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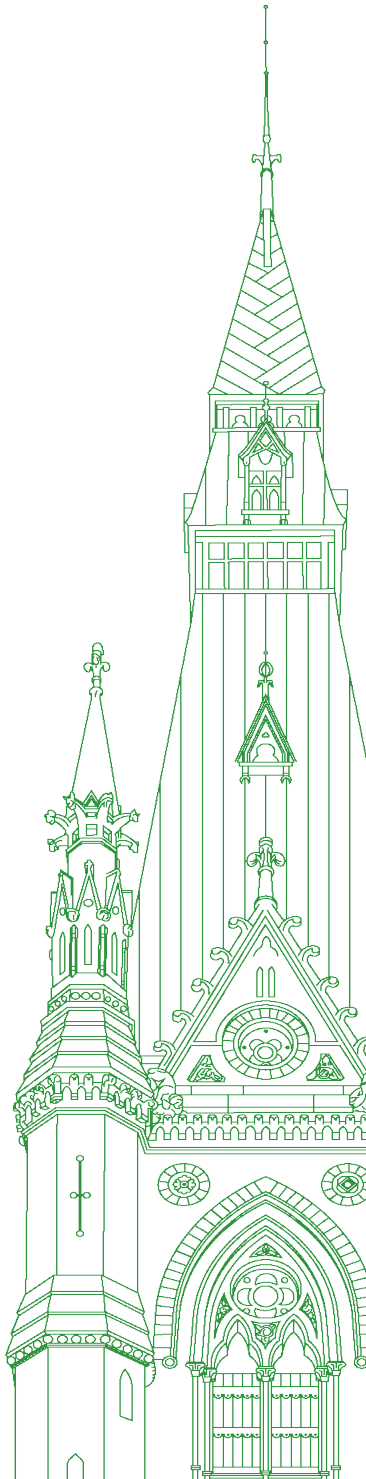
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Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities

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Chair: Robert Morrissey

Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities

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● (1130)

[*Translation*]

The Chair (Robert Morrissey (Egmont, Lib.)): I call this meeting to order.

Welcome to meeting number 55 of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

[*English*]

Pursuant to the order of reference received on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, the committee is meeting on Bill C-266, an act to establish a national framework respecting skilled trades and labour mobility.

Today's meeting is taking place in a hybrid format, pursuant to the Standing Orders of the House, but everybody is in the room. There are no virtual members.

Again, before we begin, here are a few points to remind you.

Please silence your devices and, for the protection of the translators, refrain from tapping the microphone boom.

You have the right to participate in today's meeting in the official language of your choice. I remind all members to select the interpretation channel that allows them to fully participate. It's best to wear the earpiece while you are participating so that you're current with all the conversations. If there is a breakdown in translation or a disruption, please get my attention and we'll suspend while it is being corrected.

As you are aware, today's meeting is on Bill C-266, which is the clause-by-clause section. I would like to provide members of the committee with a few comments on how committees proceed with the clause-by-clause consideration of a bill.

As the name indicates, this is an examination of all the clauses in the order in which they appear in the bill. I will call each clause successively, and each clause is subject to debate and a vote.

If there are amendments to the clause in question, I will recognize the member proposing it, who may explain it. The amendment will then be open for debate. Amendments will be considered in the order in which they appear in the package that each member received from the clerk. Amendments have been given a number in the top right corner so that we're all referencing the same document. It indicates which party submitted them. Once moved, you will need unanimous consent to withdraw.

During debate on an amendment, members are permitted to move subamendments. Only one subamendment may be considered at any time, and that subamendment cannot be amended.

I thank the members for their attention, and I wish everyone a productive clause-by-clause consideration of Bill C-266.

We'll now begin.

Pursuant to Standing Order 75(1), consideration of clause 1, which is the short title, and of the preamble are postponed until we conclude. The chair will now call them clause by clause, beginning with clause 2.

(On clause 2)

The Chair: We have G-1. We need it moved.

Go ahead, Ms. Koutrakis.

Annie Koutrakis (Vimy, Lib.): I would like to move G-1.

I think everyone, Mr. Chair, has copies of the amendments.

With this, we just want to make sure we clarify that it be amended by replacing lines 1 to 10 on page 2 with the following definition of minister:

> In this Act, “Minister” means the Minister of Employment and Social Development.

The Chair: You've heard the amendment proposed by Ms. Koutrakis.

Go ahead, Mr. Genuis, on amendment G-1.

Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC): Chair, we're happy to adopt G-1 and clause 2 on division.

The Chair: Okay.

[*Translation*]

Ms. Larouche, do you agree?

Andréanne Larouche (Shefford, BQ): Yes, since it's a matter of consistency.

[*English*]

The Chair: Okay. Shall G-1 carry?

