

	<i>other matters of a non-controversial and uncomplicated nature in the Statutes and Regulations of Canada and to repeal certain provisions that have expired, lapsed or otherwise ceased to have effect, tabled in the Senate on June 20, 2023</i>			
Twentieth	Special Expenses Budget	November 30, 2023	0	Special expenses budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024
Nineteenth	Bill S-13, An Act to amend the Interpretation Act and to make related amendments to other Acts	November 30, 2023	25	Bill S-13, without amendment but with observations
Eighteenth	Examine and report on the 2023 Annual Report prepared in accordance with the <i>Statutes Repeal Act</i> , tabled in the Senate on February 1, 2023	November 30, 2023	18	Report on the report on the Statutes Repeal Act for the year 2023
Seventeenth	Bill C-48, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (bail reform)	October 24, 2023	29	Bill C-48, with amendment and observations
Sixteenth	Bill S-212, An Act to amend the Criminal Records Act, to make consequential amendments to other	September 26, 2023	29	Bill S-212, with amendment

	Acts and to repeal a regulation			
Fifteenth	Bill S-12, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Sex Offender Information Registration Act and the International Transfer of Offenders Act	June 20, 2023	21	Bill S-12, with amendment and observations
Fourteenth	The subject matter of those elements contained in Divisions 30, 31, 34 and 39 of Part 4, and in Subdivision B of Division 3 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023	June 2, 2023	22	The subject matter of those elements contained in Divisions 30, 31, 34 and 39 of Part 4, and in Subdivision B of Division 3 of Part 4 of Bill C-47
Thirteenth	Bill C-9, An Act to amend the Judges Act	May 18, 2023	32	Bill C-9, with amendment
Twelfth	Examine and report on the matter of self-induced intoxication, including self-induced extreme intoxication, in the context of criminal law, including in relation to section 33.1 of the Criminal Code	April 27, 2023	15	Final report entitled: <i>Self-induced Extreme Intoxication and Section 33.1 of the Criminal Code</i>

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	42	77.4	0	207	11
2022-23	43	71.4	0	172	7
2021-22	14	26.8	0	55	7
2020-21	15	61.4	0	176	4
2019-20	21	48.8	0	114	6

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget expenditures	\$ 4,798
Witness expenses	\$ 16,607
TOTAL	\$ 21,405

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Jaffer (Independent Senators Group) (as of January 2024)

The Honourable Senator Cotter (Independent Senators Group) (until December 2023)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Batters (Conservative Party of Canada) (as of February 2024)

The Honourable Senator Boisvenu (Conservative Party of Canada) (until February 2024) (retired)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Batters, Boyer, Carignan, P.C., Clement, Cotter, Dalphond, Jaffer, Klyne, Pate, Prosper, Simons and Tannas

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Arnot, Boisvenu (retired), Busson, Cardozo, Coyle, Dasko, Dupuis (retired), Forest, Greenwood, Kutcher, Patterson (*Nunavut*) (retired), Petitclerc and Quinn

Committee support:

Vincent Labrosse, Clerk of the Committee (since September 2023)
Mark Palmer, Clerk of the Committee (until September 2023)
Natassia Ephrem, Committee Assistant (since March 2024)
Aoife McDonald, Committee Assistant (until March 2024)

Library of Parliament:

Michaela Keenan-Pelletier, Analyst
Iryna Zazulya, Analyst (as of October 2023)
Julian Walker, Analyst (until September 2023)

Standing Committee on National Finance (NFFN)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on National Finance has the mandate to examine matters relating to federal estimates generally. Historically, the committee has been, and continues to be, one of the Senate's busiest committees. Over the fiscal year, the committee focused on the Estimates, which outline the federal government's expenditure plans.

During the fiscal year, the committee studied and reported back to the Senate on Supplementary Estimates (C) 2023-2024, Bill C-46, Bill C-47, Bill S-258, Bill C-241, the subject matter of Bill C-56 and the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Sixteenth	Examine and report upon the expenditures set out in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024	March 20, 2024	203	Final report
Fifteenth	The subject matter of Bill C-56, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Competition Act	December 13, 2023	6	The subject matter of Bill C-56
Fourteenth	Bill C-241, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (deduction of travel expenses for tradespersons)	December 6, 2023	6	Bill C-241, without amendment but with observations
Thirteenth	Bill S-258, An Act to amend the Canada Revenue Agency Act	November 21, 2023	6	Bill S-258, without amendment

	(reporting on unpaid income tax)			
Twelfth	Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023	June 15, 2023	0	Bill C-47, without amendment but with observations
Eleventh	Bill C-46, An Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act and the Income Tax Act	May 9, 2023	3	Bill C-46, without amendment
Tenth	Examine and report upon the expenditures set out in the Supplementary Estimates (C) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023	May 2, 2023	14	Final report

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	43	74.4	0	353	7
2022-23	43	75.5	0	428	6
2021-22	24	45.4	0	205	6
2020-21	24	58.3	0	181	5
2019-20	36	59.3	0	180	6

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures	\$ 0
Witness Expenses	\$ 2,828
TOTAL	\$ 2,828

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Mockler (Conservative Party of Canada)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Forest (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Dalphond, Forest, Galvez, Gignac, Kingston, Loffreda, MacAdam, Marshall, Mockler, Pate, Ross and Smith

