



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

44th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

---

# Standing Committee on Official Languages

EVIDENCE

**NUMBER 070**

**PUBLIC PART ONLY - PARTIE PUBLIQUE SEULEMENT**

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

---

Chair: Mr. René Arseneault





## Standing Committee on Official Languages

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

• (1810)

[*Translation*]

**The Chair (Mr. René Arseneault (Madawaska—Restigouche, Lib.)):** We are starting the public portion of the meeting.

We will begin with a discussion on Mr. Beaulieu's motion.

Mr. Beaulieu, the floor is yours.

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu (La Pointe-de-l'Île, BQ):** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The motion is as follows:

That, pursuant to Standing Order 108(3), and taking into account the Radio-Canada reports last Tuesday, which revealed new violations of the Official Languages Act within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Committee hear from the RCMP Commissioner, Mike Duheme, no later than October 18 to discuss the RCMP's plan to comply with the Official Languages Act and respect the French language.

As we know, Radio-Canada revealed that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was hiring unilingual anglophones for bilingual positions. These employees do not speak a word of French and are not taking French courses, either. This is a flagrant violation of the Official Languages Act by the federal police. It is also far from the first time this has happened.

In 2016, the Commissioner of Official Languages announced that 16,000 positions required English compared to only 19 positions that required French. A little later, in 2019, the Commissioner of Official Languages announced that all of the 21,134 regular member positions of the RCMP were designated as “French non-essential”. In fact, some of those positions are bilingual, but no positions are designated as “French essential” anymore. The situation is really deteriorating.

Police training could previously be completed in either official language. Since 2019, it has been offered only in English or in bilingual format. As Stéphanie Chouinard said, any bilingual training puts francophones at a disadvantage.

The list of examples is long. For instance, access to information requests in French are processed less quickly than others. What's more, the Commissioner of Official Languages recently criticized the RCMP in Prince Edward Island because its warnings about dangerous weather were not translated into French until four hours later, jeopardizing people's safety.

I think it's very important that the committee hear from the RCMP commissioner.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Godin now has the floor. He will be followed by Mr. Serré.

Mr. Godin, go ahead.

**Mr. Joël Godin (Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier, CPC):** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I agree with my Bloc Québécois colleague about the motion that has been moved. However, I'd like to make a few changes.

First, of course, “October 18” should be replaced with “November 8”. That's the date I propose. Second, I propose adding “, and invite the Minister of Public Safety”. Indeed—

**The Chair:** You mean to say, “no later than November 8”, right?

**Mr. Joël Godin:** Yes, that's right. Is it realistic? Yes? Okay.

I think it's important to hear from the person who is on the ground and the government representative who has the power to provide direction.

As I often say, we would have liked the Treasury Board to be the central agency, but that unfortunately wasn't part of Bill C-13.

Therefore, I move that we adopt an amendment to replace “October 18” with “November 8” and add “, and invite the Minister of Public Safety” after “Mike Duheme”.

This is my proposed amendment, Mr. Chair.

• (1815)

**The Chair:** Does anyone have anything to say about Mr. Godin's amendment?

Mr. Serré, you have the floor.

**Mr. Marc Serré (Nickel Belt, Lib.):** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I agree with Mr. Beaulieu's motion, and I think we all agree that the motion is essential.

**The Chair:** Mr. Serré, we're talking about Mr. Godin's amendment.

**Mr. Marc Serré:** As for the date, the clerk would have to check whether November 8 would not be too soon. Obviously, it probably won't be possible before October 18.

That said, Mr. Godin's proposal shows a pattern. A minister is invited in every motion presented. It may be the will of the committee to invite ministers to each of its meetings—that is requested in each motion—but I don't think it's realistic. The motion is clear and seeks to invite Mike Duheme, from the RCMP, to testify before the committee. That's important, and I think the committee needs to do it.

I agree with changing the date to November 8. On the other hand, I don't think we always have to invite ministers to testify before the committee.

We could meet with Mr. Duheme and then see if—

**Mr. Joël Godin:** I have a point of order, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Go ahead, Mr. Godin.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** My colleague is talking about the committee's supposed habits, but I'd like us to continue discussing the amendment.

I proposed an amendment to change the date and invite the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs.

**The Chair:** Mr. Godin, I think we can continue listening to Mr. Serré. You made a comment about the Treasury Board in the context of your amendment. I think we can balance things out and, in some cases, add a little cream. On the other hand, if we want the cream to contain absolutely no fat, that has to apply to everyone.

