SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE

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DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Thursday, October 1, 2026
(49)

[*English*]

The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology met this day at 10:28 a.m., in room B45, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable Rosemary Moodie, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Anderson, Arnold, Boudreau, Burey, Cuzner, Hay, Moodie, Muggli, Osler, Petitclerc and Senior (11).

Other senators present: The Honourable Senator Ouellette (1).

Participating in the meeting: Diana Ambrozas, Analyst, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, the committee began its consideration of Bill S-234, An Act respecting a national framework for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

WITNESSES:

Public Health Agency of Canada:

Michael Collins, Vice-President, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Branch;

Tammy Bell, Director General, Centre for Healthy Living, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Branch.

Indigenous Services Canada:

Jennifer Novak, Director General, Community Wellbeing Branch, Health and Social Sector.

Canada FASD Research Network:

Audrey McFarlane, Director, Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives (*by videoconference*).

Elsipogtog Eastern Door Centre:

Dr. Lori Vitale Cox, Director.

New Brunswick Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Centre of Excellence:

Dr. Nicole LeBlanc, Founder and Medical Director;

Noel Milliea, Elder.

As an individual:

Dr. Catherine Lebel, Professor of Radiology, University of Calgary.

Michael Collins made a statement and, together with Tammy Bell and Jennifer Novak, answered questions.

At 11:25 a.m., the committee suspended.

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

Audrey McFarlane, Catherine Lebel, Lori Vitale Cox and Nicole LeBlanc each made a statement and, together with Noel Milliea, answered questions.

At 12:31 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Ferda Simpson

Clerk of the Committee