(Amendment agreed to on division)

(Clause 2 as amended agreed to on division)

(On clause 3)

The Chair: We now move to clause 3 and amendment G-2 from the government.

Ms. Koutrakis, go ahead.

Annie Koutrakis: I would like move amendment G-2, which is that Bill C-266 be amended by replacing the heading before line 11 on page 2 with the following:

Federal Strategic Framework on Skilled Trades and Labour Mobility

It's a technical amendment to make sure we switch the term “National” to “Federal Strategic”.

The Chair: The members have heard the amendment put forward by Ms. Koutrakis.

(Amendment agreed to on division)

The Chair: We now go to G-3.

Annie Koutrakis: I would like to move G-3.

This is longer. I don't know if everyone wants me to read it, as everyone has received the amendment.

Basically, it's a technical amendment intended to switch the term from “national” to “federal strategic”. It adds language to ensure recognition of territorial jurisdiction in addition to provincial, and it provides further definition and clarity on the development of the national framework.

The Chair: Thank you, Ms. Koutrakis.

For clarification, if G-3 is adopted, CPC-1 and CPC-3 cannot be moved due to a line conflict.

Garnett Genuis: On a point of order, Chair, I do not think there's a line conflict at all with CPC-1. CPC-1 replaces line 13 on page 2.

The amendment Ms. Koutrakis has proposed touches a whole bunch of lines around it—lines 11 and 12 on page 2, line 14 on page 2 and lines 17 and 18, etc.—but it does not touch line 13 on page 2.

The Chair: Just give me a moment while I confer with the legislative counsel.

Garnett Genuis: We can suspend for a couple of minutes if that facilitates this.

● (1135)

The Chair: The conflict you're referencing is in the French text.

Garnett Genuis: The conflict is in the French text only...? That's very confusing. Could we suspend for a couple of minutes?

The Chair: Sure. We'll suspend for a minute.

● (1135)

_____(Pause)_____

● (1200)

The Chair: Thank you, committee members.

We are back in session. We required a clarification on amendment G-3.

I understand that there will be a subamendment to G-3 put forward by Mr. Genuis.

Garnett Genuis: Thank you, Chair.

I'll quickly make a couple of brief comments on process.

We had an issue, unintended, where there was a line conflict in one language and not another, which obviously creates challenges and confusion for members. There are two suggestions I would make on this that maybe the House can consider.

One is that I think it makes sense for members to be told in advance when there are line conflicts. I was told that it's not generally the process and that the chair rules on them in the moment. Going forward, I see no harm in a memo being prepared and sent in advance on line conflicts.

Second, we should, as much as possible, try to line up the versions in the two languages going forward in different legislation. The idea of bilingualism should be that a member who speaks just one language or the other should be able to work in that language, rather than needing to read the amendments in both languages, which I think in practice is very difficult. Not everyone here is both bilingual and a lawyer. I think that trying to line up the lines would make the working process a lot easier. That's just thinking for the future.

The subamendment we are moving today is to effectively incorporate the contents of CPC-1 into the subamendment. What we want to emphasize in this bill is the concept that we should be seeing greater mobility and removing mobility barriers that affect both the skilled trades workers and the apprentices. In a number of areas, that mobility is easier for trades workers but not for apprentices. For somebody who is going through the process of qualification as an apprentice, there may be reasons why they want to move between different parts of the country as well. It may be that personal circumstances require that. It may also be that there are job opportunities in other areas that they want to undertake take as apprentices.

We need our apprentices to have the opportunity to go through the qualification process. That often involves finding work and going to where the work is. It can be difficult for an apprentice to go through the process and complete their qualification if there are limits to their ability to move between different provinces.

This bill, the objective of which we support—that is, to promote mobility of skilled workers—from our perspective should also include the principle of mobility for apprentices. That's why we've put forward this amendment. We hope it will have support so that this framework will emphasize apprentice mobility, as well as the mobility of those who are fully qualified.

The subamendment has been distributed. I can read it out. Basically, there is a section that says, “barriers that prevent skilled trades workers from working”. It replaces that in English with “barriers that prevent skilled trades workers and apprentices from working”.

In French, it adds the words

● (1205)

[*Translation*]

“and apprentices” after “prevent skilled trades workers”.

[*English*]

Those are the changes that are very different in English and French, for the reasons I explained. That's our subamendment.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Genuis.

We've heard the text of the subamendment. Your earlier points were noted. Just for clarification, the committee does follow the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, fourth edition, as stated at 16.71. Your points are valid.

Do we have agreement on the subamendment?