Mr. Serré, you may continue.

**Mr. Marc Serré:** I don't know about the fat issue, but I think there's enough fat around.

If I understand correctly, Mr. Godin is proposing two amendments. He wants the date changed and he wants the minister to be invited. I'm trying to determine whether it's necessary to do that before we hear from the RCMP.

I agree that the motion should be amended. I'm just wondering whether it's necessary to add the invitation for the minister to the motion. This could happen with every motion. But we really want to hear what the RCMP commissioner has to say here. Then we could see what we want to do.

With the plan we've already approved, we have a date, which is November 8. I just want to make sure that's not a problem. Adding a minister every time takes a little more time. We really want to get to the heart of the matter. This is very important. We want to hear from the commissioner. What's going on is not acceptable, and we want to hear from him as soon as possible.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Serré.

In anticipation of future comments, I'd like to clarify that Mr. Godin's amendment to Mr. Beaulieu's motion is in two parts, but is really one amendment. We would change the date of the RCMP commissioner's appearance, which would take place by November 8, and we would add an invitation for the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs. That's it, I think.

Mr. Beaulieu, you have the floor.

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** The amendment is certainly necessary, given that we have greatly delayed the adoption of the motion. The October 18 date has lapsed. I find the idea of hearing from the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs relevant, given what links the RCMP to that department.

Moreover, we're talking here about a long-standing situation. I don't know for how many years the Commissioner of Official Languages has been making one report after another. If the minister is going to be held accountable on this, maybe he'll lobby for changes.

• (1820)

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu.

Ms. Ashton—

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** I'd like to add very quickly that, if some people absolutely disagree with inviting the minister, they'll have to split the amendment in two.

**The Chair:** I want to hear everyone's comments on the amendment. I'm being told we can split it if we want. But I want to hear from the committee members first. Perhaps there will be a consensus.

Ms. Ashton, you have the floor.

**Ms. Niki Ashton (Churchill—Keewatinook Aski, NDP):** I want to say, first, that I support the amendment. I think it makes sense.

Second, as we know, the minister responsible for public safety, who runs the RCMP in one way or another, is francophone and from the Atlantic region. Yet the commissioner's report speaks very disturbingly of the weather warnings that were issued during the recent storms. I imagine this would be an issue for the minister. We'd like to hear what this new minister has to say and see how progress can be made on this very important and troubling issue.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Ms. Ashton.

Mr. Iacono, go ahead.

**Mr. Angelo Iacono (Alfred-Pellan, Lib.):** Mr. Chair, I'm a little confused. We're trying to move so quickly that we don't understand the purpose of the motion.

I think it is more important to invite the RCMP commissioner and public officials to shed light on the situation and explain things to us in detail than to invite the Minister of Public Safety and bombard him with questions.

It's not the minister who's going to have all the answers, but rather the department's representatives. Once we've heard their opinion and that of the commissioner, we'll be in a better position to ask the minister questions. At the moment, inviting the minister would be a little premature. We have neither enough details nor enough information about why things went wrong.

I would rather hear from public officials, people who will be able to answer our questions, rather than simply invite the minister to ask him questions, when he won't know all the details. I'm not saying he's not aware of the situation, but public officials will be better equipped to point us in the right direction. Their information and answers will enable us to meet with the minister later.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Iacono.

Mr. Drouin, you have the floor.

**Mr. Francis Drouin (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Lib.):** Thank you very much.

Normally, we have discussions in the hallways. I don't want to repeat them here, but we don't even know if the minister will be available in two weeks. I am very familiar with the opposition's tricks: If he is not available, they will say that the minister did not comply with the motion. The motion proposes a date, but I have no idea of the minister's availability. I don't have his schedule in front of me.

Does the committee want to undertake a study on the RCMP? If so, it could invite Vic Toews and Steven Blaney. Indeed, the problem of bilingualism in the RCMP is not new, as Mr. Beaulieu rightly said. It didn't start 24 hours ago, or 48 hours ago, or with the story we just read in the paper recently. It goes back a number of years. If the committee wants to undertake a more in-depth study on the topic, it can invite everyone.