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Audette, Boehm, Bovey (retired), Carignan, P.C., Clement, Cormier, Dagenais, Deacon (*Ontario*), Dupuis (retired), Duncan, McNair, Moncion, Petten, Shugart, P.C., Woo and Yussuff

Committee support:

Mireille Aubé, Clerk of the Committee
Tracy Amendola, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

André Léonard, Analyst (since September 2023)
Shaowei Pu, Analyst
Sylvain Fleury, Analyst (until September 2023)
Michaël Lambert-Racine, Analyst (February 2024)

Standing Committee on Official Languages (OLLO)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages has the mandate to study all matters relating to official languages generally. It studies matters relating to the application of the *Official Languages Act* and of the regulations and directives made under it. The committee seeks to ensure the respect of Canadians' language rights and the equality of Canada's two official languages. It examines questions pertaining to the *Official Languages Act* and pays particular attention to the federal government's commitment to advancing English and French in Canadian society and its role in enhancing the vitality of English and French linguistic minority communities.

Over the course of the fiscal year, the committee conducted a study and reported back to the Senate on Bill C-13. The committee also continued its study on matters relating to minority-language health services.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Third	Bill C-13, An Act to amend the Official Languages Act, to enact the Use of French in Federally Regulated Private Businesses Act and to make related amendments to other Acts	June 13, 2023	23	Bill C-13, without amendment but with observations

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	16	34.6	0	92	1
2022-23	23	43.9	0	101	2
2021-22	8	12.1	0	30	0
2020-21	1	0.5	0	0	1
2019-20	5	5.4	0	4	2

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures \$ 0
 Witness expenses \$ 10,284

TOTAL \$ 10,284

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Cormier (Independent Senators Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Poirier (Conservative Party of Canada)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Aucoin, Cormier, Clement, Dalphond, Mégie, Mockler, Moncion and Poirier

Ex-officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Audette, Carignan, P.C., Dagenais, Gagné, Gignac, Loffreda and Miville-Dechêne

Committee support:

Karine Déquier, Clerk of the Committee (since September 2023)

Angus Wilson, Clerk of the Committee (until September 2023)

Catlin Seibel-Kamél, Legislative Clerk

Oswaldo Lopes da Silva, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Marie-Ève Hudon, Analyst

Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (POFO)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans has the mandate to study issues relating to fisheries and oceans generally. It is particularly interested in the management of oceans, aquatic resources and fisheries, aquatic life and ecosystems, the fishing industry and the safety of waterways. The committee is also interested in the federal government's current and evolving framework for managing Canada's fisheries and oceans.

This year, the committee studied and reported back on the subject matter of those elements contained in Subdivisions A, B and C of Division 21 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023.

The committee also continued its study on Canada's seal population. In addition, the committee studied the following topics under its general order of reference: Canada's elver fishery, the independence of commercial inshore fisheries in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, and reports of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

In July 2023, under its general order of reference, the committee sent the committee chair to participate in Aqua Nor, an aquaculture conference, in Trondheim, Norway. As part of its special study on Canada's seal population, the committee held public hearings in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, and travelled across Newfoundland and Labrador for a fact-finding mission under this same order of reference, in September 2023.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Seventh	The subject matter of those elements contained in Subdivisions A, B and C of Division 21 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An	May 18, 2023	7	The subject matter of certain elements of Bill C-47

	Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023			
Sixth	Examine and report on Canada's seal populations and their effect on Canada's fisheries	May 11, 2023	0	Special Study Budget 2023-24 (Seal populations)
Fifth	Study the federal government's current and evolving policy framework for managing Canada's fisheries and oceans, including maritime safety	May 11, 2023	0	Special Study Budget (2023-24) (Management of Canada's fisheries and oceans)

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	24	36.8	25	62	3
2022-23	23	32.2	0	67	3
2021-22	7	11.4	0	26	1
2020-21	1	0.4	0	0	1
2019-20	11	20.8	0	60	2

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures \$ 90,533

Witness Expenses \$ 13,638

TOTAL \$ 104,171

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Manning (Conservative Party of Canada)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Busson (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Ataullahjan, Busson, Cordy, Cuzner, Deacon (*Nova Scotia*), Duncan, Kutcher, Manning, McPhedran, Petten and Ravalia

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Deacon (*Ontario*), Francis, Osler, Patterson (*Ontario*) and Quinn

Committee support:

Sara Gajic, Clerk of the Committee

Florence Blanchet, Committee Assistant (since September 2023)

Brigitte Martineau, Committee Assistant (until September 2023)

Library of Parliament:

Daniele Lafrance, Analyst

Standing Committee on Human Rights (RIDR)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights (RIDR) has the broad mandate to examine, explore and monitor issues relating to human rights generally.

During the fiscal year, the committee studied the subject matter of Bill C-41 and completed two special studies tabled in fall 2023: *Combating Hate: Islamophobia and its impact on Muslims in Canada* (interim) and *Anti-Black Racism, Sexism and Systemic Discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Commission* (interim). For each report, a government response was requested and provided in Spring 2024.