Ms. Larouche, go ahead.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: It may make sense for this clause to talk about apprentices in the skilled trades, but I'm still going to express my disagreement, because this is still a national framework that encroaches on provincial jurisdictions. Apprentices and skilled trades fall under Quebec's jurisdiction. Even if we try to add a caveat by saying that it will be done co-operatively, this is still an area of jurisdiction that belongs to Quebec and the provinces.

If the subamendment is adopted, it will be on division.

The Chair: Thank you, Ms. Larouche.

[*English*]

Can I see hands up from those in agreement on the subamendment of Mr. Genuis?

(Subamendment agreed to on division [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Amendment as amended agreed to on division [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: Now we move to amendment CPC-2.

Mr. Genuis.

Garnett Genuis: Thank you, Chair.

I'm not especially optimistic that this one will pass, but I'll take a couple of minutes to make the case for it.

The bill as written requires that in developing a national framework, the minister hold consultations with various individuals and organizations. Included in that consultation are training and educational institutions, such as colleges.

What we are proposing to do is change that line to read “training and education institutions, public and private, such as colleges”.

This emphasizes the principle that in developing the framework for skills and for skills mobility, the government, as part of its consultations, should engage with both public and private institutions.

The reason it is important for us to include this in this discussion is that it has become clear to us that there is a lack of appreciation and understanding from many in the government about the important role that different kinds of training institutions play, especially in different regions and especially around private colleges.

The government announced a policy in the previous budget to deny funding for grants to students at private institutions. This has different effects in different parts of the country, but there are certain trades in certain regions where private institutions organized in this way are the only or the primary option. These private institutions are well recognized and are accredited by their provincial governments, and they are part of a necessary collaborative ecosystem where people acquire the skills that are necessary.

This decision by the government to deny funding to students at these private institutions risks exacerbating existing trade shortages and risks making it especially difficult for students from low- and middle-income backgrounds, who rely on student grant funding or rely on having equal access to it, to be able to make the choice to pursue studies in those areas.

Further to that, the Minister of Jobs and Families made some extremely inflammatory comments in the House about private institutions, essentially lumping them in with all kinds of disreputable fake institutions. There has clearly been a problem of enforcement by the government when it comes to institutions that are not reputable. There are also many highly reputable, properly regulated, well-respected private institutions. The government, in its statements, has lumped together the very reputable with the very disreputable. That does a great disservice to the many institutions that are providing trades and other kinds of skills as part of this training ecosystem.

We want to insert into this bill the principle that the government needs to be consulting with all kinds of different educational institutions in the development of this framework. Our hope in doing that is to push this government and any future government to be properly engaged with all sectors of the education world—public, private, union training centres, etc.

Those are my comments on the amendment, but I also want to ask some follow-up questions of the officials.

Mr. MacPhee, I think I asked you previously for some information about how many students in the skilled trades receive their training at different kinds of institutions—private versus public, etc. The feedback we got, if I understand it correctly, is that the government doesn't have or doesn't track that information. Is that correct?

● (1210)

Michael MacPhee (Assistant Deputy Minister, Skilled Trades, Young Canadians and Students Branch, Department of Employment and Social Development): The fact that this falls under provincial jurisdiction means that we don't have direct reporting to the federal government on this, so we have to work with provincial and territorial colleagues in order to obtain that information. Also, it is different from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Therefore, it's not simple to pull together.

We continue to collaborate with our PT colleagues.

Garnett Genuis: This is the point I wanted to make. It's not that you're intentionally hiding something, or anything like that, but the federal government basically doesn't have eyes on this information.

We know, in fact, that training at private institutions is very important, especially in certain regions and especially in certain trades. My colleagues, Conservative MPs in Newfoundland, have been very vocal about highlighting the importance of Academy Canada and other institutions there, for example.

The federal government doesn't have eyes on and isn't able to provide the committee with data in an accessible format that actually shows what the needs are, which underlines why we think it's important to include this in the bill. It's so that the government is consulting with those institutions.

I'll leave my comments there. Hopefully, I've been persuasive enough to get rousing support on this.

The Chair: I have Madame Larouche on amendment CPC-2.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I understand the logic behind my colleague Mr. Genuis's proposal. I don't know what the Liberals will do with it. It may seem logical and consistent to consult Quebec and add the words “public and private”, but, at the same time, officials aren't able to answer, because this falls under the jurisdiction of Quebec and the provinces. Since this is a national framework, it's interfering in something where people don't have the figures to be able to comment, even if there are consultations. Since this directly affects an area of jurisdiction of Quebec and the provinces, in any case, I will oppose Mr. Genuis's amendment.

● (1215)

[*English*]

The Chair: Is there any discussion?

Seeing none, the vote is on CPC-2.

Garnett Genuis: Can we do a recorded vote?

The Chair: Yes. There seems to be a desire in that direction, Mr. Genuis, so we'll get an indication.