Depending on the committee's flexibility, I suggest giving the RCMP commissioner a deadline, which everyone agreed on, and giving the Minister of Public Safety a little more flexibility. No one has talked to us about this before. Normally, there are discussions beforehand behind the scenes. If that had been the case, we would have known that the committee wanted to invite the minister and we would have negotiated a date; maybe not November 8, but maybe the week after or before December 1, for example. At the moment, the date in question is two weeks away. I'm not a minister, but my schedule for the next three weeks is already full.

• (1825)

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** There is no set date for the minister.

**Mr. Francis Drouin:** The amendment mentions November 8.

**The Chair:** Mr. Drouin, you are proposing a subamendment to an amendment.

**Mr. Francis Drouin:** I am extending my hand.

**The Chair:** Okay.

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** The member should propose a subamendment.

**The Chair:** I would still like to hear what the other committee members have to say about this.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** Mr. Chair, do you want me to answer my colleague?

**The Chair:** Let's hear from the other committee members on this matter; then we'll see.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** Mr. Chair, in my proposed amendment, November 8 applies to Mike Duheme's appearance. I also ask that

“, and invite the Minister of Public Safety” be added. No date is specified in the case of the Minister of Public Safety.

I understand the difficulty of a minister's schedule. If my colleague wants to invite every public safety minister in Canadian history, he can.

**The Chair:** The syntax of the sentence might suggest that it's November 8. This is not clear.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** That wasn't the meaning of the sentence.

**The Chair:** I will give the floor to those who raised their hand.

Mr. Samson, go ahead.

**Mr. Darrell Samson (Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook, Lib.):** I don't think we will be able to vote on the amendment and the motion before the end of the meeting. Perhaps the amendment should be amended to make it clearer. It is not clear that the Minister of Public Safety must or must not appear before November 8.

The date should be indicated, if it can be done, but I don't think we can expect the minister to be here on November 8, if that's what the committee wants.

I think we need to reword the amendment if the committee really wants to hear from the minister.

**The Chair:** I want to make it clear that, even if Mr. Godin wished, he could not amend his own amendment to Mr. Beaulieu's motion.

Mrs. Goodridge, you have the floor.

**Mrs. Laila Goodridge (Fort McMurray—Cold Lake, CPC):** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We'll continue to debate this issue, but I think it's time to vote on this amendment. I think it's really important to discuss this motion, and I think Canadians want us to vote on it.

**The Chair:** Before we vote, one last attempt to settle something informally: can we agree to meet with the RCMP commissioner no later than November 8? Then we could find a potential date to invite the minister.

Would everyone around the table agree if we can word the motion that way?

Go ahead, Mr. Samson.

**Mr. Darrell Samson:** I would like to propose that the Minister of Public Safety appear at a time when his schedule permits.

**The Chair:** Go ahead, Mr. Godin.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** Two points, Mr. Chair.

First, what you just said is entirely in line with my amendment.

Second, Ms. Goodridge asked for a vote, so I would like us to vote.

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** All members would have to understand the intent—

**The Chair:** As chair, I took the liberty of asking for unanimous consent; I thought I could do so and that it would be faster. That was my intent.

Mr. Serré, I would like to hear your thoughts on what I just said.

**Mr. Marc Serré:** I would simply like to have that in writing. I want to be sure the intent is clear.

It is quite simple: as long as there is no specific date to meet with the minister, everyone is in agreement.

**The Chair:** I think everyone is saying the same thing.

**Mr. Marc Serré:** The problem is that we are talking about this at the last minute.

**The Chair:** Let me suggest to the committee, as Mr. Godin's amendment states, that we invite the commissioner to appear no later than November 8. The clerk is indicating that the commissioner would be available on that date. I also suggest we look at a later date for the minister to appear, depending on his availability.

Are all members in agreement?

**Mr. Darrell Samson:** You are giving us an option. That's fine.

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** I think it would have to be no later than December.

Do you think that would be too soon?

**The Chair:** Go ahead, Mr. Godin.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** My amendment was along those lines, but it still has to be scheduled. It has to be. It could be on January 15 if you wish, but it would have to be before the next elections.

• (1830)

**The Chair:** If this is not settled soon, we will vote on it.

Mr. Drouin, you have the floor.

**Mr. Francis Drouin:** In procedural terms, we are in talks.

It is still not clear since Mr. Beaulieu just asked for clarification as to whether it would be before December. That is why we would like to get it in writing. It is not clear to committee members.

