



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Standing Committee
on
Families and Communities

Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act Review

Monday, December 4, 2023
8:30 a.m.

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**Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 31st Legislature
First Session**

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC), Chair
Gochring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP), Deputy Chair

Batten, Diana M.B., Calgary-Acadia (NDP)
Boitchenko, Andrew, Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)
Long, Martin M., West Yellowhead (UC)
Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC)
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8:30 a.m.

Monday, December 4, 2023

[Ms Lovely in the chair]

The Chair: I'd like to welcome members, staff, and guests to this meeting of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities.

My name is Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose and chair of the committee. I'd ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, so we'll start to my right.

Mrs. Petrovic: Hi. I'm Chelsae Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. McDougall: Myles McDougall, MLA for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Singh: Good morning, everyone. Peter Singh, MLA, Calgary-East.

Mr. Long: Martin Long, the MLA for West Yellowhead.

Member Batten: Diana Batten, MLA for Calgary-Acadia.

Dr. Metz: Luanne Metz, MLA for Calgary-Varsity.

Ms Govindarajan: Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel.

Mr. Bhurgri: Abdul Aziz Bhurgri, research officer.

Ms Robert: Good morning, everyone. Nancy Robert, clerk of *Journals* and committees.

Ms Rempel: Good morning. Jody Rempel, committee clerk.

The Chair: I have a note here from Andrew Boitchenko that he is having to dial in. Andrew, you're not linked up to the call yet. Is he? Can you see him?

Ms Rempel: No, he's not. I can forward him the information again.

The Chair: Okay. I'm just sending him a text message. He's got the message, and if you wouldn't mind just sending that to him, that would be great.

All right. Just for the record I'd like to note the following substitution: Mr. McDougall is substituting for Mr. Lundy. Thank you so much.

A few housekeeping items before we turn to the business at hand. Please note that the microphones are operated by *Hansard*, so members do not need to turn them on or off. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

Before proceeding further, as this is the first meeting of this committee for the 31st Legislature, I'd like to discuss remote participation in committee. As many of you know, section 6 of the Legislative Assembly Act permits participation in a committee "by means of telephone or other communication facilities that permit all Members participating in the meeting to hear each other if all members of the committee consent." Our committee meeting rooms are equipped to facilitate meeting participation by telephone and videoconference. If this is something we want to permit, then this committee may wish to pass a motion, which needs to be passed unanimously, to approve remote participation by members for the duration of the Legislature. I would note that such a motion would not preclude the committee from determining that in-person attendance at specific meetings is required. In those cases a motion would be considered at the end of a particular

meeting requesting the attendance in person of members at a subsequent meeting.

If some members are participating remotely for today – I'll just mention – they are unable to vote on this motion. Once the motion passes, they will be able to participate fully in the meeting.

Would a member like to move that

the Standing Committee on Families and Communities consent for the purpose of section 6 of the Legislative Assembly Act to remote participation by any member in the committee's meetings held at the designated committee meeting rooms in the Queen Elizabeth II Building during the 31st Legislature unless the committee carries a motion in advance of a meeting that remote participation of members is not permitted at that meeting?

Mrs. Petrovic: I'll move the motion.

The Chair: Okay. Moved by Member Petrovic. All those in favour? Okay. I think we have unanimous consent.

It is carried.

Now that we have passed that motion, do we have Andrew logged into the call?

Ms Rempel: He has still not joined, but we have two others.

Dr. Metz: I just want to note that both Nicole Goehring, who is stuck in traffic and had meant to be here, will connect, and Lizette Tejada will connect remotely, just so you're aware.

The Chair: All right. Members participating remotely should ensure that they are prepared to speak or vote when called upon, and videoconference participants are encouraged to have their cameras on, if possible, when speaking. So if you're driving, Nicole, please don't turn your camera on. We don't want you to have a car accident. We'd like you to get here safely.

Members participating remotely may now introduce themselves. I'll look to Nicole first.

Ms Goehring: Good morning, and thank you, Chair. Nicole Goehring, deputy chair, MLA for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

The Chair: Fantastic. And Lizette.

Member Tejada: Good morning, everyone. Lizette Tejada, MLA for Calgary-Klein, joining remotely.

