



Thursday, May 28, 2026

The Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight has the honour to present its

TENTH REPORT

Your committee, which is authorized to adopt a report to the Senate nominating external members to the committee pursuant to rule 12-13(4), presents herewith its report recommending that Hélène F. Fortin be reappointed for a second term.

Your committee also recommends that this reappointment be subject to the same terms and conditions relating to remuneration, permissible expenses and appointment for external members as those included in your committee's first report of the First Session of the Forty-fifth Parliament and appended to this report.

Background

Rule 12-13(4) of the *Rules of the Senate* (Rules) requires your committee, after electing its chair and deputy chair, to present a report to the Senate recommending the nomination of two external members to the committee. This report must be agreed to by the senators who are members of the committee and is expected to include recommendations on remuneration and permissible expenses for the external members.¹ A similar process must be followed if a vacancy arises in the position of an external member over the course of the session.

Your committee met for the first time in this First Session of the Forty-fifth Parliament on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, for the purpose of organization and the election of a chair, pursuant to rule 12-13(2). Your committee's first report nominating its two external members was presented to the Senate later that same day and was adopted with leave. Following the adoption of the report, Ms. Fortin was reappointed for a period not to exceed five (5) years from the date of her previous appointment by the Senate on June 8, 2021.

Nomination of External Member

Accordingly, pursuant to rule 12-13(4), your committee has the honour to recommend that the following individual be reappointed as an external member to the Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight:

¹ In the First Session of the 45th Parliament, a sessional order was adopted on June 17, 2025, which authorized the committee to elect three deputy chairs and stated that the committee be composed of four senators, in addition to the two external members.

Hélène F. Fortin, to serve on the committee during pleasure, for a second term not to exceed five (5) years from June 8, 2026, subject to the terms and conditions of this appointment.

Remuneration, Permissible Expenses and Terms and Conditions of Appointment

In addition to the requirements set out in the Rules for remuneration and permissible expenses, your committee also recommends that Ms. Fortin's reappointment be subject to the same terms and conditions of appointment as those included in your committee's first report of the First Session of the Forty-fifth Parliament.

Your committee confirms that all four senators who currently serve as members of the committee concurred with the above recommendations and nomination, which the committee now presents to the Senate.

For greater certainty, the full text of the terms and conditions of appointment are appended to this report and will take effect in relation to the nominee upon adoption of this report by the Senate, subject to the external member's acknowledgement of the full terms and conditions, signature of a non-disclosure agreement and an ethics and conflict of interest declaration, and satisfactory security checks.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Klyne
Chair of the Committee

APPENDIX: Terms and Conditions of Appointment for the External Members of the Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

1. The committee has a mandate to supervise and report on the Senate's internal and external audits and other related matters, pursuant to rule 12-7(4) of the *Rules of the Senate*.

EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP:

1. The committee shall nominate two individuals to be external members to the committee by way of a report presented to the Senate.
2. Former senators and former members of the House of Commons are not eligible to be nominated as external members.
3. For the duration of their appointment, the two external members shall be subject to the *Rules of the Senate*, the *Senate Audit and Oversight Charter* and those Senate policies which may reasonably apply, with any modifications necessary to account for their unique status.
4. The external members may participate in all proceedings of the committee but shall not vote on any motion put to the committee.

TENURE:

1. External members serve on the committee during pleasure.
2. The appointment of external members shall take effect upon adoption of the nomination report by the Senate, subject to acknowledgement of these terms and conditions.
3. So that the terms do not expire at the same time, one external member should be first appointed to serve for a period not to exceed four (4) years and the other external member should be appointed to serve for a period not to exceed five (5) years. Thereafter, all terms for external members should not exceed five (5) years.
4. Where an external member was also appointed to the committee in previous sessions or Parliaments, their term should be understood to have begun at the date of their first appointment.
5. External members should be limited to serving a maximum of two (2) terms.

REMUNERATION AND PERMISSIBLE EXPENSES:

1. The nomination report shall include recommendations for the remuneration and permissible expenses for the external members.

2. Each external member shall be paid a \$15,000 fee annually for the duration of their appointment. Annual payments are to be made on the anniversary of their first appointment to the committee, beginning on June 8, 2022; for those members who were also appointed in previous sessions or Parliaments, it shall be due on the anniversary of the date of their first appointment to the committee.
3. Each external member shall also be eligible to be paid a \$1,000 fee, per meeting attended, and a \$250 fee, per briefing session attended, for the duration of their appointment, when organized under the authority of the committee.
4. The annual remuneration payable to an external member shall be capped at \$60,000, excluding any travel-related fees or reimbursements specified under clauses 5 and 6.
5. If an external member resides outside of the National Capital Region and must travel to or from Ottawa to attend a meeting or briefing session, they shall be eligible to be paid a fee of \$145 per hour of travel. The \$145 per hour travel fee does not fall within the \$60,000 per annum remuneration cap per external member.
6. In addition to any fee paid for travel time, each external member shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses to attend meetings, subject to guidelines established by the Senate of Canada. The reimbursement of travel expenses does not fall within the \$60,000 per annum remuneration cap per external member.
7. The Senate of Canada will provide each external member with the necessary electronic and digital equipment and devices to allow them to participate fully in committee meetings and other activities related to the work of the committee.
8. The Senate of Canada will provide each external member with access to the Senate Network, subject to the policies and guidelines for all Senate network users.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS:

1. External members are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical manner, to avoid conflicts of interest and to arrange their private affairs so that reasonably foreseeable real or apparent conflicts of interest may be prevented from arising.
2. External members shall not act or attempt to use their position to further their private interests or to influence a decision to further their or another person's private interests.
3. External members shall refrain from acting in a way that could reflect adversely on their position or the institution of the Senate.
4. External members shall, in exercising their duties and actions, act with honesty, integrity, independence, transparency and accountability.
5. Because the external members will have significant access to confidential and privileged materials in the performance of their duties, external members are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement as a condition of their appointment.

6. As a condition of their appointment, external members are required to sign an ethics and conflict of interest declaration and to obtain and maintain security clearance as verified by the Senate Corporate Security Directorate, to the committee's satisfaction.

These terms and conditions are hereby acknowledged and accepted.

Name of External Member (please print):

Signature of External Member

Date

THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SENATE