



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

TRAN • NUMBER 147 • 1st SESSION • 42nd PARLIAMENT

EVIDENCE

Thursday, June 6, 2019

—
Chair

The Honourable Judy A. Sgro

Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

Thursday, June 6, 2019

• (1145)

[English]

The Chair (Hon. Judy A. Sgro (Humber River—Black Creek, Lib.)): We're back on again and in open session.

Mr. Liepert.

Mr. Ron Liepert (Calgary Signal Hill, CPC): Actually, one item is yours and one is mine.

The Chair: Okay.

Let's deal first with the letter that references the work we did the other day on the national trade corridors fund.

We have a letter here addressed to the minister outlining what we heard on the national trade corridor presentation. Is everyone comfortable with the letter?

Mr. Liepert.

Mr. Ron Liepert: I'd like to make a wording change in the second-last paragraph on the back page. It's quite cumbersome and I'd suggest we break it down into two sentences.

The first sentence would read, "Some witnesses also expressed concerns about Bill C-69, particularly about possible delays associated with the proposed environmental permitting process for major projects." Then the second line would read, "Bill C-69, An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts"....

It just reads more easily.

The Chair: Yes.

Mr. Ron Liepert: You have to leave "Bill C-69" after "about".

I'm good with that.

The Chair: You're okay with that.

Are there any further comments?

[Translation]

Mr. Robert Aubin (Trois-Rivières, NDP): Can you give me 30 seconds?

[English]

The Chair: Yes. Take your time.

[Translation]

Mr. Robert Aubin: I am looking for something I saw yesterday, but I can't find it.

[English]

Mr. Ron Liepert: In the interim, could I also ask that this be cc'd to both the environment minister and the infrastructure minister? I don't know if that's a separate thing you have to consider.

The Chair: Copying it to the environment minister and the infrastructure minister makes sense.

Mr. Aubin.

[Translation]

Mr. Robert Aubin: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I have found my question. In the second paragraph of the letter, it says: "Les témoins avaient tous des commentaires élogieux pour le FNCC". I acknowledge that there was a broad consensus, but the word: "tous" means what it means. I did not hear the witness from the Western Canadian Short Line Railway Association make comments as effusive as the letter gives us to understand.

[English]

The Chair: "Unanimously" would convey....

An hon. member: [Inaudible—Editor]

The Chair: You want to change the words "unanimously positive" to what?

[Translation]

Mr. Robert Aubin: In French, it is more than positive, it is "effusive". We could write "des commentaires favorables".

[English]

The Chair: Then it's the majority of witnesses.

Mr. Vance Badawey (Niagara Centre, Lib.): No, it was unanimous. I didn't hear any negative.

[Translation]

Mr. Robert Aubin: I never heard effusive comments from the witnesses from the railway companies.

[English]

The Chair: It's a translation issue, probably, in terms of the difference. Is there another word for "unanimously" that...?

Mr. Ron Liepert: What about "overwhelmingly" or something along that line, which doesn't mean that every—

The Chair: What if it were to read "overwhelmingly positive"?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Robert Aubin: We could also replace the beginning of the sentence with “Plusieurs témoins ont eu des commentaires élogieux”. The use of the word “tous” is an exaggeration. I feel like a car salesman.

[*English*]

Mr. Ken Hardie (Fleetwood—Port Kells, Lib.): “The majority of witnesses”...?

The Chair: Let's just go with “the majority of witnesses”. Let's just do it that way.

Mr. Aubin, is there anything else?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Robert Aubin: No.

[*English*]

The Chair: Does anybody else have any other comments on this particular letter?

We have a change in the second paragraph and a change in the fifth paragraph for Mr. Liepert.

Let's just make sure that everybody is happy with this now.

We will fix it and I will send it out. We will send a copy to the environment minister and infrastructure minister as well on it, and a copy to all of the members.

Is everyone in favour of it as amended?

Okay, it's carried.

• (1150)

The Chair: Mr. Liepert.

Mr. Ron Liepert: I just want to raise one issue. It follows up on the testimony we had from the department of—and I'm probably going to get this wrong—Indigenous Services, with Ms. Ferland. I'm not going to read the whole thing, but in part of the exchange, Ms. Ferland referred to the interactive map. Our member, Mr. Doherty, asked if this was information she might be able to provide to the committee in a more concise document, and her response was, “Absolutely.”

Unfortunately, what we got from the department was a map. I think the department needs to provide something more, based on Ms. Ferland's commitment to this committee.

There was a second item I was going to raise.

The Chair: There were several requests for information.

Mr. Ron Liepert: Yes, there was a second request.

Mr. Doherty asked Ms. Ferland if she could table a national ranking framework with the committee. Her response was, “I don't know if I can provide it by Thursday.” Mr. Doherty then asked if it would be possible at a later date, and she replied, “I will look into it, yes.”

This is the one I meant. It's on the gas tax fund. This is Mr. Doherty again:

Between fiscal years 2014-15 and 2018-19, Indigenous Services Canada allocated \$138.7 million of the gas tax fund towards 255 on-reserve infrastructure improvement projects. Are you able to table that information as well as to where those dollars were spent?

The response was, “Yes, we can.”

Again, we got a response that basically referred us to the website and another map.

I would like to request that the committee ask Ms. Ferland to be more comprehensive in fulfilling her commitments before this committee.

The Chair: There were five different requests for information from the Indigenous Services folks who were before us. The only one they have submitted so far is the map. Yes, we will follow up with the folks from Indigenous Services and ask that this be done, like, yesterday, because that was two weeks ago already. We'd like to have it before the House rises so that the members have that information.

Mr. Ron Liepert: Considering we likely have only one remaining meeting, we do need it well before the House rises.

The Chair: Exactly. Is everyone okay with that? All right.

Is there anything else?

The Clerk of the Committee (Ms. Marie-France Lafleur): Just to clarify, would the committee be okay with my sending an email, or would you like an official letter from the chair? How are we responding?

The Chair: Can I suggest we do both?

The Clerk: Sure.

For the map, they did provide only the link to the website. Is there a specific format you'd like, for example, a PDF copy of the map, and then...?

Mr. Ron Liepert: As I recall the discussion, Ms. Ferland suggested we go to the website. That wasn't her exact wording.

The Chair: Yes.

Mr. Ron Liepert: Our member asked for a concise document. A link to a website, to me, is not a concise document. I think that happened on two or three different occasions.

The Chair: We'll be quite specific in the letter.

Mr. Ron Liepert: Thank you.

The Chair: Is there any further discussion?

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 20, with both of our ministers who have been invited, Minister Champagne and Ms. Jordan.

That's it. It's been a long time, but we've had a good time. If I don't get a chance to say it, thank you all for your great co-operation. It's been fun.

The meeting is adjourned.

Published under the authority of the Speaker of
the House of Commons

SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

The proceedings of the House of Commons and its Committees are hereby made available to provide greater public access. The parliamentary privilege of the House of Commons to control the publication and broadcast of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its Committees is nonetheless reserved. All copyrights therein are also reserved.

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its Committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the *Copyright Act*. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a Committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the *Copyright Act*.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its Committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

Also available on the House of Commons website at the following address: <http://www.ourcommons.ca>

Publié en conformité de l'autorité
du Président de la Chambre des communes

PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

Les délibérations de la Chambre des communes et de ses comités sont mises à la disposition du public pour mieux le renseigner. La Chambre conserve néanmoins son privilège parlementaire de contrôler la publication et la diffusion des délibérations et elle possède tous les droits d'auteur sur celles-ci.

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

Aussi disponible sur le site Web de la Chambre des communes à l'adresse suivante : <http://www.noscommunes.ca>