The Chair: Welcome, ladies.

When we get Andrew on, we'll take a moment and allow him to introduce himself as well.

With that settled, I'd like to draw everyone's attention to the draft meeting agenda. Would anyone like to propose any amendments at all?

Ms Goehring: Madam Chair, if I could.

The Chair: Please.

Ms Goehring: I would like to be able to discuss future planning for the meetings and that it be polled for all members when it comes to setting the next meeting.

The Chair: Sorry; I missed one word, so could you please repeat that?

Ms Goehring: I would just like to propose that for future meetings we have the opportunity to have schedules and times proposed and polled for all members for consideration.

The Chair: I think it's fair. We want to make sure that all members are able to participate. That's a fair request. Absolutely.

Anyone else? Okay.

Would a member move a motion to approve the agenda? Moved by Peter Singh. Okay. Peter Singh moved that the Standing Committee on Families and Communities approve the proposed agenda as distributed for its December 4, 2023, meeting. All those in favour? Any opposed? Motion carried.

Like the other committees of the Assembly . . .

Ms Goehring: Online? Madam Chair, those online?

The Chair: Oh, sorry. Yes, those online. Members online, you can vote at the same time by putting up your hand so we could do it all at once. Lizette and Nicole, if you could vote that way, that would be much appreciated. And Jody is monitoring. I see Lizette's hand up. Nicole, did you vote in favour of that as well?

Ms Goehring: Yeah.

The Chair: Thanks. Okay.

Like the other committees of the Assembly, the Standing Committee on Families and Communities operates based on instructions from the Assembly contained in specific resolutions by rules provided in the standing orders or by established practice. Under the standing orders this committee has a mandate to consider subjects related to Children and Family Services; Education; Health; Justice; Mental Health and Addiction; Public Safety and Emergency Services; Seniors, Community and Social Services; Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction.

The committee is supported in its work by the nonpartisan staff of the Legislative Assembly Office. Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel, and Jody Rempel, committee clerk, are both assigned to support this committee. Of course, there are staff from other Legislative Assembly Office branches who support all of our meetings, including research and committee services, Legislative Assembly security services, venue services, *Alberta Hansard*, and ITS and broadcasting.

Oh, yes. Okay. Mr. Boitchenko, thank you so much for joining us. We can see you online. Let's pause for a moment and have you introduce yourself.

Mr. Boitchenko: Hi, everyone. This is Andrew Boitchenko, MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon. I'm sorry I can't make it in person today because I got sick. I'll be joining online.

Thank you.

The Chair: Well, thank you so much, Member, for joining us online, and I hope that you're feeling better soon. And isn't this nice, that we can allow remote participation and still carry on our business.

Mr. Boitchenko: Thank you so much.

The Chair: With regard to temporary substitutions, standing orders 56(2.1) to (2.4) outline the process for the substitutions of chairs, deputy chairs, and committee members. For convenience, substitution notice templates are available on OurHouse for members to use, or you may draft your own notice. Please note that it is the responsibility of the original committee member to ensure that a substituting member is prepared for the meeting and has all the appropriate materials. Should the original committee member participate in the meeting – boy, this is a lot of talking – then the substitution is no longer in effect. Members who are not committee members or official substitutes may attend and participate in committee meetings; however, they may not vote or move motions.

Should the proceedings move in camera, these members would require specific consent of the committee to remain in attendance. If you or your staff have questions about the substitution process, I would encourage you to follow up with any of the committee clerks.

Recorded votes. After a vote or a motion has been completed, a committee member may request a recorded vote. The process for a recorded vote in a committee is similar to the process for division in the House. I will ask, first, those in the room who are in favour of the motion to raise their hands, and then the committee clerk will call the names of those who have raised their hands and record the votes. We will then follow the same process for those who are against the motion. If we have remote participants, a similar process in which they are asked to turn their cameras on if they wish to vote will follow. I will then ask one final time if all committee members who wish to vote have done so, and the committee clerk will record any final votes cast. After this, the clerk will tally the votes and advise the chair of the number of votes cast for and against the motion. I will indicate whether the motion has been carried or defeated, and the details of the vote will be recorded in the minutes.