Mr. Godin said he was not suggesting a date for the minister to appear, but now he is asking for one. I do not have any date to suggest. In principle, the amendment does not specify a date, but I am not sure of that because, from the way it is worded, it could be November 8, but perhaps not.

I suggest we delete part of Mr. Godin's amendment and vote to invite the commissioner to appear on November 8. If Mr. Godin feels strongly about the minister appearing, he could move another motion.

I would like to point out that, when the RCMP commissioner appears, Mr. Godin can present another motion related to this amendment. He would not have to give notice of a motion, since it pertains to the same subject. He may do so publicly when everyone at home is watching us on television, and we will be more popular than the program *Tout le monde en parle*. Right now, however, it is not clear to anyone.

So it really comes down to the amendment.

**The Chair:** I will read out Mr. Godin's amendment as submitted. I will then give the floor to Ms. Ashton.

Mr. Godin, please listen and tell me if this is what you are thinking.

Mr. Beaulieu's amended motion would read as follows:

That, pursuant to Standing Order 108(3), and taking into account the Radio-Canada reports last Tuesday, which revealed new violations of the Official Languages Act within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Committee hear from the RCMP Commissioner, Mike Duheme, no later than November 8, 2023, and also invite the Minister of Public Safety, to discuss the RCMP's plan to comply with the Official Languages Act and respect the French language.

That is exactly what Mr. Godin proposed.

I have given everyone the floor, but I want to hear from Ms. Ashton. If we are not in agreement then, we will vote, as Ms. Goodridge requested.

Ms. Ashton, I'm not sure if you have figured all this out, but please go ahead.

**Ms. Niki Ashton:** Can we vote on the subamendment?

**The Chair:** There is just an amendment, Mr. Godin's.

**Ms. Niki Ashton:** Okay.

I would also like to add a cut-off date so it is no later than December. I do not want it to be delayed until next year.

I am willing to propose that subamendment, but I would rather vote on the amendment to move things along.

**The Chair:** All right, but Ms. Goodridge requested a vote.

Since there is no agreement, we will vote, unless you tell me you are in agreement.

(Amendment agreed to: yeas 11; nays 0)

**The Chair:** In the end, we have all agreed. That is what I was suggesting.

So now we will return to Mr. Beaulieu's motion as amended.

Mr. Godin, you have the floor.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** I am requesting a vote, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** I was about to ask first whether there is unanimous consent on Mr. Beaulieu's motion.

Is anyone opposed?

No, so we have unanimous consent.

(Motion as amended agreed to)

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** Mr. Chair, I would like to request unanimous consent to spend another 10 to 15 minutes on Mr. Généreux's motion.

**The Chair:** We will consider it now.

• (1835)

**Mr. Marc Dalton (Pitt Meadows—Maple Ridge, CPC):** Will there be a vote?

**Mr. Darrell Samson:** I have to leave now as well.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** In any case, if they are both leaving, it is not necessary.

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** Everyone agrees, in any case. It is a formality.

**The Chair:** Can we give Mr. Généreux two minutes to table his motion to see if we get unanimous consent?

Go ahead, Mr. Généreux.

**Mr. Bernard Généreux (Montmagny—L'Islet—Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, CPC):** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to give notice of a motion, in English and French, regarding the CBC Podcasts saga:

That the Committee report to the House its deep condemnation of—

**The Chair:** Excuse me, Mr. Généreux, as a formality, you have to say that you are moving your motion.

**Mr. Bernard Généreux:** Okay. I move the following:

That the committee report to the House its deep condemnation of the CBC using a Paris-based audio studio to record a podcast, choosing it over a Quebecois-based recording studio to avoid the Quebec accent. Considering that this may have offended many Quebecers, the committee invite the following individuals to provide testimony on this matter: Catherine Tait, CEO of the CBC; Cesil Fernandes, Executive Producer of CBC Podcasts; Émilie Brazeau-Béliveau, CBC/Radio-Canada's first Head of Advertising, Marketing, and Radio and Audio Public Relations; as well as the Minister of Official Languages.

Mr. Chair, I will be very brief. This situation is completely unacceptable. Canada has two official languages and we do not have to justify the place in the world of the Quebec accent, of Canadian French or of the francophonie in Canada. If we cannot be proud of our language in Canada, we have a serious problem.

This is obviously a very serious insult to Quebec, Canadian, francophone and francophile society. I could go on, but I will stop now since we do not have a lot of time.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Généreux.