(Amendment negatived: nays 7; yeas 4 [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: We'll now move to CPC-4.

Mr. Reynolds, you are going to move the amendment.

Colin Reynolds (Elmwood—Transcona, CPC): Yes. I'm going to move CPC-4.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Was CPC-3 withdrawn?

[*English*]

The Chair: CPC-3 was removed.

Colin Reynolds: I want to take a moment to talk about this, being a tradesperson myself.

Obviously, we want to support enhanced programming related to the skilled trades for students at the elementary school and secondary school levels. Being a tradesperson myself and having gone through elementary school and junior high, the push in the school system is often to have students prepare for university as a post-secondary education, and I don't think there is enough support for skilled trades and promotion of the skilled trades.

The skilled trades aren't necessarily building trades. That's my background, but there are many skilled trades, including automotive, autobody, heavy-duty mechanics and all of that, which are Red Seal skilled trades but not building trades.

There are a lot of kids out there who are very good with their hands and they don't necessarily get exposed to enough trades or presented with the option that skilled trades are for students after high school. As a post-secondary education, skilled trades training is a very viable option for a lot of kids who maybe don't see themselves in university.

I just wanted to speak to that.

The Chair: Thank you.

I have Mr. Genuis, Madame Larouche and then Ms. Koutrakis on CPC-4.

Garnett Genuis: Thank you, Chair.

I very much agree with everything my colleague said. I was at a high school in my riding a little while back. They highlighted for me that career planning starts in kindergarten. I thought that was a really important point. Maybe it sounds out of the box, but the process of being aware of careers, of thinking about what someone might do in the future, starts very early in life. Having programs that promote a familiarization with and eventually an acquisition of skills in those areas sets people up to be able to move into their career path earlier on in life.

This is very advantageous for our economy and also for young people. It is harder to develop new career skills if that requires time out of the workforce, especially when you're a bit older and have more responsibility. Earlier acquisition of those skills is very useful for the individuals and the economy.

We had some discussion. I want to propose a subamendment that I think strengthens this and adds some further clarity. We want to remove the words “students at the elementary and secondary school levels” and replace them with simply “youth”. That emphasizes, obviously, respect for jurisdiction and the value of supporting youth in their awareness and acquisition of skills related to trades.

That's the subamendment. Hopefully, it will help us get support.

● (1220)

The Chair: Committee members, Mr. Genuis has moved a subamendment to the amendment of Mr. Reynolds. Discussion will now focus on the subamendment of Mr. Genuis.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Can we reread the subamendment?

Garnett Genuis: I can read it again.

[*English*]

The Chair: It will be circulated.

All members have heard the subamendment proposed by Mr. Genuis on the amendment put forward by Mr. Reynolds.

Is there discussion on the subamendment by Mr. Genuis?

[*Translation*]

The Chair: Ms. Larouche, you have the floor.

Andréanne Larouche: Once again, I want to say how much respect I have for my colleague Mr. Genuis. As I mentioned before, I come from a family of skilled trades workers. This is a very important issue to me. However, here, we're playing with words. Where the bill talks about supporting enhanced programming related to skilled trades for students at the elementary and secondary school levels, the proposal is to replace “students at the elementary and secondary school levels” with “youth”. However, we can agree that the ones taking enriched programs are elementary and secondary school students.

Here, we're simply granting the federal government another power, through this national framework, so that it has a say in school programs, at both the elementary and secondary levels, because that's where the youth are. For those reasons, I will ask for a recorded vote, and I will vote against the subamendment.

[*English*]

The Chair: Is there any further discussion on the subamendment of Mr. Genuis?

Mr. Genuis, go ahead on your subamendment.

● (1225)

Garnett Genuis: Chair, just briefly, in response to what Ms. Larouche said, that's precisely an argument for the subamendment to pass. It is to provide greater clarity that we're talking about programs for youth and not prescribing the places where those programs would take place. I don't think everybody thinks that everything involving youth is the exclusive jurisdiction of one level of government. That doesn't strike me as consistent with practice in lots of other areas. I think that's why the subamendment is helpful and why the principle is important overall.

Thank you.

The Chair: Seeing no further discussion on the subamendment, I will call a recorded vote on the subamendment of Mr. Genuis.

Garnett Genuis: We could pass it on division.

The Chair: Madame Larouche asked for a vote. I will give her the vote.

(Subamendment agreed to: yeas 10; nays 1 [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Amendment as amended agreed to [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: We will now move to CPC-5.

Mr. Genuis, are you moving this?

Garnett Genuis: Yes, we'll move this one.

This proposes to add stronger language requiring the government to identify barriers to the mobility of skilled workers and to establish targets for the number of skilled workers “in respect of which interprovincial recognition of credentials is to be achieved, and timelines for achieving those objectives.”

