



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Wednesday, April 15, 2026

(30)

[English]

The Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy met this day at 4:20 p.m., in room W110, 1 Wellington St., the chair, the Honourable Clément Gignac, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Deacon (*Nova Scotia*), Fridhandler, Gignac, Henkel, Loffreda, Martin, McBean, Ringuette, Varone, Wallin and Yussuff (11).

Other senators present: The Honourable Senator Papatello (1).

Participating in the meeting: Adriane Yong and Brett Howard, Analysts, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Thursday, November 20, 2025, the committee continued its study on access to credit and capital markets for small- and medium-sized enterprises as the basis for growth and improved productivity in the Canadian economy.

WITNESSES:

Desjardins Group:

Jean-Yves Bourgeois, Executive Vice-President, Business Services;

Bernard Brun, Vice-President, Government Affairs.

Canadian Credit Union Association:

Sabena Sandhu, Manager, Policy.

First Nations Bank of Canada:

Bill Lomax, President and Chief Executive Officer (*by videoconference*).

Bernard Brun and Jean-Yves Bourgeois each made a statement and answered questions.

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

At 5:33 p.m., the committee resumed.

Sabena Sandhu and Bill Lomax each made a statement and answered questions.

At 6:18 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Matthieu Boulianne

Clerk of the Committee