



## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Thursday, October 5, 2023

(72)

[English]

The Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs met this day at 11:15 a.m., in room B30, Senate of Canada Building, the deputy chair, the Honourable Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, presiding.

*Members of the committee present:* The Honourable Senators Arnot, Batters, Boisvenu, Clement, Dalphond, Jaffer, Klyne, Pate, Patterson (*Nunavut*), Simons and Tannas (11).

*Participating in the meeting:* Aoife Mc Donald, Administrative Assistant, Committees Directorate; Michaela Keenan-Pelletier and Iryna Zazulya, analysts, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Thursday, September 21, 2023, the committee continued its consideration of Bill C-48, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (bail reform).

### WITNESSES:

#### *Government of British Columbia:*

The Honourable Niki Sharma, K.C., MLA, Attorney General of British Columbia (*by videoconference*).

#### *Women's Legal Education and Action Fund:*

Kat Owens, Project Director (*by videoconference*).

#### *Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies:*

Emilie Coyle, Executive Director.

#### *John Howard Society of Canada:*

Catherine Latimer, Executive Director.

*Native Women's Association of Canada:*

Sarah Niman, Senior Director, Legal Services.

*Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada:*

David Field, President and Chief Executive Officer;

Marcus Pratt, Policy Advisor.

*As an individual:*

Carolyn Yule, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Guelph  
(by videoconference).

Niki Sharma made a statement and answered questions.

At 12:02 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 12:04 p.m., the committee resumed.

Kat Owens, Emilie Coyle and Catherine Latimer each made a statement and answered questions.

At 12:58 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 1:02 p.m., the committee resumed.

Sarah Niman, David Field and Carolyn Yule each made a statement and, together with Marcus Pratt, answered questions.

At 1:45 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

*ATTEST:*

Vincent Labrosse

*Clerk of the Committee*