SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE

SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Tuesday, September 29, 2026
(41)

[*English*]

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry met this day at 6:31 p.m., in room B45, Senate of Canada Building, the deputy chair, the Honourable John McNair, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Black, Burey, Martin, McBean, McNair, Muggli and Sorensen (7).

Participating in the meeting: Joanne Markle LaMontagne, Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research Services, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, the committee began its consideration of the subject matter of those elements contained in Division 13 of Part 4 of Bill C-31, A second Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on November 4, 2025.

WITNESSES:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada:

Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Market and Industry Services Branch.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

Evelyn Soo, Director General, Food Safety and Consumer Protection.

Health Canada:

Matt Jones, Assistant Deputy Minister, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch;

Frédéric Bissonnette, Director General, Pesticides Regulatory Directorate, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch;

Shannon Laforce, Executive Director, Policy and Operations Bureau, Pesticides Regulatory Directorate, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch.

Canadian Cattle Association:

Ryder Lee, General Manager (*by videoconference*).

CropLife Canada:

Émilie Bergeron, Vice-President, Crop Protection;

Ian Affleck, Vice-President, Plant Biotechnology and Sustainability.

Grain Growers of Canada:

Kate Sauser, Manager, Policy (*by videoconference*).

Canadian Federation of Agriculture:

Scott Ross, Executive Director.

Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada:

Stephen Heckbert, Executive Director (*by videoconference*).

Flowers Canada Growers:

Andy Kuyvenhoven, Professional Farmer Floriculture (*by videoconference*);

Cary Gates, Pest Management Director (*by videoconference*).

Matt Jones, Evelyn Soo and Tom Rosser each made a statement and, together with Frédéric Bissonnette and Shannon Laforce, answered questions.

At 7:22 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 7:29 p.m., the committee resumed.

Émilie Bergeron, Ryder Lee and Kate Sauser each made a statement and, together with Ian Affleck, answered questions.

At 8:12 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 8:25 p.m., the committee resumed.

Scott Ross, Stephen Heckbert and Andy Kuyvenhoven each made a statement and, together with Cary Gates, answered questions.

At 9:06 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Katy Quinn

Clerk of the Committee