Under its general order of reference, the committee also began its study on Forced Global Displacement in October 2023. RIDR heard from experts and stakeholders on a wide range of issues, including the effects of displacement on children, the efficacy of the *Global Compact on Refugees*, new and emerging mechanisms for financial support, the role of private sponsorship, the impacts of climate change, and Canada's international role in curbing forced displacement while supporting refugees.

For its first public hearings of 2024, the committee studied the government response to its *Human Rights of Federally-Sentenced Persons* report. This report was tabled on June 16, 2021, during the Second Session of the Forty-third Parliament, following an in-depth study launched in early 2017, which spanned three different parliaments. The report was followed by a motion asking for a government response on June 23, 2021. Then came the Canadian federal election on September 20, 2021. The committee's motion asking for a government response was renewed on May 9, 2023, and the response was received from the Minister of Public Safety on October 4 of the same year.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Seventh	Examine such issues as may arise from time to time relating to human rights generally	December 11, 2023	24	Interim report entitled: <i>Anti-Black Racism, Sexism and Systemic Discrimination in the</i>

				<i>Canadian Human Rights Commission</i>
Sixth	Examine such issues as may arise from time to time relating to human rights generally	November 2, 2023	138	Interim report entitled: <i>Combatting Hate: Islamophobia and its impact on Muslims in Canada</i>

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	15	35.8	0	68	2
2022-23	29	62.4	14.57	174	5
2021-22	7	10.4	0	22	3
2020-21	2	1	0	0	1
2019-20	10	18.5	0	25	0

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures \$ 0
 Witness Expenses \$ 14,261

TOTAL \$ 14,261

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Ataullahjan (Conservative Party of Canada)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Bernard (Progressive Senate Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Arnot, Ataullahjan, Bernard, Gerba, Hartling, Jaffer, Manning and Omidvar

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Clement, Cordy, Lankin, P.C., Miville-Dechéne, Oh, Pate and Simons

Committee support:

Sébastien Payet, Clerk of the Committee
Debbie Larocque, Committee Assistant (since September 2023)
Lori Meldrum, Committee Assistant (until September 2023)

Library of Parliament:

Robert Mason, Analyst
Laura Salter, Analyst (since January 2024)
Martin McCallum, Analyst (until January 2024)
Brendan Naef, Analyst (until September 2023)

Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Rights of Parliament (RPRD)

General Information

The *Rules of the Senate* authorize the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Rights of Parliament to propose, on its own authority, amendments to the Rules, which govern the deliberative operations of the Senate and its committees and guide the conduct of parliamentary business. The committee may also consider, more broadly, the orders and practices of the Senate and the privileges of Parliament. In addition, this committee examines questions of privilege that may be referred to it.

During the fiscal year, the committee's primary focus was its continuing examination of committee structure and mandates, hearing from a number of current and former chair occupants. These hearings culminated in the committee's sixth report which summarized the issues raised and proposals heard. The committee also began hearing evidence in relation to delayed answers, and concerns with the delays in receiving many of these responses.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Sixth	Rule 12-7(2)(a)	February 28, 2024	35	Interim report entitled <i>Summary of Evidence: Committee Structure and Mandates</i>

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	16	21.6	0	34	1
2022-23	15	22.9	0	17	4
2021-22	7	10	0	3	1
2020-21	1	1.1	0	0	1
2019-20	4	3.7	0	2	1

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures	\$ 0
Witness Expenses	\$ 2,485
TOTAL	\$ 2,485

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Bellemare (Progressive Senate Group)

Deputy chairs:

The Honourable Senator Batters (Conservative Party of Canada)

The Honourable Senator Kutcher (Independent Senators Group) (since February 2024)

The Honourable Senator Woo (Independent Senators Group) (until February 2024)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Ataullahjan, Batters, Bellemare, Black, Busson, Cordy, Greene, Kutcher, MacDonald, Mégie, Omidvar, Ringuette, Saint-Germain, Wells and Woo

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Boniface, Boisvenu (retired), Petitclerc, Petten, Deacon (*Ontario*), Oh and Yussuff

Committee support:

Adam Thompson, Clerk of the Committee

Lexley Fitzgerald, Committee Assistant (since September 2023)

Laurie-Anne Spooner, Committee Assistant (until September 2023)

Library of Parliament:

François Delisle, Analyst

Erin Virgint, Analyst

Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs (SECD)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs has the mandate to examine legislation and study issues related to national defence, security and veterans affairs. Over time, the committee has also recognized the following broad areas of study to form a basis for its orders of reference: the capabilities of the departments of National Defence and Public Safety Canada, working relationships for intelligence-gathering and analysis and the security of borders and critical infrastructure.

Over the fiscal year, the committee examined and reported back to the Senate on Bill C-21, Bill C-224, and on the subject matter of certain elements contained in Division 24 of Part 4 of Bill C-47.