In general, one of the challenges I have with this bill is that, while it's directionally pointing toward an objective we want to achieve, it's not concrete enough in certain respects on what it requires the government to do. Some of the changes the government is making through its amendments actually further extend timelines and further weaken the requirements in a bill that already doesn't require very much of the government. CPC-5 seeks to be more explicit and direct about the work that has to be done, the timelines that would have to be achieved and the levels that have to be tracked as part of a coherent plan.

This is why we're putting this forward. We hope it will have some support.

The Chair: Ms. Koutrakis, go ahead on what was put forward by Mr. Genuis.

Annie Koutrakis: I just want to remind everyone that engagements with provinces and territories are always ongoing. We also have the workforce alliances. I'm wondering if I can turn to the officials and have them share with the committee the type of work that is ongoing currently in that regard.

Michael MacPhee: There is regular engagement with the provinces and territories across a number of different venues. There is formal engagement through committees that have been established, such as the Forum of Labour Market Ministers and the subcommittees that are official-level committees, where these types of discussions take place on a regular basis.

In addition to that, there are ad hoc discussions that are constantly ongoing as we work through different types of measures that we are collaboratively trying to implement. That work is ongoing in that space as well.

You also have the Canadian council of directors of apprenticeship, which is a committee formed of all 13 provincial and territorial jurisdictions, as well as two members from ESDC, where we are specifically working in the Red Seal trade space in order to harmonize and add trades to the Red Seal roster.

Then, as you've also mentioned, we have a series of six workforce alliances that are being established to allow us to work with other jurisdictions, as well as key sector leads, to better understand how we can adapt the labour market and our efforts in the labour market to meet the emerging needs.

● (1230)

The Chair: Madame Larouche, go ahead on CPC-5.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Here, the proposal is that the federal government set clear objectives and deadlines in Quebec to accelerate the recognition of the standards or professional credentials of workers in other provinces. The former Quebec minister of labour had already raised concerns about the fact that the federal government is trying to impose deadlines on the provinces when it comes to this. This obviously falls under their jurisdiction. What about language, for example, to name just one example of what could be affected?

For those reasons, I will ask for a recorded vote, and I will vote against this amendment.

[*English*]

The Chair: Mr. Reynolds, I believe Madame Larouche called for a vote on the amendment. I'll allow you to speak on it before we go to the vote.

Colin Reynolds: I just want to add that consultations have been going on for decades regarding apprenticeships and stuff. With regard to the skilled trades, I think that adding some measurable timelines is not unreasonable. Obviously, with the situation our country is in, the government has been announcing repeatedly that we need more skilled trades. I think that adding a timeline to this is appropriate.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Reynolds.

Madame Larouche called for a vote on CPC-5.

(Amendment negatived: nays 7; yeas 4 [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Clause 3 as amended agreed to)

The Chair: We will now move to CPC-6, which would create new clause 3.1.

Mr. Reynolds, are you moving CPC-6?

Colin Reynolds: Yes, I am, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: You have the floor.

Colin Reynolds: Thank you.

This amendment would add the following clause:

> 3.1 The Minister must establish an advisory committee to advise and assist the Minister on matters relating to the harmonization of skilled trades apprenticeships across Canada.

I think this is important because it will provide space for communication among all the provincial jurisdictions. As Mr. MacPhee mentioned, many of these things are provincial jurisdiction. We do have things like the Canadian council of directors of apprenticeship, but a national committee would be a place where all of these groups could gather. I think it would be setting a tone for the rest of the country, showing how serious this issue is at the federal level.

That's my case for this.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Reynolds.

Go ahead, Madame Larouche, on amendment CPC-6 by Mr. Reynolds.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I was still listening to what my colleague was saying, of course. However, there are two things to mention about CPC-6.

First, the advisory committee is an additional organization, so it will require more public servants and more advisers. The amendment then talks about the harmonization of apprenticeships. For us, that's unacceptable, so I will ask for a recorded vote, and I will be voting against the amendment.

[*English*]

The Chair: Madame Larouche has called for a vote on the amendment moved by Mr. Reynolds, identified as CPC-6.

(Amendment negatived: nays 7; yeas 4 [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(On clause 4)

The Chair: Under clause 4, we have an amendment from the government. It is G-4, in your package.

Go ahead, Madame Koutrakis.

● (1235)

Annie Koutrakis: I would like to move G-4.

I move that Bill C-266, in clause 4, be amended by, (a) replacing line 22 on page 3 with the following, under “Tabling of national framework”:

> 4 (1) Within two years after the day on which this Act

Then, (b), it would also be amended by replacing line 24 on page 3 with the following:

> ting out the federal strategic framework and cause it to be tabled

Basically, it's a technical amendment. It's intended to amend the legislative reporting time of the act, ensuring that the report will be tabled in two years, informed by findings from the year prior.