8:40

Subcommittee on committee business. Hon. members, Standing Order 52.011(3) requires that all legislative policy committees appoint a subcommittee on committee business at their first meeting. The subcommittee on committee business is "to meet from time to time at the call of the Chair and to report to the committee on the business of the committee." The committee is able to task the subcommittee on committee business to work on matters that will assist the committee to organize and complete its work. Are there any questions or comments related to the establishment on the subcommittee on committee business?

All right. We have a draft motion, and I'll just read it. That the Standing Committee on Families and Communities establish a subcommittee on committee business to which the following applies: the subcommittee will meet at the call of the chair to consider the business of the committee and report to the committee; the subcommittee will be composed of the following members: the chair of the committee as chair, one committee member who is a member of the Official Opposition, one committee member who is a member of the government caucus; the presence of all members of the subcommittee is necessary to constitute a meeting; substitutions from the membership of the committee may be permitted on the subcommittee.

Is there someone who would like to move that? Moved by Martin Long. Is there any discussion?

All right. All those in favour? Are you voting remotely?

Mr. Boitchenko: Yes. I raised my hand online as well.

The Chair: Okay.

Nicole, we're not seeing anything from you.

Ms Goehring: Yes. I vote yes.

The Chair: Did you vote yes? Okay. Thank you so much. Just wanting to make sure it's inclusive.

That's also been passed with unanimous consent.

Thank you, everyone.

Who are those members going to be? Let's ask the Official Opposition. Do you have a member who you'd like to appoint?

Dr. Metz: Do we have to do that right now?

The Chair: No, you don't. I just wanted to offer the opportunity if you had somebody in mind.

Dr. Metz: I think we haven't figured that out yet.

The Chair: No pressure and no problem. If you would like to discuss with your team who you would like the . . .

Ms Goehring: It's going to be me.

The Chair: Okay. Fantastic.
And from our side?

Mr. Long: Since he's not here, MLA Lundy.

The Chair: Okay. There you go. That's how we roll.

All right. Okay. Let's move along here. Review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act. This is Government Motion 7. As members will be aware, on October 31 the Assembly approved Government Motion 7, which referred the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act to this committee for review. The committee's report may include recommendations for amendments to this act. I would also note that this committee has only six months to complete its review; therefore, the timeline will be tight, particularly considering that we will likely be dealing with the main estimates in the spring. For those of you who have returned, you know that this consumes an awful lot of time, so we need to expedite this. Are there any questions regarding the mandate of this committee in reviewing this legislation? Okay. Perfect.

Overview of the review process. As this is the first review of the committee during the 31st Legislature, I'll provide a bit of an overview of how statute reviews of this nature have historically proceeded. First, there is an orientation meeting, which we are engaging in today, where the committee reviews its mandate and begins looking at mapping out how it wishes to proceed. It may include defining mechanisms for gathering information and engagement. This phase often involves the committee requesting technical briefings and making decisions on receiving information from stakeholders and the public. It may also involve requesting research on the topic at hand. Following the receipt of information that the committee has solicited, analysis of that information begins, including receiving summaries of written submissions.

If additional information is required, the committee may request it and also ask for summaries of the additional information received. Once it has completed this stage, the committee moves to deliberations and the making of recommendations that will be reported to the Assembly.

Do the committee members have any questions or comments? Okay.

I'm sorry, Member Goehring. Your perfume is making my throat stop working. My deepest apologies.

Ms Goehring: Is that far enough, or do you want me to . . .

The Chair: We'll see.

Requesting technical briefings.

Oh, it seems to be working better now. Thank you.

Hon. members, in reviews such as the one we have before us, the first step is typically to request technical briefings on the statute from officials whose responsibility it is to administer it and who are aware of how it operates. In this case we would likely be turning to the ministry of Treasury Board and Finance and the Ministry of Justice. I'd like to open the floor to any comments, questions, or motions in relation to technical briefings.

Mr. Singh: I can move the motion.

The Chair: Okay. I'll just read through it here. That the Standing Committee on Families and Communities invite officials from the ministry of Treasury Board and Finance and the Ministry of Justice to provide a technical briefing on the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act at an upcoming meeting of the committee.

Is there any discussion at all? Okay.