Mr. Beaulieu, you have the floor.

**Mr. Mario Beaulieu:** I support the motion. In view of the time, among other things, I would like to request a vote.

Do we have the right to request a vote?

**A voice:** No.

**The Chair:** Mr. Serré, you have the floor, followed by Ms. Ashton.

**Mr. Marc Serré:** I want to thank Mr. Généreux for his motion. We agree entirely and we can adopt the motion quickly. I am not sure however that you read the last line. The only issue I have is at the end of the last sentence, which suggests that the Minister of Official Languages be invited as well. He will be appearing next week, as it happens. We will also welcome the Minister of Canadian

Heritage and the President of the Treasury Board and will have the opportunity to ask them questions at that time.

Otherwise, we agree with the motion. We will invite CBC/Radio-Canada officials to explain their decision. Once again, it is not necessary to invite the ministers in every motion, especially since they are already scheduled to appear before the committee. If Mr. Généreux would accordingly delete “as well as the Minister of Official Languages” from the motion, we will approve it right away.

**The Chair:** Are you proposing an amendment?

**Mr. Marc Serré:** Yes, I request that “as well as the Minister of Official Languages” be deleted from the motion.

**The Chair:** You want to delete that part because he will already be appearing, as you said?

**Mr. Marc Serré:** Yes, because he will already be appearing.

**The Chair:** An amendment has been put forward.

Some members have to leave, and Ms. Ashton, Mr. Godin, Mr. Drouin and Mr. Samson wish to speak.

**Mr. Darrell Samson:** We are agreeable to deleting “as well as the Minister of Official Languages”. We would approve that amendment.

**Mr. Bernard Généreux:** It's fine if the minister's name is not included in the motion since he will be here next week. We could however vote on a supplementary resolution to invite the minister for two hours to discuss this matter, after the witnesses have been heard.

**The Chair:** Okay.

I will now go through the list of speakers, but please speak only about Mr. Serré's amendment.

Ms. Ashton, you have the floor.

**Ms. Niki Ashton:** I support the motion as worded. Coming from a region where Franco-Manitobans have their own accent, I am stunned by what the CBC/Radio-Canada did. I have to wonder how this happened. I think we need to hear from the Minister of Official Languages on this matter. He will indeed be appearing, but on another matter. I support the original motion.

• (1840)

**The Chair:** I would like you to speak to the amendment.

I want to hear from the members to see if we have a consensus.

Go ahead, Mr. Godin.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** Mr. Chair, we are being criticized for wanting to invite ministers in every motion. But it is our job to ask questions. Ministers represent the government. Unfortunately, our parliamentary system is designed that way. At the same time, I do not see why they do not want the Minister of Official Languages to appear before the committee.

I think it is important for us to ask the minister about this, since he is the official who has to uphold the act, whether or not that is through the responsible minister, the Minister of Canadian Heritage; that is his decision.

If the government wishes to alter the schedule to increase the likelihood of the minister appearing, I would say that has already been planned, but not on that matter.

I do not want us, as parliamentarians, to be deprived of our time to ask questions. If the minister appears for an hour, you know, Mr. Chair, the opposition will have 12 minutes and the second and third parties in opposition will have six or seven minutes. I think that is irresponsible in general. We would not be able to do our work rigorously and responsibly.

**The Chair:** All right.

We will continue discussing Mr. Serré's amendment with Mr. Drouin, and then with Mr. Samson.

Go ahead, Mr. Drouin.

**Mr. Francis Drouin:** The minister will be here next week, so I do not see why opposition members would not ask their questions then.

I would also remind them that there is a daily question period. They could talk to their leaders and remind them that it is important to speak to the minister. They could rise in the House of Commons every day to ask the minister—

**Mr. Joël Godin:** A point of order, Mr. Chair. We are talking—

**Mr. Francis Drouin:** I also want to point out that the Minister of Official Languages—

**The Chair:** One moment, Mr. Drouin. Mr. Godin is speaking.

What is your point of order?

**Mr. Joël Godin:** My colleague is talking about a procedure that does not apply to us. I think we need to stick to the procedure at committees.

**The Chair:** Just a minute, Mr. Godin.

Mr. Drouin might have cast a wide net, but he clearly referred to the amendment first, and we heard him clearly. His point was that we should take the opportunity while the minister is here.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** He should not talk about the procedure in the House.