The committee also completed its study on issues relating to security and defence in the Arctic, including Canada's military infrastructure and security capabilities, and held several meetings under their general order of reference on the following topics: Russia's war against Ukraine; the current situation in Ukraine and Canada's military support and implications for Canada's defence operations; recruitment and retention in the Canadian Armed Forces and in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and disinformation and national security.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Eighth	Bill C-21, An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)	December 5, 2023	68	Bill C-21, without amendment but with observations
Seventh	Examine and report on issues relating to Veterans Affairs, including services	November 8, 2023	23	Interim report from the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs

	and benefits provided, commemorative activities, and the continuing implementation of the <i>Veterans Well-being Act</i>			entitled: <i>The Time is Now: Granting equitable access to psychedelic-assisted therapies</i>
Sixth	Examine and report on issues relating to security and defence in the Arctic	June 28, 2023	68	Final report entitled <i>Arctic Security Under Threat: Urgent needs in a changing geopolitical and environmental landscape</i>
Fifth	Bill C-224, An Act to establish a national framework for the prevention and treatment of cancers linked to firefighting	June 13, 2023	5	Bill C-224, without amendment
Fourth	The subject matter of those elements contained in Division 24 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023	May 17, 2023	6	The subject matter of those elements contained in Division 24 of Part 4 of Bill C-47

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	24	56.2	0	115	5
2022-23	22	44.2	39	102	3
2021-22	8	12.5	0	25	1
2020-21	1	0.5	0	0	1
2019-20	17	43.6	0	101	6

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures	\$ 0
Witness Expenses	\$ 35,583
TOTAL	\$ 35,583

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Dean (Independent Senators Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Dagenais (Canadian Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Anderson, Boehm, Cardozo, Carignan, P.C., Dagenais, Dasko, Deacon (*Ontario*), Dean, Kutcher, Oh, Patterson (*Ontario*) and Yussuff

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Boisvenu (retired), Cordy, Coyle, Gerba, Gignac, Harder, P.C., McNair, Miville-Dechêne, Pate, Ravalia, Richards, Saint-Germain, Wells and Woo

Committee support:

Ericka Dupont, Clerk of the Committee

Chaya Lanthier, Committee Assistant (since September 2023)

Natacha Umugwaneza, Committee Assistant (until September 2023)

Library of Parliament:

Ariel Shapiro, Analyst

Anne-Marie Therrien-Tremblay, Analyst

Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs (VEAC)

General Information

The Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs reports to the Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs. It examines matters pertaining specifically to Canadian veterans.

The committee’s activities were reduced this year as a result of additional meeting time required by the Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs for their study of government legislation.

The subcommittee completed its study on Emerging treatments for Canadian Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans suffering from occupational stress injuries, to which the majority of their meeting time was dedicated. They also held one meeting to discuss the Hill 70 Memorial Project, concerning a monument to Canadian soldiers in Loos-en-Gohelle, France.

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	7	4.2	0	3	0
2022-23	13	11.1	0	22	0
2021-22	1	0.4	0	0	0
2020-21	0	0	0	0	0
2019-20	1	0.4	0	0	0

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures	\$ 0
Witness Expenses	\$ 1,703
TOTAL	\$ 1,703

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Patterson (*Ontario*) (Canadian Senators Group) (since February 2024)

The Honourable Senator Richards (Canadian Senators Group) (until February 2024)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Oh (Conservative Party of Canada) (since February 2024)

The Honourable Boisvenu (Conservative Party of Canada) (until February 2024) (retired)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Anderson, Deacon (*Ontario*), Patterson (*Ontario*), Oh and Yussuff

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Boisvenu (retired), Cardozo, Cordy, Gerba, Harder, P.C., Kutcher, McNair, Miville-Dechéne, Saint-Germain and Richards

Committee support:

Ericka Dupont, Clerk of the Committee

Chaya Lanthier, Committee Assistant (since September 2023)

Natacha Umugwaneza, Committee Assistant (until September 2023)

Library of Parliament:

Diana Ambrozas, Analyst

Jean-Rodrigue Paré, Analyst

Committee of Selection (SELE)

General Information

The Committee of Selection has the mandate to present a report to the Senate at the beginning of each parliamentary session that nominates the senators who will serve on standing committees and standing joint committees. The committee is also empowered to make recommendations regarding senators' office allocations and to propose to the Senate, from time to time, changes in the membership of a committee.

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	0	0	0	0	0
2022-23	1	0.5	0	0	0
2021-22	1	1	0	0	3
2020-21	6	4.7	0	0	8
2019-20	1	0.1	0	0	0

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures \$ 0

Witness Expenses \$ 0

TOTAL \$ 0

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator MacDonald (Conservative Party of Canada)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Petitclerc (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Bellemare, Clement, Dean, Downe, Housakos, LaBoucane-Benson, MacDonald, Petitclerc and Saint-Germain

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Committee support:

Shaila Anwar, Clerk of the Committee
Brigitte Martineau, Committee Assistant

Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (SOCI)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology has the mandate to examine legislation and to study issues related to social and labour matters, immigration and citizenship, health and welfare, pensions and housing. It is also responsible for considering fitness and amateur sport, consumer affairs, child and youth matters, and cultural affairs and the arts.

During the fiscal year, the committee studied and reported on several bills. The committee also published their final report on the study of the Federal Framework for Suicide Prevention.