All those in favour? All right. And those remotely, have you voted? Okay. I see Boitchenko has voted. Lizette, are you voting? Okay. Perfect.

Passed unanimously.

Thank you everyone.

Hon. members, it is customary to invite officials from the relevant ministries to also provide ongoing assistance to both the Legislative Assembly Office and the committee throughout reviews of this kind. I'd like to open the floor to any comments, questions, or motions in relation to inviting ongoing assistance from ministry officials. Okay.

We have another motion that I think has been submitted. I'll just read that out.

In support of the committee's review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act the Standing Committee on Families and Communities invites officials from the ministry of Treasury Board and Finance and the Ministry of Justice: (a) to approve technical assistance as required to the committee and Legislative Assembly Office, and (b) to attend meetings of the committee when requested in order to provide technical expertise.

Moved by? Okay. Member Petrovic. Any discussion at all? All right. Let's go to the vote.

All those in favour? All right. And those remotely? Lizette, I see your hand. Mr. Boitchenko? Okay. Are there any against? All right. Looks like it's carried.

Mr. Boitchenko: Sorry. I raised my hand for it, so . . .

The Chair: That's okay. We got you. Thank you so much, Member.

Mr. Boitchenko: Yeah. Thank you.

The Chair: All right. Research services. Hon. members, as you know, research services with the Legislative Assembly Office is here to assist the committee with its review. I would like to call upon Ms Nancy Robert, clerk of *Journals* and committees, to provide an overview of the kinds of support the committee can utilize as we proceed with the review.

Ms Robert.

8:50

Ms Robert: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good morning again, everyone. For those of you who are returning, you've probably heard this song before, but for new members I'll just go through some of the processes. Research and committee services includes a couple of research officers, one of whom you just met, Abdul, who, by the way, is new to our organization. He joined us in the fall, and he has a background in political science and a bachelor of law as well. He works alongside Dr. Christina Williamson, whom many of you have met and is also a research officer, to provide research to the committees of the Assembly.

Of course, I'll just reiterate, which you probably already know, it's nonpartisan research, and we provide research for the entire committee. We don't work for specific members; just whatever the will of the committee is, that's what research is available to do. In terms of a review such as this, the chair alluded to some of the processes that historically have been followed in terms of gathering

information and then analyzing it. Research services is quite happy and well equipped to assist the committee in that vein.

Research, you know, can put together a draft or proposed stakeholder list, that members might want to consider in deciding which stakeholders they may want to receive written submissions from or oral presentations from. Once that process has gone through and when those submissions all come in, research will also, if tasked, provide issue-based summaries for the committee to make the information a little bit easier to digest, hopefully. Of course, all submissions are available to all committee members as well if they wish to read them all.

Research services can also provide crossjurisdictional statute information. So if there are other jurisdictions that have similar legislation to this legislation that you're reviewing, research, if tasked, can provide a crossjurisdictional analysis of the legislation in other jurisdictions, which can be quite helpful in getting a sense of what other jurisdictions are doing in this area.

Once that's all done and the committee is ready to start to deliberate on the things that it has heard, the issues that have been raised, the recommendations that have been raised, research, if tasked, can put together what they call an issues and proposals document, which is a table which lists by subject matter all of the issues and recommendations that have been heard into one document for the committee's use for whatever it would like to do with it, whether it wants to consider it or come up with its own recommendations.

Then once the committee has made the recommendations it wishes to make, research, if tasked, can put together a draft final report which includes all the recommendations that the committee has made, including some contextual information on how the committee got there. That's sort of a bit of a synopsis of the type of work and support that research can offer to the committee. I think I'll stop there, but I'm happy to answer any questions if there are any.

Thank you.

The Chair: Any questions? No? Okay.

We'll move along to the stakeholder list. Considering the timeline that we have to work within, I'll note that if the committee is interested in calling for written submissions from stakeholders, the committee may choose to direct research services to put together a draft stakeholders list. Are there any comments, questions, or motions in relation to establishing a draft stakeholders list?

Mr. Singh: To move a motion?

The Chair: Go ahead.

Mr. Singh: That

the Standing Committee on Families and Communities direct the Legislative Assembly Office to prepare a draft stakeholder list as part of the review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act and distribute it to the committee members for their review.