**The Chair:** I cannot tell you in advance what Mr. Drouin will say, but he was speaking about the amendment.

Mr. Drouin, please continue.

**Mr. Angelo Iacono:** Mr. Chair, I have a point of order.

**The Chair:** Certainly. You have the floor, Mr. Iacono.

**Mr. Angelo Iacono:** I just want to point out that it is 6:42. Some people have to leave the meeting. I have another committee meeting starting in half an hour. I think we have dwelled on this long enough.

**Mr. Darrell Samson:** I would like to request that we adjourn. We agreed to stay two or three minutes longer, but it has now been more than 10 minutes longer.

**The Chair:** Mr. Samson, it is in fact your turn to speak.

**Mr. Darrell Samson:** I would like the committee to adjourn.

**The Chair:** I'm sorry, Mr. Drouin was not finished.

**Mr. Francis Drouin:** I was not finished.

If the Minister of Official Languages were to make decisions about the CBC's regular business, I think that would be problematic. I know that is not the case, and I am not saying this for partisan reasons. That was not the case under the Conservatives. It would not be the case under the Bloc if it were in power. It would not be normal for a minister to be involved in making day-to-day decisions at the CBC.

By the way, the Minister of Official Languages is not responsible for the CBC/Radio-Canada, as you know. You all know that. We approve the budgets for the CBC/Radio-Canada; they make decisions on regular business. That is normal. It is apolitical. Politicians do not decide who controls what. As frustrating as it may be, it is not for politicians to decide whether Radio-Canada has made a poor decision. We can attack them, but it is the CBC/Radio-Canada who should appear before the committee.

Then, if we want to hear from other ministers on this issue, or look into the matter in greater depth, let me reiterate that we can invite the Minister of Canadian Heritage, and not the Minister of Official Languages. Ask him about it. Take 10 seconds to ask him how much time he devotes to the CBC/Radio-Canada. I can guarantee you that he will say he does not devote any time to it whatsoever since it is not his responsibility.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Drouin.

Mr. Samson, you have the floor.

**Mr. Darrell Samson:** Once again, I would like the committee to adjourn. We agreed to continue for two or three minutes to make a decision. We are already 15 minutes past the scheduled time.

I would therefore like the committee to adjourn.

• (1845)

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Samson.

You certainly have the right to request that when you have the floor.

There does not appear to be unanimous consent to adjourn. We will have to vote.

Does the committee wish to adjourn?

(Motion negated: nays 6; yeas 5)

**The Chair:** I simply want to point out that I cannot stop people who have to leave. I was among them, but the meeting can continue as long as there is quorum.

We were discussing Mr. Serré's amendment.

Ms. Goodridge, you have the floor.

**Mrs. Laila Goodridge:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.



Ministerial responsibility is a very important part of our political system. Ministers must justify their decisions to the elected members. I think we should vote against this amendment and vote in favour of the original motion by my colleague, Mr. Généreux. I do not think we need to discuss this any longer. The two positions are clear. I suggest that we vote on the amendment and the motion so we can adjourn.

**The Chair:** Mr. Dalton, you have the floor.

**Mr. Marc Dalton:** We know that the minister will be here next week. We are willing to add time since this is an important matter.

The minister might defend himself by saying it is not his responsibility. We can also share our concerns with him and ask him questions.

We understand what the Liberals said, but it is important to us to ask questions.

**The Chair:** Anyone else?

Let us now vote on Mr. Serré's amendment.

**Mr. Joël Godin:** Can you remind me what exactly the amendment is?

**The Chair:** Mr. Serré's amendment was to delete—

**Mr. Joël Godin:** I am asking for the benefit of everyone here.

**The Chair:** The clerk will read it out.

Please go ahead, Madam Clerk.

**The Clerk of the Committee (Ms. Audrée Dallaire):** Mr. Serré's amendment would amend Mr. Généreux's motion by deleting "as well as the Minister of Official Languages".

**The Chair:** There you have it.

(Amendment negated: nays 6; yeas 5)

**The Chair:** Let us return to Mr. Généreux's original motion.

Does anyone wish to discuss the motion without amendments?

Let us vote then.

(Amendment agreed to: yeas 11; nays 0)

**The Chair:** So it is agreed to, unanimously.

Thank you all for your patience.

See you next Monday.

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: <https://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 des communes.

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 :  
<https://www.noscommunes.ca>