SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE

SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Thursday, June 26, 2025
(1)

[*English*]

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament met this day at 9:30 a.m., in room B45, Senate of Canada Building, for the purpose of its organization, pursuant to rule 12-13.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Batters, Burey, Busson, Dalphond, Dean, Downe, Mégie, Petitclerc, Ringuette, Saint-Germain, Surette, Tannas, Wells (*Newfoundland and Labrador*) and White (14).

Participating in the meeting: Marie-Ève Belzile, Clerk Assistant, Committees Directorate; François Delisle, Analyst, Library of Parliament; Sabryna Lemieux, Communications Officer, Communications, Broadcasting and Publications Directorate.

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

The Honourable Senator Ringuette moved that the Honourable Senator Dalphond do take the chair of this committee.

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

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

The chair presided over the election of the deputy chairs.

The Honourable Senator Wells (*Newfoundland and Labrador*) moved that the Honourable Senator Batters be deputy chair of this committee.

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

The Honourable Senator Tannas moved that the Honourable Senator Downe be deputy chair of this committee.

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

The Honourable Senator Saint-Germain moved that the Honourable Senator Ringuette be deputy chair of this committee.

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

The Honourable Senator Tannas moved:

> That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be composed of the chair and three deputy chairs; 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 Petitclerc 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
Busson, Dean, Mégie, Petitclerc, Ringuette, Saint-Germain, Surette, White — [8]

NAYS

The Honourable Senators
Batters, Burey, Downe, Tannas, Wells (*Newfoundland and Labrador*) — [5]

ABSTENTIONS

The Honourable Senators
Dalphond — [1]

After debate, the question being put on the motion, as amended, it was adopted on the following vote:

YEAS

The Honourable Senators
Busson, Dalphond, Dean, Mégie, Petitclerc, Ringuette, Saint-Germain, Surette, White — [9]

NAYS

The Honourable Senators
Batters, Burey, Downe, Wells (*Newfoundland and Labrador*) — [4]

ABSTENTIONS
Nil

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

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

The Honourable Senator Ringuette 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 Dean 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 chairs, 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 chairs, 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 chairs.

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

The Honourable Senator Wells (*Newfoundland and Labrador*) 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 Mégie 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 Ringuette 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 Downe moved:

> That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be empowered to direct communications officers assigned to the committee in the development of communications plans and products where appropriate and to request the services of the Senate Communications 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.

The committee discussed a draft agenda (future business).

At 10:19 a.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Vincent Labrosse

Clerk of the Committee