The committee also began a study under its general order of reference on the topic of Temporary and Migrant Labour in Canada. As part of this work, the committee embarked on a fact-finding mission to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Nineteenth	Bill S-252, An Act respecting Jury Duty Appreciation Week	February 29, 2024	8	Bill S-252, without amendment but with observations
Eighteenth	Bill S-244, An Act to amend the Department of Employment and Social Development Act and the Employment Insurance Act (Employment Insurance Council)	December 11, 2023	12	Bill S-244, with amendment

Seventeenth	Bill C-35, An Act respecting early learning and child care in Canada	November 21, 2023	51	Bill C-35, without amendment but with observations
Sixteenth	Bill C-242, An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (temporary resident visas for parents and grandparents)	June 8, 2023	22	Bill C-242, without amendment but with observations
Fifteenth	Examine and report on the Federal Framework for Suicide Prevention	June 8, 2023	23	Final report entitled: <i>Doing What Works: Rethinking the Federal Framework for Suicide Prevention</i>
Fourteenth	The subject matter of those elements contained in Divisions 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 35 and 38 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023	June 2, 2023	37	The subject matter of those elements contained in Divisions 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 35 and 38 of Part 4 of Bill C-47
Thirteenth	Examine and report on such issues as may arise from time to time relating to social affairs, science and technology generally	June 1, 2023	0	Special Study Budget (2023-24) (Canada's Temporary and Migrant Labour Force)

Twelfth	Bill C-22, An Act to reduce poverty and to support the financial security of persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada disability benefit and making a consequential amendment to the Income Tax Act	May 11, 2023	49	Bill C-22, with amendments and observations

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	42	67.8	28.5	193	8
2022-23	38	60.6	0	155	7
2021-22	21	43.4	0	128	13
2020-21	9	32	0	48	2
2019-20	18	35.5	0	101	6

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures	\$ 53,236
Witness Expenses	\$ 42,160
TOTAL	\$ 95,396

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Omidvar (Independent Senators Group)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Cordy (Progressive Senate Group) (since May 2023)

The Honourable Senator Bovey (Progressive Senate Group) (until May 2023)
(retired)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Bernard, Burey, Cordy, Cormier, Dasko, Mégie, McPhedran, Moodie, Omidvar, Osler, Petitclerc and Seidman

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Arnot, Audette, Bellemare, Bovey (retired), Cardozo, Dagenais, Francis, Greenwood, Jaffer, Kutcher, Lankin, P.C., MacAdam, McNair, Miville-Dechêne, Moncion, Quinn, Pate, Petten, Poirier, Tannas and Verner, P.C.

Committee support:

Emily Barrette, Clerk of the Committee

Natacha Umugwaneza, Committee Assistant (since September 2023)

Chaya Lanthier, Committee Assistant (until September 2023)

Library of Parliament:

Laura Blackmore, Analyst

Mayra Perez-Leclerc, Analyst (since January 2024)

Diana Ambrozias, Analyst (since January 2024)

Antoine Dedewanou, Analyst (until December 2023)

Standing Committee on Transport and Communication (TRCM)

General Information

The Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications has the mandate to examine legislation and study issues related to transport and communications generally.

In the spring of 2023, the committee examined Bill C-18 and the subject matter of some elements of Bill C-47.

In the autumn of 2023 and winter of 2024, the committee resumed its study of the impacts of climate change on critical infrastructure, focusing on transportation infrastructure and supply chain resilience in several case studies across the country.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Sixth	Bill C-18, An Act respecting online communications platforms that make news content available to persons in Canada	June 14, 2023	61	Bill C-18, with amendments
Fifth	The subject matter of those elements related to transport and communications contained in Division 2 of Part 3, and Divisions 22 and 23 of Part 4 of Bill C-47, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 28, 2023	June 1, 2023	12	The subject matter of those elements related to transport and communications contained in Division 2 of Part 3, and Divisions 22 and 23 of Part 4 of Bill C-47

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	31	54.3	0	165	2
2022-23	44	86.3	0	206	3
2021-22	9	13.7	0	25	1
2020-21	1	0.3	0	0	1
2019-20	20	44.4	0	139	3

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures	\$ 0
Witness Expenses	\$ 29,467
TOTAL	\$ 29,467

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Chair:

The Honourable Senator Housakos (Conservative Party of Canada)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Miville-Dechêne (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Cardozo, Clement, Dasko, Harder, P.C., Housakos, Manning, Miville-Dechêne, Quinn, Richards and Simons

Ex officio members:

The Honourable Senators Gold, P.C. (or LaBoucane-Benson) and Plett (or Martin)

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Aucoin, Carignan, P.C., Cormier, Deacon (*Nova Scotia*), Downe, Klyne, Mégie, Osler, Oudar, Patterson (*Nunavut*) (retired), Patterson (*Ontario*), Petten, Ringuette, Saint-Germain and Wallin

Committee support:

Angus Wilson, Clerk of the Committee (since September 2023)

Vincent Labrosse, Clerk of the Committee (until September 2023)

Brigitte Martineau, Committee Assistant (since March 2024)

Natassia Ephrem, Committee Assistant (until March 2024)

Library of Parliament:

Jed Chong, Analyst

Khamla Heminthavong, Analyst

Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying (AMAD)

General Information

In April 2021 and again in March 2022, the House of Commons and Senate established the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying and tasked it with the statutory review of the provisions of the *Criminal Code* relating to medical assistance in dying (MAID) and their application. The committee’s second report was tabled in February 2023.