The Chair: Thank you, Member. Let's pause. Is there any discussion? No?

All those in favour? So unanimous in the room here. And those voting remotely? I see Mr. Boitchenko's hand, and that's passed unanimously.

Thank you, everyone.

Hon. members, again, given the time frame that the committee is working within to conduct the review, the committee may wish to consider authorizing the subcommittee on committee business to approve the draft stakeholders list after allowing committee members to propose agenda items or changes. Are there any comments, questions, or motions members may wish to bring forward in regard

to the approval process for the stakeholders list? Go ahead, Member McDougall.

Mr. McDougall: I move that

the Standing Committee on Families and Communities authorize a subcommittee on committee business to approve the draft stakeholder list prepared as part of the committee's review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act after committee members have had the opportunity to provide changes to the draft list.

The Chair: Is there any discussion? All right. We'll move to the vote.

All those in favour? Okay. Unanimous in the room. And those online? Mr. Boitchenko, I see your hand. And Lizette, yes.

That is passed unanimously.

Thank you, everyone.

Where are we here? Hon. members, in addition to hearing from stakeholders, committees undertaking similar reviews to the one we have before us have considered whether they wish to receive written submissions from the public as well. It's often a good practice to receive written submissions from both stakeholders and also the public at the same time.

At this time I'd like to open the floor to discussion on inviting written stakeholders and public submissions in relation to our review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act. Member Long.

Mr. Long: Make a motion to that effect?

The Chair: Please.

Mr. Long: I'd like to make a motion that

the Standing Committee on Families and Communities invite written submissions from identified stakeholders and the public as part of the committee's review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act, with a submission deadline of 4:30 p.m., January 15, 2024.

The Chair: Thank you, Member.

Is there any discussion at all? Go ahead.

Dr. Metz: Madam Chair, I would like to request an amendment to the date if that is acceptable. I would like to suggest amending the date to January 31, 2024, in order to ensure that Albertans have adequate time to weigh in given the approaching holidays and the importance of the legislation to public transparency. I understand that amendments can be moved without being presubmitted if it's the will of the committee. I therefore request the committee be asked to consider this amendment.

The Chair: This amendment was not on the floor, so we'll need to look to the committee to vote on this.

I guess you've moved that. You've made that motion.

Dr. Metz: I'm moving that we consider it. I believe that we will discuss it, correct?

The Chair: Okay.

I guess we're going to discussion, then. MLA Singh.

Mr. Singh: I would like to support the amendment here since I think it'll give more time for the committee to review and have all these things in order.

The Chair: Go ahead, Ms Robert.

Ms Robert: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just for the benefit of new members and so that everybody understands the processes that get

followed, the chair invoked the notice requirement for motions and amendments, like substantive motions and amendments, and in this case the amendment, as the member has indicated, was not put on notice, so before even considering the motion, the committee needs to decide if it's willing to consider the motion, if it's willing to allow it to be moved, absent of notice.

So that's the first decision point. If the committee decides that, yes, it's willing to hear the motion, then the member can move the amendment, and then it can be considered as normal. Does that make sense?

Mr. McDougall: Just to be clear, then, it's a point of if anybody objects, then we have to have more discussion, or if everybody accepts it, we just do it, right?

Ms Robert: It's a majority decision.

Mr. McDougall: Okay.

Mrs. Petrovic: I would say that I would – if you don't mind, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Sure. Please.

Mrs. Petrovic: I would say that I would accept her bringing forward this amendment. I think it is a reasonable amendment going forward, especially when we're looking at the timeline in session in this possible week, so I would accept this amendment as well.

The Chair: Anyone else want to comment?

Mr. McDougall: I would agree with the amendment.

The Chair: Perfect.

We'll just go to a vote, then.

Mr. Boitchenko: Is there room for more discussion?

The Chair: Sure.

Mr. Boitchenko: I just wanted to echo those comments that given the timelines it might be reasonable to move it to the amended date as per the amendment.

The Chair: Thank you.

It seems unanimous, but we're going to vote. All those in favour? Okay. It's unanimous here in the room. Those online? Perfect. We've got unanimous consent.

That motion is passed unanimously.

Ms Robert: To go ahead, to talk about it.

The Chair: Yes.

