SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE

SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Monday, November 16, 2026
(30)

[*English*]

The Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights met this day at 4 p.m., in room B45, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable Paulette Senior, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Arnold, Bernard, Karetak-Lindell, McCallum, Robinson, Senior and Wells (*Alberta*) (7).

Participating in the meeting: Madalina Chesoi, Analyst, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, the committee continued its consideration of Bill S-235, An Act respecting the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking.

WITNESSES:

Public Safety Canada:

Nicole Frenette, Director, Trafficking, Exploitation & Drugs, Crime Prevention Branch.

Stepping Stone Association:

Alex MacDonnell, Executive Director (*by videoconference*).

Butterfly (*Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network*)*:*

Elene Lam, Founder and Board Member (*by videoconference*).

Nicole Frenette made a statement and answered questions.

At 4:59 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 5:06 p.m., the committee resumed.

Elene Lam made a statement.

At 5:16 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 5:17 p.m., the committee resumed.

Alex MacDonnell made a statement and, together with Elene Lam, answered questions.

At 6:02 p.m., pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, the committee continued its study on the health, safety, and wellbeing of 2SLGBTQI+ youth in Canada.

It was agreed that the following budget application under the committee's order of reference to examine and report on the health, safety, and wellbeing of 2SLGBTQI+ youth in Canada, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027, be approved for submission to the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration.

ACTIVITY: Calgary, Alberta, and Yellowknife, Northwest Territories	$120,252
TOTAL	**$120,252**

It was agreed that the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be authorized to approve the final version of the communications plan, and that the plan be presented to the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration alongside the budget application.

At 6:04 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 6:04 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 and/or 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 6:38 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Ericka Paajanen

Clerk of the Committee