SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE



SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Monday, November 2, 2026
(4)

[*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, Cuzner, Gignac, Hébert, Manning, Miville-Dechêne, Mohamed, Osler, Patterson, Prosper, Quinn, Wells (*Newfoundland and Labrador*), Wilson, Woo, Youance and Yussuff (16).

Other senators present: The Honourable Senators Audette, Duncan and Tucker (3).

Participating in the meeting: Nadia Faucher and Mayra Perez-Leclerc, 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:

Employment and Social Development Canada:

Peter Simpson, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Dispute Resolution and International Affairs Branch;

Douglas Wolfe, Director General, Strategic Policy, Analysis and Workplace Information Directorate;

Danijela Hong, Director General, Workplace Directorate, Labour Program.

Canada Industrial Relations Board:

Maryse Tremblay, Chairperson.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada:

Martin Simard, Senior Director, Marketplace Framework Policy Branch, Department of Industry.

Canada's Building Trades Unions:

Sean Strickland, Executive Director (*by videoconference*).

International Union of Operating Engineers:

Steven Schumann, Director, Canadian Government Affairs.

First Nation Lands Advisory Board:

Chief Robert Louie, Chair (*by videoconference*).

Canadian National Railway Company:

Stephanie McGuire, Associate Vice President, Labour Relations.

Canadian Pacific Kansas City:

Nathan Cato, Assistant Vice-President, Government Affairs Canada.

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority:

Peter Xotta, President and Chief Executive Officer (*by videoconference*).

Montreal Port Authority:

Paul Bird, Chief Executive Officer;

Frederick Desbiens, Manager, External Relations.

Peter Simpson, Douglas Wolfe and Maryse Tremblay each made a statement and answered questions.

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

At 1:24 p.m., the committee resumed.

Sean Strickland, Steven Schumann and Chief Robert Louie each made a statement and answered questions.

At 2:33 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 2:44 p.m., the committee resumed.

Stephanie McGuire, Nathan Cato and Paul Bird each made a statement and answered questions.

At 4:01 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 4:04 p.m., pursuant to rule 12-16(1)(d), the committee resumed in camera to discuss a draft agenda (future business).

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 or their staff, and that the audio recording and/or transcript 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 4:11 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Vincent Labrosse

Clerk of the Committee