



## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Thursday, February 12, 2026  
(24)

[English]

The Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs met this day at 10:30 a.m., in room B30, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable David M. Arnot, presiding.

*Members of the committee present:* The Honourable Senators Arnot, Batters, Clement, Cuzner, Miville-Dechêne, Moncion, Oudar, Pate, Prosper, Saint-Germain, Simons and Tannas (12).

*Other senators present:* The Honourable Senator Dalphond (1).

*Participating in the meeting:* Dana Phillips and Michaela Keenan-Pelletier, Analysts, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Thursday, February 5, 2026, the committee began its consideration of the subject matter of Part 4 of Bill C-4, An Act respecting certain affordability measures for Canadians and another measure.

### WITNESSES:

#### *Centre for Digital Rights:*

Bill Hearn, Principal, HearnLaw, External General Counsel to Centre for Digital Rights (*by videoconference*);

Jim Balsillie, Founder (*by videoconference*).

#### *BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association:*

Jason Woywada, Executive Director (*by videoconference*).

#### *Privy Council Office:*

Cathy Hawara, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Machinery of Government and Democratic Institutions;

Rachel Pereira, Director, Electoral and Senatorial Policy Unit, Democratic Institutions.

*As an individual:*

Sara Bannerman, Professor and Canada Research Chair of Communication Policy and Governance  
(*by videoconference*).

Bill Hearn, Jim Balsillie and Jason Woywada each made a statement and answered questions.

At 11:29 a.m., the committee suspended.

At 11:32 a.m., the committee resumed.

Sara Bannerman and Cathy Hawara each made a statement and, together with Rachel Pereira, answered questions.

At 12:30 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

*ATTEST:*

Vincent Labrosse

*Clerk of the Committee*