Now we'll have the discussion. Is there anyone in the room who would like to discuss it? Member Boitchenko, did you have something you wanted to bring forward as a point of discussion, or are you still voting?

9:00

Mr. Boitchenko: No, no. I was just voting yes.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you.

Is there any discussion?

Dr. Metz: I think I need to move.

The Chair: Yes.

Dr. Metz: I move that

the motion be amended by striking out "January 15" and inserting "January 31."

The Chair: Oh, well, let's check that. We're just going to check the calendar to see if that's a weekday. That should work just fine. Okay. Perfect.

Dr. Metz: This will ensure that the public and stakeholders have the necessary time to weigh in on this vital piece of legislation.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Boitchenko: I don't know how that got downvoted.

The Chair: Mr. Boitchenko, are you contributing to the conversation?

Mr. Boitchenko: No. Just checking the calendar as well here, but it looks like we're good.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you.

All right. So let's move to vote if everyone's okay. All those in favour? Unanimous here in the room. And those online? Okay.

Unanimous.

Thank you, everyone.

Now the main motion. All those in favour? Unanimous in the room. And those online? And Lizette? Okay.

Unanimous.

Ms Rempel: Can I just clarify?

The Chair: Yes.

Ms Rempel: Thank you, Madam Chair. If I could just clarify for the record, the committee has voted to invite written submissions from identified stakeholders and the public as part of the committee's review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act, with a submission deadline of 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2024.

Wonderful. Thank you.

The Chair: Okay. Hon. members, as the committee has agreed to receive public submissions, it might be advisable to consider how the committee wishes to advise the public that their input is being sought in relation to our review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act. I'd like to open the floor to a discussion of this matter.

Mr. Singh: I'd like to move . . .

The Chair: Oh, sorry. Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh: I would like to move the motion that as part of the committee's review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act the Standing Committee on Families and Communities direct the Legislative Assembly Office to prepare for the consideration of the subcommittee on committee business a draft no-cost communications plan and release a news release to invite public submissions and authorize the subcommittee on committee business to approve the plan.

The Chair: All right. So we have a motion on the floor. Is there any discussion at all?

Dr. Metz: I would ask that we consider a small amendment to the motion to

insert the words "and low-cost" immediately following "a draft no-cost."

This would not mean that the committee needed to accept a low-cost but that that information would be provided to us.

We have to vote on whether we can accept this motion or not first?

The Chair: Yes.

So let's – Member.

Mr. Singh: I wouldn't be able to support that amendment here.

The Chair: Okay. Let's, first of all, vote to see if we are going to have that on the floor. So all those in favour? Okay. All those opposed? Lizette is opposed. We have one, two, three, four, five, six opposed.

Member Tejada: No. Sorry; I just put my hand down too late. I was for.

The Chair: No problem. It's okay. We're not going to do a recorded vote, Lizette.

It's not carried.

Okay. So back to the main motion. Member, would you repeat your motion so everyone is clear on what we're voting on?

Mr. Singh: I would like to move that as part of the committee's review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act the Standing Committee on Families and Communities direct the Legislative Assembly Office to prepare for the consideration of the subcommittee on committee business a draft no-cost communications plan and a news release to invite public submissions and authorize the subcommittee on committee business to approve the plan.

The Chair: All those in favour?

Ms Rempel: Discussion.

The Chair: Oh, sure. We'll have discussion. Is there anybody who wants discussion? Go ahead, Member.

Ms Goehring: I'm just going back to the proposed amendment. Not having cost options doesn't allow for targeting, so I'm curious if we could discuss the possibility of what the difference is in no cost and low cost. If someone could explain the differences in those two options before we approve this motion as is.

Ms Robert: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm not a communications expert, but having been around for a little while, I suspect the difference would be that if it's no cost, the advertising would occur on our social media channels, on our website, places that exist without additional cost for putting those ads on, whereas low cost would be other forms. I don't know if it's newspapers, radio, other places where you place ads that you pay for, but that's – oh, that's not the question, though. Yeah. So does that answer your question?

Ms Goehring: Can I just have a follow-up?

The Chair: Yes.