The committee was re-established in October 2023, in accordance with that report’s 13th recommendation, to verify the degree to which the country was prepared for the coming into force, scheduled for March 17, 2024, of MAID eligibility for those whose sole underlying medical condition was a mental disorder. The committee’s final report was submitted to both Chambers on January 29, after which the committee expired again.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Third	Study of the degree of preparedness attained for a safe and adequate application of medical assistance in dying where mental disorder is the sole underlying medical condition, in accordance with Recommendation 13 in the second report of the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying	January 29, 2024	21	Final report entitled: <i>MAID and Mental Disorders: The Road Ahead</i>

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Three Fiscal Years, 2021-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	6	13.8	0	21	1
2022-23	36	73.7	0	154	2
2021-22	3	4	0	6	0

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24*

Budget Expenditures \$ 0
 Witness Expenses \$ 2,533

TOTAL \$ 2,533

*Joint committees are funded by both the House of Commons and the Senate. More information is available on the House of Commons website under Reports and Disclosure.

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Joint chair:

The Honourable Senator Martin (Conservative Party of Canada)

Deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Mégie (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Dalphond, Kutcher, Martin, Mégie and Wallin

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Osler and Ravalia

Committee support:

Angus Wilson, Joint Clerk of the Committee
 Natassia Ephrem, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Dana Phillips, Analyst
 Marlisa Tiedemann, Analyst

Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament (BILL)

General Information

The Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament is authorized by the *Parliament of Canada Act* and an order of reference to advise the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons in the exercise of their authority over the Library of Parliament, and is empowered to make recommendations to the Speakers of both Houses with respect to the governance of the Library and the proper expenditure of moneys voted by Parliament for the purchase of books, maps or other articles to be deposited therein.

In June 2023, the committee held its organization meeting and recommended the reappointment of Heather Lank to the position of Parliamentary Librarian.

Reports to the Senate

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Report	Order of Reference	Date	Witnesses	Contents
Second	Certificate of Nomination of Heather P. Lank to the Position of Parliamentary Librarian	June 20, 2023	1	Report entitled: <i>Reappointment of Heather Powell Lank as Parliamentary Librarian</i>
First	Organization meeting	June 20, 2023	0	Report on the quorum and mandate of the committee

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	1	1.3	0	1	2
2022-23	0	0	0	0	0
2021-22	0	0	0	0	0
2020-21	0	0	0	0	0
2019-20	1	1.3	0	8	1

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures \$ 0

Witness Expenses \$ 0

TOTAL \$ 0

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Joint chair:

The Honourable Senator Ravalia (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Audette, Black, Carignan, P.C., Ravalia and Saint-Germain

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senator Bovey (retired)

Committee support:

Sara Gajic, Joint Clerk of the Committee (since March 2024)

Shaila Anwar, Joint Clerk of the Committee (until February 2024)

Elda Donnelly, Committee Assistant (since March 2024)

Brigitte Martineau, Committee Assistant (until February 2024)

Library of Parliament:

Marion Ménard, Analyst

Alexandra Savoie, Analyst

Special Joint Committee on the Declaration of Emergency (DEDC)

General Information

On February 14, 2022, in response to the ongoing blockades and protests taking place in Ottawa and at some border crossings, the Prime Minister announced that the Governor in Council had invoked the *Emergencies Act* for the first time since its adoption, issuing a declaration of a public order emergency and giving the federal government certain temporary powers.

The *Emergencies Act* sets out the procedure by which a national emergency can be declared and by which a declaration of emergency can be confirmed, continued, amended and revoked. It also provides for a supervisory role for Parliament.

Under subsection 62(1) of the *Emergencies Act*, a parliamentary review committee must review the “exercise of powers and the performance of duties and functions pursuant to a declaration of emergency.” Accordingly, this special joint committee was established by the Senate and House of Commons on March 3, 2022.

The declaration of emergency was revoked on February 23, 2022 by proclamation. Under section 62(6)(c) of the *Emergencies Act*, the parliamentary review committee is obligated to report to Parliament within seven sittings days after the revocation of the declaration of emergency. As such, the committee presented its first report in March 2022. The committee then continued to hear from witnesses until February 2024.

The committee’s work coincided with the Public Order Emergency Commission (also known as the Rouleau Commission), pursuant to section 63(1) of the *Emergencies Act*. The Rouleau Commission released its final *Report of the Public Inquiry into the 2022 Public Order Emergency* on February 17, 2023.

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Three Fiscal Years, 2021-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	7	12	0	14	0
2022-23	19	45.7	0	67	0
2021-22	3	7	0	3	2

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures	\$ 0
Witness Expenses	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Joint chair:

The Honourable Senator Boniface (Independent Senators Group)

Joint deputy chair:

The Honourable Senator Carignan, P.C. (Conservative Party of Canada)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Boniface, Carignan, P.C., Harder, P.C., and Smith

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senators Deacon (*Nova Scotia*) and Patterson (*Nunavut*) (retired)

Committee support:

Sébastien Payet, Joint Clerk of the Committee
Louise Martel, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Iryna Zazulya, Analyst
Ariel Shapiro, Analyst
Stephanie Feldman, Analyst (until June 2023)
Bashar Abu Taleb, Analyst (until December 2023)

Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations (REGS)

General Information

The mandate of the Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations is defined by the *Statutory Instruments Act*, which authorizes it to review and scrutinize certain statutory instruments made after December 31, 1971. In addition to its statutory order of reference, the Senate and the House of Commons have, since 1980, renewed an order of reference at the beginning of each session authorizing the joint committee to study the means by which Parliament can better oversee and control the government regulatory process. Taken together, the statutory and sessional references of the committee provide it with broad jurisdiction to inquire into and report on most aspects of the federal regulatory process.

