SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE



SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Thursday, October 29, 2026
(59)

[*English*]

The Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs met this day at 10:35 a.m., in room B30, Senate of Canada Building, the deputy chair, the Honourable Denise Batters, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Batters, Clement, Dalphond, McBean, Miville-Dechêne, Oudar, Prosper, Simons, Tannas and Wells (*Alberta*) (10).

Participating in the meeting: Allison Lowenger and Laura Blackmore, Analysts, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2026, the committee continued its consideration of Bill S-241, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Indian Act.

WITNESSES:

Chippewas of Rama First Nation:

Ted Williams, Chief.

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke:

Cody Diabo, Grand Chief *(by videoconference)*.

As individuals:

Dwight Newman, Professor, College of Law, and Canada Research Chair in Rights, Communities and Constitutional Law, University of Saskatchewan *(by videoconference)*;

Darrel Manitowabi, Associate Professor, Human Sciences, Northern Ontario School of Medicine University;

Yale D. Belanger, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Lethbridge *(by videoconference)*.

Chief Ted Williams and Grand Chief Cody Diabo each made a statement and answered questions.

At 11:30 a.m., the committee suspended.

At 11:36 a.m., the committee resumed.

Dwight Newman, Darrel Manitowabi and Yale D. Belanger each made a statement and answered questions.

At 12:28 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Emily Barrette

Clerk of the Committee