Again, we would like to switch the term “national” to “federal strategic”.

The Chair: Thank you, Ms. Koutrakis.

She has moved amendment G-4.

We have Mr. Genuis, for discussion on G-4, and then Madame Larouche.

Garnett Genuis: Thank you, Chair.

We do not support this amendment.

We need to build big in this country. The Prime Minister has talked about building at speeds not seen in generations. That is not happening. We continually see efforts by the government to extend timelines and move goalposts when it comes to these kinds of issues. I think that's a way of masking the absence of results.

We have a bill before us aimed at improving the mobility of trades workers. It's an important objective, and something that the government should have been working on for the last 10 years, frankly. Now, we have a bill that already says that the government will have a full year, from the time of the adoption of the bill, before it needs to present that report. The government wants to extend that to another two years.

The government has told us that this work is already ongoing. The sponsor of the bill has said that the work of preparing this framework is already ongoing. This bill, likely, won't become law for quite some time, given the fact that it needs to complete its journey in this House and then work its way through the Senate. Most optimistically, if this bill becomes law by the end of the spring session 2027, the government would still have, effectively, a year and a half from now to prepare and table a framework, but now they want to have two and a half years.

A more likely timeline, frankly, is that this bill will become law around this time next year. The government will likely have, from today, two years in any event. Now, with this amendment, they would have three years. This is just an enormous amount of time for the government to ask for, to complete homework that should have done a long time ago.

I'd like to hear more about moving quickly, instead of about asking for, effectively, three years to complete work that's supposedly already going on, and that, frankly, this country needed done a long time ago. If this government is serious about solving the problems around trades mobility, it will embrace a more aggressive timeline, rather than try to elongate the timeline for its own convenience.

On that basis, we're going to be strongly opposing this amendment.

The Chair: Madame Larouche, go ahead on amendment G-4.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Here, the proposal aims to extend the deadline for tabling the framework from one year to two years. It also amends the name of the national framework again. Unlike our colleagues, we may well agree with the amendment, since it allows for more time, but we are against the clause, in any case. I would therefore like the result of the vote to be recorded as on division.

● (1240)

[*English*]

The Chair: Is there any further discussion on amendment G-4?

Garnett Genuis: I would like a recorded vote.

The Chair: That makes it simple. We'll have a recorded vote on amendment G-4.

(Amendment agreed to: yeas 7; nays 4 [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: We'll move on to CPC-7.

Who is introducing this?

Mr. Genuis, go ahead on CPC-7.

Garnett Genuis: One of our concerns about this bill is that the only change it makes is, theoretically, to impose a reporting obligation on the government, but there is no consequence if the government doesn't honour that notional obligation.

While we support this bill—because it suggests that the government will move in a positive direction, and a direction we align with—the substance of the bill isn't really there. Our amendment tries to take one step towards addressing this, which is to say, if the government does not honour a reporting obligation it has—the requirement to table this framework within a certain time frame—it would be expected to provide a statement setting out the reasons for the delay and the date by which the report will be tabled. This isn't a massive consequence. It is just our effort to use the framework of the existing bill, as it is, to try to establish this: If the government does not meet the reporting obligation, it should provide an explanation as to why it hasn't met that requirement.

I think that's pretty minimal and reasonable. In the absence of something like this, it's that much easier for the government to ignore the effective suggestion that this bill constitutes.

Thank you.

The Chair: Is there further discussion on CPC-7?

Madame Larouche, go ahead on CPC-7.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I understand that it's a matter of consistency here. This amends the date for tabling the progress report so that it's consistent with the amendment to the deadline for tabling the framework. There is also talk of adding territorial governments. We are in favour of this amendment, but the fact remains that we are against the clause.

[*English*]

The Chair: Thank you.

Seeing no further discussion, I will call for a recorded vote on CPC-7.

The Clerk of the Committee (Alexandre Longpré): The vote count is five nays and six yeas.

The Chair: CPC-7 is defeated. Shall clause 4 carry as amended?

Go ahead, Madame Larouche.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I'm sorry, I'm trying to get my bearings.

[*English*]

The Chair: We're on clause 4. We were about to carry it.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I'm told that the previous vote was on CPC-7. I'm sorry; I thought it was on another amendment. I want to vote against CPC-7, if it's possible to change my vote.

[*English*]

The Chair: I can entertain that with the unanimous consent of the committee.

I would strongly advise you to respect Madame Larouche's request. You may be in the same situation.

I am seeing unanimous consent to change the recorded vote on CPC-7 to reflect Madame Larouche as against.

