SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE



SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Wednesday, October 21, 2026
(42)

[*English*]

The Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples met this day at 6:47 p.m., in room C128, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable Michèle Audette, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Audette, Clement, Francis, Greenwood, Karetak-Lindell, Martin, McCallum, Pate, Prosper and Tannas (10).

Participating in the meeting: Sara Fryer and Oana Spinu, Analysts, Library of Parliament; Chelsea DeFazio, Communications Officer, Communications, Broadcasting and Publications Directorate.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the committee began its study of a matter relating to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

WITNESSES:

Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer:

Annette Ryan, Parliamentary Budget Officer;

Mark Mahabir, Director General, Costing and Budgetary Analysis and General Counsel;

Govindadeva Bernier, Director, Budgetary Analysis.

Annette Ryan made a statement and, together with Mark Mahabir and Govindadeva Bernier, answered questions.

At 7:55 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 7:59 p.m., the committee resumed in camera.

Pursuant to rule 12-16(1)(d), the committee considered a draft report.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, the committee continued its examination of any matters related to the duty to consult and accommodate

Indigenous Peoples, which flows from the honour of the Crown derived from section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

It was agreed that the committee allow the audio recording and/or transcription of the in camera portion of today's meeting, that one copy be kept with the clerk of the committee for consultation by committee members and/or staff; and that the audio recording and/or transcription be destroyed by the clerk of the committee when authorized to do so by the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure, but no later than at the end of this parliamentary session.

At 8:40 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Sébastien Payet

Clerk of the Committee