



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Wednesday, October 25, 2023

(75)

[English]

The Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs met this day at 4:18 p.m., in room B30, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable Brent Cotter, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Cardozo, Clement, Cotter, Dalphond, Dupuis, Jaffer, LaBoucane-Benson, Patterson (*Nunavut*), Simons and Tannas (10).

Other senators present: The Honourable Senators Audette and Prosper (2).

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 Wednesday, September 27, 2023, the committee began its consideration of Bill S-13, An Act to amend the Interpretation Act and to make related amendments to other Acts.

APPEARING:

The Honourable Arif Virani, P.C., M.P., Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

WITNESSES:

Department of Justice Canada:

Jean-François Fortin, Associate Deputy Minister;

Laurie Sargent, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Rights and Relations Portfolio;

Uzma Ihsanullah, Director General and Senior General Counsel.

Indigenous Bar Association:

Naiomi Metallic, Board Member (*by videoconference*).

As an individual:

Lorne Neudorf, Deputy Dean and Professor of Law, La Trobe Law School, La Trobe University (*by videoconference*).

The chair informed the committee of the death of the Honourable Ian Shugart, P.C. and the committee observed a minute of silence.

The minister made a statement and, together with Laurie Sargent, answered questions.

At 5:28 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 5:35 p.m., the committee resumed.

Naiomi Metallic and Lorne Neudorf each made a statement and answered questions.

At 6:21 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Vincent Labrosse

Clerk of the Committee