(Amendment negatived: nays 7; yeas 4 [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: I see clause 4 carried as amended. We have agreement on that.

We now move to clause 5.

● (1245)

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: No, Mr. Chair. I am opposed to clause 4.

It's a vote on the clause and not on the amendment, right?

[*English*]

The Chair: I have support to carry clause 4 as amended.

If you wish to register your opposition, you can.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I am against clause 4. I don't know if we need to go to a vote or adopt it on division. I was in favour of certain amendments, but I'm against clause 4.

[*English*]

The Chair: Thank you, Madame Larouche.

(Clause 4 as amended agreed to on division)

(On clause 5)

The Chair: On clause 5, we have amendment G-5 from the government.

On G-5, we have Ms. Koutrakis.

Annie Koutrakis: I would like to move G-5.

Again, this is a technical amendment. It's intended to clarify reporting timelines and require a report every two years for all the reasons that we've previously discussed. It also switches the term “national” to “federal strategic”.

The Chair: You've heard the amendment to clause 5 put forward by Ms. Koutrakis. Is there any discussion on amendment G-5?

We have Madame Larouche.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I can support the amendment for consistency reasons, but I'd like my opposition to be reflected in the result of the vote when we vote on the clause.

[*English*]

The Chair: Okay.

Currently on the floor is G-5. G-5 has been introduced by Ms. Koutrakis. If G-5 is adopted, CPC-8 cannot be moved due to a line conflict. With that, I will call a recorded vote on—

Garnett Genuis: We can do it on division.

(Amendment agreed to on division [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: We'll move to CPC-9. CPC-8 had a line conflict with G-5, so that negated it.

Who is moving it?

Mr. Genuis, go ahead on CPC-9. CPC-8 was negated by the last vote.

Garnett Genuis: There are a number of different elements in here.

I understand that the government may have a subamendment to this, but, as required, we'll move the amendment as is. It basically requires certain additional information to be included as part of the report, including information about barriers to interprovincial mobility, average times required for certification between different provinces and some additional information required in the progress report. I think these measures strengthen the reports by requiring additional measures and information.

I understand that we may have support for part of it. I'll put it on the table, and we can hear any subamendments.

The Chair: CPC-9 has been moved by Mr. Genuis. The floor is open for discussion.

Ms. Koutrakis is next.

Annie Koutrakis: I would like to propose an amendment, if I may. We had a conversation earlier, so it won't be a surprise to my colleagues.

The Chair: It's a subamendment. You have the floor.

Annie Koutrakis: It's a subamendment that says that Bill C-266 in clause 5 be amended, (a) by adding after line 11 on page 4 the following:

> (a.1) the average time required for a skilled trades worker certified in one province to have their credentials recognized in another province during the reporting period;

● (1250)

The Chair: You have heard the subamendment on this. I'm going to suspend for a few moments while the legislative clerk verifies the language.

● (1250)

_____(Pause)_____

● (1255)

The Chair: The committee is back in session. We were suspended while there was some discussion on the subamendment to CPC-9.

Is there any further discussion on the subamendment proposed to CPC-9?

Garnett Genuis: We're happy to adopt the subamendment on division.

The Chair: Go ahead, Madame Larouche.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Was it sent to us by email?

The Chair: One moment, please.

[*English*]

We must respect both official languages while we're reviewing and making changes, so until the legislative clerk advises me, we do not proceed.

● (1255)

_____(Pause)_____

● (1305)

The Chair: Committee members, the committee is back in session.

We suspended while there was administrative work being done on the subamendment to CPC-9. The subamendment moved by Ms. Koutrakis has been translated and circulated.

Is there any discussion on the subamendment of Ms. Koutrakis?

Madame Larouche.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I can support the amendment, since it's a matter of consistency, but given that G-3 concerns clause 3, I'm going to vote against it anyway.

[*English*]

The Chair: Okay.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I would also like a recorded vote on the clause.

[*English*]

The Chair: When we get there...yes.

At the moment, committee members, we are seeking direction on the subamendment moved by Ms. Koutrakis to amendment CPC-9.

Do I see the adoption—

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: In any case, I am against the clause. Perhaps there was an agreement, but, with all due respect to Mr. Genuis, his proposal concerns a clause that we oppose. At the end of the day, the federal government doesn't have to monitor Quebec's progress on labour mobility and professional standards. I'm against the clause.

[*English*]

The Chair: Thank you.

I see no further discussion on the subamendment to CPC-9, as moved by Ms. Koutrakis.

(Subamendment agreed to on division [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Amendment as amended agreed to: yeas 10; nays 1 [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: We'll move on to CPC-10. Mr. Genuis is speaking to it.