Ms Goehring: Thank you. I'm just curious if there is harm in just asking for what the low-cost options could be so that we could really thoroughly look at what the advertising opportunities are for this committee, considering that not everybody has social media, that other Albertans traditionally reply to newspapers and other forms of communication. I'm just curious why we would want to stop looking at what the low-cost opportunities could be for this committee. We're not saying that we have to move on that, but just

being able to see what the options are, I think, would be beneficial to the committee.

The Chair: Okay.

We'll go to Member Petrovic.

Mrs. Petrovic: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm not sure why we're still discussing the amended motion that was brought forward and turned down by the committee. From research this was how it was done last time, and it only affects a limited group of people at no cost. So I would support the motion as presented, currently sitting on the table.

The Chair: Okay.

Anybody else?

Dr. Metz: I mean, my understanding is that there are low-cost options that are as low as \$1,000. It's not a lot of money if it reaches out there.

The Chair: Okay.

Any other discussion? Go ahead, Member.

Mr. McDougall: I guess one of my issues is: what is low cost? How do you define low cost? You know, that could be in the eye of the beholder. I would have preferred that something like this come forward beforehand so that there could be some discussion and perhaps definition of what kind of communication and what kind of cost is low cost. As of now I would vote against. That's why I would like to stay with the motion as is.

The Chair: Okay. So we do have a motion on the floor. Is there any other discussion? I'll just ask one more time before we move forward. Go ahead, Member.

Member Batten: I guess I also want to speak to my concern that we are not reaching all Albertans, right? That is our job, so by not providing the low cost, understanding that folks – like, just again reiterating what's been said, there are lots of people out there who don't follow social media. That's not their main source of information, so we are actively excluding Albertans by not considering low cost.

The Chair: Anybody else? No? Okay.

We'll move to the vote on the motion which is on the floor. All those in favour? We have four in the room. Those online? Okay. Boitchenko in favour. And all those opposed? None. Okay. Anybody online wish to oppose? Okay. All right.

That's been passed.

All right. With regard to crossjurisdictional comparison it is also common in reviews of this nature to task the Legislative Assembly Office with providing a crossjurisdictional comparison document outlining how other jurisdictions in Canada deal with similar statutes. Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

Mrs. Petrovic: I'd like to make a motion.

In support of the committee's review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act the Standing Committee on Families and Communities direct the Legislative Assembly Office to prepare a crossjurisdictional analysis of all Canadian jurisdictions with public-sector compensation transparency legislation.

The Chair: Thank you very much, Member.

Any discussion at all?

All right. Let's go to a vote. All those in favour? And those online who wish to vote?

Passed unanimously.

Thank you, everyone.

Hon. members, are there any other matters in the committee that you'd like to consider in relation to gathering research as part of our review of the Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act?

Okay. Let's move on to other business. Are there any other items for discussion under other business? Go ahead, Member.

9:10

Ms Goehring: Just as I had mentioned previously at the start of the meeting, I would like to have it included that dates and times be polled to all members going forward.

The Chair: Noted. Thank you.

Ms Goehring: Thank you.

The Chair: Let's take a look at January because we need to come up with our next meeting date.

Ms Rempel: We could do an online poll.

The Chair: Is that the best way to proceed, an online poll instead of everyone trying to hash it out now?

Ms Goehring: If we're considering January, the cut-off is January 31, so we don't want to have a meeting prior to the stakeholders being able to submit. Just my two cents.

The Chair: Okay. Maybe what I'll do then is – we've got access to, like, a Doodle poll or something like that, right? The top three dates – or how is the best way for us to proceed?

Ms Rempel: We can, yeah, look at some options and then get some feedback, for sure.

The Chair: Okay. Of course, we want to be inclusive. We want to make sure that – everyone is, you know, maybe going to take some downtime, some family time, and maybe a vacation, so I'd like to be as inclusive as possible, but at the same time we still need to get this done. Yeah. Okay. Perfect. All right. We'll sort that out.

Would a member like to move a motion to adjourn? Okay. Moved by Member Long that the December 4, 2023, meeting of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities be adjourned. Thank you, everyone. We have to vote. All those in favour? Lizette, are you wanting to vote? Okay. All those in favour? Passed unanimously.

Thank you, everyone. Great meeting.

[The committee adjourned at 9:11 a.m.]

