



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Thursday, June 26, 2025

(1)

[English]

The Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights met this day at 11 a.m., in room B30, Senate of Canada Building, for the purposes of its organization, pursuant to rule 12-13.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Batters, Coyle, Senior and Sorensen (4).

Participating in the meeting: Jodi Turner, Principal Clerk, Committees Directorate; Robert Mason and Madalina Chesoi, analysts, Library of Parliament; Chelsea DeFazio, Communications Officer, Communications, Broadcasting and Publications Directorate.

The clerk of the committee presided over the election of the chair.

The Honourable Senator Sorenson moved that the Honourable Senator Senior do take the chair.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

The clerk invited the Honourable Senator Senior to take the chair.

The chair presided over the election of the deputy chair.

The Honourable Senator Sorenson moved that the Honourable Senator Bernard be deputy chair of the committee.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

The Honourable Senator Batters moved:

That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be composed of the chair, the deputy chair and two other members of the committee, to be designated after the usual consultations; and

That the subcommittee be empowered to make decisions on behalf of the committee with respect to its agenda, to invite witnesses, and to schedule hearings.

The Honourable Senator Coyle moved that the motion be amended by replacing the words “empowered to make decisions on behalf of” with “responsible for considering and consulting with”.

After debate, the question being put on the motion in amendment, it was adopted on the following vote:

YEAS

The Honourable Senators

Coyle, Senior, Sorenson – [3]

NAYS

The Honourable Senator

Batters [1]

ABSENCES

Nil

After debate, the question being put on the motion, as amended, it was adopted, on division.

The Honourable Senator Coyle moved that the committee publish its proceedings.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

The Honourable Senator Sorenson moved:

That the committee ask the Library of Parliament to assign analysts to the committee;

That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be authorized to retain the services of experts as may be required by the work of the committee; and

That the chair, on behalf of the committee, direct the research staff in the preparation of studies, analyses, summaries, and draft reports.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

The Honourable Senator Coyle moved:

That, pursuant to section 6(1), chapter 3:05 of the *Senate Administrative Rules*, authority to commit funds be conferred individually on the chair, the deputy chair, and the clerk of the committee;

That, pursuant to section 7(1), chapter 3:05 of the *Senate Administrative Rules*, authority for certifying accounts payable by the committee be conferred individually on the chair, the deputy chair, and the clerk of the committee; and

That, notwithstanding the foregoing, in cases related to consultants and personnel services, the authority to commit funds and certify accounts be conferred jointly on the chair and deputy chair.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

The Honourable Senator Sorenson moved that the committee empower the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure to designate, as required, one or more members of the committee and/or such staff as may be necessary to travel on assignment on behalf of the committee.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

The Honourable Senator Coyle moved:

That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be authorized to:

- 1) determine whether any member of the committee is on “official business” for the purposes of paragraph 8(3)(a) of the *Senators Attendance Policy*, published in the *Journals of the Senate* on Wednesday, June 3, 1998; and
- 2) consider any member of the committee to be on “official business” if that member is: (a) attending an event or meeting related to the work of the committee; or (b) making a presentation related to the work of the committee; and

That the subcommittee report at the earliest opportunity any decisions taken with respect to the designation of members of the committee travelling on committee business.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

The Honourable Senator Coyle moved that, pursuant to the Senate guidelines for witness expenses, the committee may reimburse reasonable expenses related to the appearance of one witness per organization upon application, but that the chair be authorized to approve expenses of a second witness from the same organization should there be exceptional circumstances.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

The Honourable Senator Sorenson moved:

That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be empowered to direct communications officer(s) assigned to the committee in the development of communications plans and products where appropriate and to request the services of the Senate Communications, Broadcasting and Publications Directorate for the purposes of the promotion of their work; and

That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be empowered to allow coverage by electronic media of the committee's public proceedings with the least possible disruption of its proceedings, at its discretion.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

At 11:27 a.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Caroline Woodward

Clerk of the Committee