Committee Activities: Comparison Over Five Fiscal Years, 2019-24

Fiscal Year	Meetings	Meeting Hours	Fact-finding Hours	Witnesses	Reports
2023-24	8	7.5	0	9	0
2022-23	8	8	0	1	1
2021-22	1	1.1	0	0	0
2020-21	1	0.5	0	0	1
2019-20	6	7.6	0	12	0

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Budget Expenditures	\$ 0
Witness Expenses	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0

Committee Membership

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

Joint chair:

The Honourable Senator Woo (Independent Senators Group)

Members of the committee:

The Honourable Senators Dalphond, Dean, Plett and Woo

Senators who participated as members during the fiscal year:

The Honourable Senator Boisvenu (retired)

Committee support:

Sara Gajic, Joint Clerk of the Committee

Elda Donnelly, Committee Assistant

Library of Parliament:

Tanya Dupuis, General Counsel

Shawn Abel, Counsel

Geoffrey Hilton, Counsel

Geneviève Levesque, Counsel

Julie Béchar, Counsel

Julie Levesque, Counsel

Stephanie Feldman, Counsel

Part 3: Committee Budgets and Expenditures

Senate committees may apply for a budget to, for example, travel or engage the services of consultants. Budgets must be approved by the Senate (column A). In addition, certain expenditures are charged to a centralized budget managed by the Committees Directorate. These expenditures include witness travel expenses and videoconferencing fees (column B) and charges pertaining to general postage and coffee/tea/juice and light snacks at committee meetings in Ottawa (column C).

Meetings and Expenditures, 2019-20 to 2023-24

		A	B	C	A+B+C
Fiscal Year	Meetings	Committee Travel and General Expenses	Witness Expenses	Hospitality and Other Expenses	Total Expenditures
2023-24	503	\$394,189*	\$267,863	\$52,684	\$714,736
2022-23	589	\$545,683	\$79,436	\$43,457	\$668,576
2021-22	217	\$0	\$2,648	\$0	\$2,648
2020-21	165	\$3,403	\$420	\$0	\$3,822
2019-20	287	\$548,129	\$255,733	\$57,281	\$861,143

*This amount includes the expenses incurred under two budgets from the Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight (AOVS). These budgets are listed in the Committee Budget and Expenditures table which is found in Part 3 of this report.

Committee Travel

Committees often travel to gather testimony and information related to their studies. They hold public hearings throughout Canada and undertake fact-finding missions both within Canada and abroad. Committee travel provides senators with the opportunity to better familiarize themselves with the issues they are studying and to obtain evidence and information that cannot always be obtained in Ottawa. Fact-finding missions are not considered official proceedings. However, the information gathered is still relevant to a committee study and can be included in committee reports.

Agriculture and Forestry (AGFO)

Fact-finding missions (examine and report on the status of soil health in Canada with the purpose of identifying ways to improve soil health, enable Canadian forest product and agricultural producers to become sustainability leaders, and improve their economic prosperity)

- Guelph, Ontario (April 24 to 26, 2023)
- Rome, Italy; Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly (July 10 to 18, 2023)
- Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Carmangay, Irricana, and Olds, Alberta (August 27 to September 1, 2023)

Audit and Oversight (AOVS)

Fact-finding mission (supervise and report on the Senate's internal and external audits and related matters)

- London, United Kingdom (July 9 to 15, 2023)

Fisheries and Oceans (POFO)

Fact-finding mission (examine and report on issues relating to the federal government's current and evolving policy framework for managing Canada's fisheries and oceans, including maritime safety)

- Trondheim, Norway; Aqua Nor Conference (August 21 to 25, 2023)

Fact-finding mission and public hearings (examine and report on Canada's seal populations and their effect on Canada's fisheries)

- Elliston, Clarenville, South Dildo and St. John's, Newfoundland (September 10 to 14, 2023)

Foreign Affairs and International Trade (AEFA)

Fact-finding mission (examine and report on the Canadian foreign service and elements of the foreign policy machinery within Global Affairs Canada, and on other related matters)

- London, United Kingdom, Oslo, Norway and Berlin, Germany (September 9 to 16, 2023)

Social Affairs, Science and Technology (SOCI)

Fact-finding mission (examine and report on such issues as may arise from time to time relating to social affairs, science and technology generally)

- Moncton, New Brunswick; Summerside and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (September 9 to 14, 2023)

The following table compares various travel activities statistics of Senate committees over the last five fiscal years.

