

Legislative  
Assembly  
of Ontario



Assemblée  
législative  
de l'Ontario

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**Official Report  
of Debates  
(Hansard)**

F-20

**Journal  
des débats  
(Hansard)**

F-20

**Standing Committee on  
Finance and Economic Affairs**

Organization

**Comité permanent  
des finances  
et des affaires économiques**

Organisation

1<sup>st</sup> Session  
44<sup>th</sup> Parliament

Tuesday 17 February 2026

1<sup>re</sup> session  
44<sup>e</sup> législature

Mardi 17 février 2026

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Chair: Hon. Ernie Hardeman  
Clerk: Lesley Flores

Président : L'hon. Ernie Hardeman  
Greffière : Lesley Flores

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

Tuesday 17 February 2026

ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO

**COMITÉ PERMANENT DES FINANCES  
ET DES AFFAIRES ÉCONOMIQUES**

Mardi 17 février 2026

*The committee met at 1002 in committee room 1.*

**APPOINTMENT OF FIRST VICE-CHAIR**

**The Chair (Hon. Ernie Hardeman):** Good morning, everyone. I call this meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs to order.

We will move to our first item of business: the appointment of a First Vice-Chair.

Standing order 119(e) states: “Where the Chair of a standing committee is a member of the party forming the government, the First Vice-Chair shall be a member of the official opposition and the Second Vice-Chair shall be a member of a recognized party in opposition to the government other than the official opposition....”

It is now my duty to entertain a motion for the appointment of a First Vice-Chair. Is there a motion? MPP Bell.

**Ms. Jessica Bell:** I move that MPP Shaw be appointed First Vice-Chair.

**The Chair (Hon. Ernie Hardeman):** Any debate on the motion? MPP Smith.

**Mr. Dave Smith:** Just a question on protocol: If we all vote in favour of her being the First Vice-Chair, does she need to be present to say yes to accepting the position?

**The Chair (Hon. Ernie Hardeman):** No.

Any further debate? If not, all those in favour? All those opposed, if any? The motion is carried. MPP Shaw is First Vice-Chair.

**APPOINTMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEE**

**The Chair (Hon. Ernie Hardeman):** There is a vacancy on the subcommittee on committee business. We'll now move to the appointment of a replacement for MPP Begum on the subcommittee. Is there a motion? MPP Bell.

**Ms. Jessica Bell:** I move that MPP Shaw be appointed to the subcommittee on committee business.

**The Chair (Hon. Ernie Hardeman):** Is there any debate on the appointment? Are the members ready to vote? All those in favour? All those opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

We will now recess for a brief moment and move into closed session in order to begin report-writing.

*The committee recessed at 1005 and later continued in closed session.*





**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Chair / Président**

Hon. Ernie Hardeman (Oxford PC)

**First Vice-Chair / Première Vice-Présidente**

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**Second Vice-Chair / Deuxième Vice-Président**

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Mr. Rob Cerjanec (Ajax L)

Hon. Ernie Hardeman (Oxford PC)

Mr. Logan Kanapathi (Markham–Thornhill PC)

Mr. Joseph Racinsky (Wellington–Halton Hills PC)

MPP Bill Rosenberg (Algoma–Manitoulin PC)

Mr. Brian Saunderson (Simcoe–Grey PC)

Ms. Sandy Shaw (Hamilton West–Ancaster–Dundas / Hamilton-Ouest–Ancaster–Dundas ND)

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Ms. Lee Fairclough (Etobicoke–Lakeshore L)

MPP Mohamed Firin (York South–Weston / York-Sud–Weston PC)

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