SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE

SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Monday, October 26, 2026
(3)

[*English*]

The Special Senate Committee on the Building Canada Strong Act met this day at 12 p.m., in room C128, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable Fabian Manning, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Boehm, Clement, Cuzner, Gignac, Hébert, Manning, Miville-Dechêne, Mohamed, Moncion, Osler, Patterson, Prosper, Quinn, Wells (*Newfoundland and Labrador*), Wilson and Yussuff (16).

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

Participating in the meeting: Nadia Faucher and Geneviève Gosselin, Analysts, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, the committee continued its study of the subject matter of Bill C-39, An Act respecting certain measures to strengthen the economy.

WITNESSES:

Transport Canada:

Paul Sandhar-Cruz, Director General, Strategic Policy;

Fateh Hamou-Lhadj, Director General, Digital Trade;

Neil Weatherdon, Acting Director General, Multimodal Security and Emergency Management;

Adele Cooper, Acting Executive Director, Navigation Protection, Environmental Programs & Major Projects Coordinator;

Sonya Read, Director General, Marine Policy.

Natural Resources Canada:

Kimberly Lavoie, Assistant Deputy Minister, Nòkwewashk;

Jim Delaney, Director General, Regulatory Coordination, Consultation and Economic Inclusion;

Carolyn Pharand, Senior Director, Regulatory Coordination, Consultation and Economic Inclusion;

Barbara Winters, Counsel, Legal Services Unit.

Canadian Labour Congress:

Bea Bruske, President.

Canadian Union of Public Employees:

Mark Hancock, National President (*by videoconference*).

Unifor:

Lana Payne, National President.

Teamsters Canada:

François Laporte, President (*by videoconference*).

Teamsters Canada Rail Conference:

Don Ashley, National Legislative Director.

Chiefs of Ontario:

Joel Abram, Grand Chief.

British Columbia Assembly of First Nations:

Terry Teegee, Regional Chief.

Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.:

Jerry Daniels, Grand Chief;

Brennan Manoakeesick, Intergovernmental Relations Advisor;

Jennifer Parkman, Director of Policy and Governance.

Kimberly Lavoie and Paul Sandhar-Cruz each made a statement and, together with Fateh Hamou-Lhadj, Adele Cooper and Sonya Read, answered questions.

At 1:14 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 1:23 p.m., the committee resumed.

Bea Bruske, Lana Payne, Mark Hancock and François Laporte each made a statement and answered questions.

At 2:34 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 2:42 p.m., the committee resumed.

Grand Chief Joel Abram, Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Grand Chief Jerry Daniels each made a statement and answered questions.

At 3:59 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Vincent Labrosse

Clerk of the Committee