Garnett Genuis: This amendment strengthens accountability and adds additional tracking and data metrics to the bill. This is in the spirit of a number of the amendments we're putting forward to try to make the bill stronger, require more information as part of these reports and strengthen the utility of the reports being done for everybody involved.

Thank you.

The Chair: Is there discussion on the amendment put forward by Mr. Genuis?

Madame Larouche, go ahead on amendment CPC-10.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I request a recorded vote. This amendment involves monitoring Quebec, so I'll be voting against it.

[*English*]

The Chair: Is there further discussion on CPC-10?

(Amendment negatived: nays 7; yeas 4 [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: We will now move on to CPC-11.

Go ahead, Mr. Genuis.

● (1310)

Garnett Genuis: Very simply, this amendment calls for cost transparency around the framework. I think it's very appropriate that there be cost transparency around what's put forward.

The Chair: You have heard the amendment put forward by Mr. Genuis.

Madame Larouche.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Although it may seem logical, with all due respect to my colleague Mr. Genuis, I'm going to vote against CPC-11.

[*English*]

The Chair: Is there any further discussion on CPC-11?

(Amendment negatived [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Clause 5 as amended agreed to on division)

The Chair: We'll now move on to clause 6—

Garnett Genuis: Mr. Chair, on a point of order, I think you might find agreement to do G-6 and G-7 on clause 6, and G-8 on clause 1, together on division.

The Chair: I appreciate your assistance.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Can you repeat that, please?

[*English*]

The Chair: Please repeat it slowly, Mr. Genuis.

Garnett Genuis: It would be clause 6, clause 1 and all of the proposed amendments adopted on division.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: I'm sorry, I was having some technical issues. Can you repeat that?

Garnett Genuis: It would be clause 6 and clause 1, and each amendment associated with those clauses: G-6, G-7 and G-8—

Andréanne Larouche: When the microphone button is on, I can't hear the interpretation. I don't know why my microphone is switching on, but it's preventing me from hearing the interpretation. I'm sorry.

[*English*]

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Genuis.

I'd prefer, as chair, to deal with it clause by clause.

(On clause 6)

The Chair: Clause 6 currently has amendments G-6 and G-7.

We're on G-6. We have to do them one by one.

(Amendment agreed to on division [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: We're on amendment G-7. Shall it carry on division?

(Amendment agreed to on division [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Clause 6 as amended agreed to on division)

(On clause 1)

The Chair: We need to now go to G-8 and clause 1, the short title.

(Amendment agreed to on division [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Clause 1 as amended agreed to on division)

(On the preamble)

The Chair: I'm going to ask the legislative clerk to explain the direction on CPC-12.

● (1315)

Vanessa Preston (Committee Researcher): Because text from CPC-1 was adopted as a subamendment to G-3, CPC-12 can be moved if you would like to move it.

Garnett Genuis: Yes, I would. I didn't know there was an alternative, though.

CPC-12 inserts language in the preamble emphasizing the importance of apprentice mobility as well as the mobility of fully qualified skilled workers. Obviously, the preamble is a way we express the context and the meaning of what we're doing. It doesn't have the same significance as the text of the bill itself, but I think it is valuable to highlight in the preamble, as well, the value of mobility for apprentices.

Hopefully, since we had agreement before on the value of apprentice mobility, people will be open to this one as well.

The Chair: Go ahead, Madame Larouche.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Once again, it may seem consistent with what was discussed. However, since we are against establishing a national framework, for the reasons I have mentioned, I would still like to vote against CPC-12.

[*English*]

The Chair: I will call for a recorded vote on CPC-12.

(Amendment negatived: nays 7; yeas 4)

(Preamble agreed to on division)

(On the title)

The Chair: The government has an amendment to the title: G-9.

Annie Koutrakis: I would like to move G-9. I move that Bill C-266 be amended by replacing the long title on page 1 with the following:

> An Act to establish a federal strategic framework on skilled trades and labour mobility

Again, it's a technical amendment and intended to switch the term “national” to “federal strategic”.

The Chair: You have heard the amendment.

We'll go to Madame Larouche on amendment G-9.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: Again, it's a matter of consistency. I'm in favour of the amendment, but against the clause.

[*English*]

The Chair: Seeing no further discussion, shall G-9 carry?

(Amendment agreed to on division)

(Title as amended agreed to)

The Chair: Shall the bill as amended carry?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Andréanne Larouche: On division.

[*English*]

The Chair: Shall the chair report the bill as amended to the House?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Chair: Shall the committee order a reprint of the bill as amended for the use of the House at report stage?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

● (1320)

The Chair: With that, committee members, thank you for your deliberations this afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 19, when we will begin our study of Bill S-209.

Is it the will of the committee to adjourn?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Chair: We're adjourned.

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