Indicators	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	Five-year average
Approved budgets	\$931,868	\$857,516	0	0	\$798,572	\$517,591
Expenditures	\$375,194	\$502,696	0	0	\$544,024	\$284,383
Senators included in budget	51	62	0	0	55	33.6
Senators who travelled	38	45	0	0	54	27.4

Explanation of Standard Categories

The following table provides each committee's budget and actual expenditures, divided between expenses that are either unrelated to committee travel (listed as general expenses) or specific to a committee trip (usually listed as an activity). Expenditures are further broken down into the following three categories:

- Professional and Other Services (including research assistance, expert advisors, reporting and transcribing services and hospitality);
- Transportation, Accommodation and Living Expenses (including air and ground transportation, hotels, per diems and working meals outside of Ottawa);
- All Other Expenditures (including courier charges, rental of meeting rooms, reporting and interpretation equipment and printing).

Committee Budgets and Expenditures Report, 2023-24

Fiscal Year 2023-24*

Name of Committee Session 44-1	BUDGET		EXPENDITURES			
	Total Budget	Budget	Professional & Other Services	Transport, Accommodation & Living Expenses	All Other Expenditures	Total Expenditures
Agriculture and Forestry						
Special Study - Soil Health in Canada	299,604					
<i>Activity 1: Guelph</i>		36,220	-	8,205	1,061	9,266
<i>Activity 2: Western Canada</i>		128,620	-	40,706	-	40,706
<i>Activity 3: Rome</i>		134,764	-	44,371	145	44,516
TOTAL	299,604	299,604	-	93,282	1,206	94,487
Fisheries and Oceans						
Special Study - Seal Population in Canada	98,914					
Activity 1: Newfoundland (St. John's, Elliston, Clarenville, South Dildo)		98,914	7,205	51,165	21,160	79,530
Special Study - Special Study On Issues Relating To The Management Of Canada's Fisheries And Oceans	11,003					
<i>Activity 1: Trondheim, Norway</i>		11,003	-	10,905	98	11,003
TOTAL	109,917	109,917	7,205	62,070	21,258	90,533
Foreign Affairs and International Trade						

Special Study - Canadian Foreign Service	244,524					
<i>Activity 1: London</i>		106,240	-	39,491	-	39,491
<i>Activity 2: Oslo</i>		37,032	-	13,323	-	13,323
<i>Activity 3: Berlin</i>		101,252	-	48,983	-	48,983
TOTAL	244,524	244,524	-	101,796	-	101,796
Indigenous Peoples						
General	8,850					
<i>General expenses</i>		8,850	2,874	91	3,182	6,147
TOTAL	8,850	8,850	2,874	91	3,182	6,147
Legal and Constitutional Affairs						
Legislation	6,000					
<i>General Expenses</i>		6,000	-	-	4,798	4,798
TOTAL	6,000	6,000	-	-	4,798	4,798
Social Affairs, Science & Technology						
General	110,450					
<i>Activity 1: New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island</i>		110,450	-	47,236	6,001	53,236
TOTAL	110,450	110,450	-	47,236	6,001	53,236
Audit and Oversight						

General	195,673					
<i>General Expenses</i>		<i>28,300</i>	<i>8,050</i>	-	-	8,050
<i>Activity 1: London, UK</i>		<i>167,373</i>		<i>35,142</i>		35,142
TOTAL	195,673	195,673	8,050	35,142	-	43,192
TOTAL 44-1	\$ 975,018	\$ 975,018	\$ 18,129	\$ 339,616	\$ 36,444	\$ 394,189

Please note that the total may not add up due to rounding.

** Some expenses may span more than one fiscal year.*

Witness Expense Breakdown, 2023-24

First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament

	TOTAL	AMOUNT
Agriculture and Forestry	28,317	
<i>Legislation</i>		1,007
<i>Special Study - Soil Health in Canada</i>		27,310
Banking, Trade and Commerce	4,771	
<i>Legislation</i>		1,882
<i>General</i>		2,889
Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources	7,102	
<i>Legislation</i>		3,334
<i>General</i>		3,767
Fisheries and Oceans	13,638	
<i>General</i>		870
<i>Special Study - Seal Population in Canada</i>		11,003
<i>Special Study - Government Response on the Fourth Report</i>		1,764
Foreign Affairs and International Trade	2,438	
<i>General</i>		2,270
<i>Special Study - Canada's Interest And Engagement In Africa</i>		168
Human Rights	14,261	
<i>General</i>		14,261
Indigenous Peoples	56,219	
<i>Legislation</i>		9,319
<i>General</i>		46,900
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	16,607	
<i>Legislation</i>		16,607
National Finance	2,828	
<i>Legislation</i>		1,349
<i>Special Study - Main and Supplementary Estimates</i>		1,479
National Security and Defence	37,286	
<i>Legislation</i>		29,710
<i>General</i>		5,873
<i>Special Study - Veterans Affairs</i>		1,703
Official Languages	10,284	
<i>Legislation</i>		427
<i>Special Study - Official Languages – Minority Language Health Services</i>		9,857
Rules, Procedures And Rights Of Parliament	2,485	
<i>Legislation</i>		2,485
Social Affairs, Science and Technology	42,160	
<i>Legislation</i>		36,195
<i>General</i>		5,966
Transport and Communications	29,467	
<i>Legislation</i>		5,193
<i>Special Study - The Resiliency Of Critical Infrastructure In The Transportation And Communications Sectors</i>		24,274
TOTAL 44-1	267,863	267,863

Please note that the total may not add up due to rounding.



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