



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

43rd PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

---

# Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security

EVIDENCE

**NUMBER 006**

**PUBLIC PART ONLY - PARTIE PUBLIQUE SEULEMENT**

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

---

Chair: The Honourable John McKay





## Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

• (1530)

[English]

**The Chair (Hon. John McKay (Scarborough—Guildwood, Lib.)):** I call the meeting to order.

It's 3:30, colleagues, and it's nice to see you. It's not so nice to see you in these circumstances, but nevertheless we will soldier on.

This is the sixth meeting of the public safety committee, and little did any of us think, coming from the fifth to the sixth meeting, that we would be at the intersection of two of the most significant crises of our time, namely systemic racism and the realities of COVID.

It's regrettable that we have to meet this way, in that we are physically present. Ideally, we would have been other than physically present, but it is what it is.

First of all, I will read this protocol so that we all understand what it is. I'll summarize the four points.

We've been asked to limit our movement in the room and to wear a mask unless seated. Obviously, people can follow the markings on the floor. Microphones and seats, as I can see, have been distanced from each other. I see my friend Greg Fergus way down there; at least, I think that's Greg Fergus.

We have a limited number of personnel in the room, one for each party, and I'll think you're familiar with all of the other protocols that we're exercising.

We are looking at three motions this morning. I think the first is up on the screen.

This, as you well know, has been called as an emergency meeting. It is moved:

That pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) the committee undertake a study of systemic racism in policing in Canada; and that the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness as well as the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police be invited to testify on Tuesday June 23, 2020.

The motion is in English and in French.

Do I have a motion to accept the meeting?

(Motion agreed to)

**The Chair:** The second item is the budget, is it not?

**Ms. Pam Damoff (Oakville North—Burlington, Lib.):** This is a new system, John. There is way less paper. This is a good thing.

**The Chair:** Yes.

**Ms. Pam Damoff:** This is a good thing, Jean-Marie. We're not killing a forest to have a meeting.

**The Chair:** Jean-Marie has done an amazing job in the past week. We are very fortunate as a committee to have Jean-Marie here, and if you had any inkling of all the toing and froing to get to where we are today.... I just want to publicly thank Jean-Marie for his work. I'll thank him more enthusiastically if he can find this thing, this budget.

• (1535)

**The Clerk of the Committee (Mr. Jean-Marie David):** I can find it; I just can't move it.

I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, but I can't display it. If you want, I can give the details to the members.

The budget is in the amount of \$3,300. It's a very small budget, but it's enough to get us going for this first meeting at least.

**The Chair:** That's fine.

Go ahead, Madam Damoff.

**Ms. Pam Damoff:** I'm going to bring a motion forward to add some meetings to what we're doing. Will that impact your budget, or will we just look at another budget if that motion passes?

**The Clerk:** Well, usually when we adopt budgets, we don't spend most of it anyway. I would say that we'll just keep this budget for now, and if there is not enough money, then I can always bring a new budget for additional funds to the committee for adoption.

**The Chair:** Is there any other discussion?

(Motion agreed to [See Minutes of Proceedings])

**The Chair:** The third motion—and it's entirely at the discretion of committee members—is that the meeting be on television and be in public, but the subject matter I'm proposing to discuss at this point is further meetings and witnesses. I'd be interested in knowing whether members wish to go in camera at this point.

**Ms. Pam Damoff:** I would suggest that we go in camera, Chair. Normally when we're discussing meetings and witnesses, it is done in camera. Then we can come back to a public meeting once we've had that discussion.

**The Chair:** Okay.

**Ms. Pam Damoff:** I can move it if you would like.

**The Chair:** Sure.

Do you have a point of discussion, Charlie?

**Mr. Charlie Angus (Timmins—James Bay, NDP):** Yes. I don't see this as being controversial. My feeling about staying in public is to reassure the public we are taking these issues very seriously and that we are recognizing the concerns that are being raised, particularly in indigenous and racialized communities, and that we're here to talk, as parliamentarians, to find the best in who should be there.

I'd prefer to stay in public, but this is my first time at your committee, Chair.

**The Chair:** The only point of going in camera was that there would be a witness list, and some will be in favour of this and some will be in favour of that. It's probably better as a private discussion than a public discussion, but I am in the hands of the committee.

Is there any other discussion? We'll be going in camera right now, and then we'll go back in public when the witnesses are called.

**Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus (Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles, CPC):** I wish.

**The Chair:** You wish? Does that mean you're in favour of the motion?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus:** I want maximum transparency.

[*English*]

**The Chair:** Oh, yes. We're all in favour of maximum transparency, but there are times we want to talk among ourselves as colleagues.

I see five on this side...six. The motion is passed.

(Motion agreed to [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

**The Chair:** Thank you, colleagues.

We are going to go in camera at this point.

[*Proceedings continue in camera*]

---







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>