

Title: Tuesday, June 12, 2007 - Heritage Savings Trust Fund Committee

Date: 07/06/12

Time: 8:34 a.m.

[Mr. Johnston in the chair]

[Due to a recording failure this transcript begins at 9:15 a.m.]

Mr. MacDonald: I was left with the impression from the committee that Edmonton would be considered this year. If I could have for information, please, the locations of the AGM in the last 10 years. I know it was in Calgary two years ago, and it's been in Redwater. It's been in Grande Prairie. Red Deer has probably been left out. But it's been nine years, if not 10, since it's been held in the capital city.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Mr. Chairman, I could be wrong, but I had thought it was in Edmonton in either 1999 or 2000. You're correct. It went to Whitecourt, Grande Prairie, Redwater, Calgary, Vermilion, and I know I'm missing one place.

An Hon. Member: Olds.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Olds. Thank you.

Mr. MacDonald: It's good to move it around. I just remember the place. I can't remember the year. It was at Grant MacEwan in the east gymnasium, and it was quite some time ago.

Mr. Doerksen: That may even go back to when I was a former member of this committee.

I would certainly, Mr. Chairman, speak in favour of having it in Red Deer. It sounds like the north has been well represented, and I think Red Deer is a good place to have it. We'd more than graciously host it there. But I'm at the will of the committee. I think this is an asset for the province, not for Red Deer or Edmonton or anywhere else. I think Red Deer would be a good spot for this year.

Just to put it on the table for discussion, I would move that the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund hold its 2007 annual public meeting in Red Deer in October on a specific date that will be determined later.

Mr. Rogers: Mr. Chairman, if I may, just some discussion. Good points from both the previous members. I don't know if it's ever been done before where we would make the decision this far ahead, but I'm just thinking that as a compromise we agree to have it in Red Deer this year and put it on the record that we would recommend that the following year it be in Edmonton.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we actually did do that last year. The recommendation was that the committee would consider it. Well, they have.

The other thing is that there's nothing that restricts the committee to only one meeting. The act says that we must meet at least once annually. In fact, prior to my starting with the LAO, the committee used to hold a number of meetings annually. So it's just another idea if the committee felt strongly about it. I'm not even saying within the same time period. It could be another meeting in the new year before the end of the budget year, something like that.

The Chair: Any further discussion?

Mr. MacDonald: I could live with that, yeah.

Mr. Rogers: I'd be willing to move an amendment to the motion by Mr. Doerksen, if he's so inclined or if that's in order, Mr. Chairman, that

we would have this year's meeting in Red Deer and have the following meeting in the city of Edmonton.

Mr. Doerksen: Okay. Well, I'm not convinced. I mean, that speaks to a whole different communications strategy. If we're just going to ad hoc change a bunch of meeting locations, why don't we add 10 more while we're at it? Let's make a deliberate communications strategy and stick with it. I think the presentation was to do an annual public meeting in one location. I'm not tied to Red Deer. If you want to have it in Edmonton, that's fine with me.

9:20

Mr. Rogers: If I may speak to that, though, Mr. Chairman. I think that, really, the communications strategy will be around the next meeting. For the record inside this committee and for *Hansard*, it would be on record that the following year it would be in Edmonton. The whole communications strategy would not be around the following year. It would be around this upcoming year's meeting in Red Deer. I don't think you would see a problem with your concerns, Mr. Doerksen.

Mr. Doerksen: Okay. I thought you were going to recommend two annual meetings this year.

Mr. Rogers: No. Not at all. Just that the following year be hosted in Edmonton. We're on the record at this committee. Mr. MacDonald said that he thought we did something last year, and obviously we don't have that on the record, so I'd be willing to place it on the record that this year's meeting be held in Red Deer and the following year it be held in Edmonton. Our communication would then only refer to this year's meeting.

Mr. Doerksen: I will accept that friendly amendment.

Mr. Rogers: Thank you.

The Chair: Any discussion?

Mrs. Mather: Does that limit us to, again, one meeting per year?

Ms Sorensen: I guess I would just like to comment on the fact that the communications strategies are developed on a specific budget that is based on the assumption that there's one annual meeting. If we decided to have more than one public meeting per year, we would definitely have to relook at all of the communications strategies to support that.

Mr. Doerksen: On that note, I think it should be noted that because of the plan of Alberta Finance to look at some of the policy issues around the fund, it might change our whole communications strategy for next year in any event, so we need to be open to that.

The Chair: Any further discussion?

Okay. Will we just review Mr. Doerksen's motion?

Mrs. Sawchuk: Can I go ahead, Mr. Chairman?

The Chair: Yes.

Mrs. Sawchuk: I believe the motion – and I’m winging it here – is that

the 2007 annual public meeting of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Committee be held in Red Deer, Alberta, and that the 2008 public meeting be held in Edmonton.

The Chair: Any questions? All agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? So moved. Very good.

Okay. Should we actually discuss dates now, or should we leave that with the clerk?

Mr. Rogers: October.

The Chair: It would definitely be October – right? – before the sitting.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Yes. Mr. Chairman, Thanksgiving is Monday the 8th, so if we steered away even from that week, it would still leave us the week of Monday the 1st to Friday the 5th or the third week, the 15th to the 19th.

For the new members, the public meeting is always held in the evening. Generally, between travel arrangements and whatnot, you know, the day is pretty well taken. Just so members are aware of that.

Mr. Rogers: Wednesday the 3rd. Typically it’s been midweek if I remember correctly. Just a thought.

Mr. Doerksen: What date are you suggesting?

The Chair: Wednesday, the 3rd of October.

Mr. Rogers: The other thing, too, with venues: of course, midweek typically venues are quite available.

Mr. Doerksen: How about October 10?

The Chair: October 10 is another suggested date.

Mr. Doerksen: Is Wednesday the best day?

Mrs. Sawchuk: It’s been successful so far. We’ve done it generally on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Mr. Rogers: Wednesday the 10th?

Mrs. Mather: That’s right after Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Sawchuk: Two days after, yes.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Chairman, perhaps Karen can help us out here. I believe it’s a tradition of this committee that if we visit the constituency of a member, they are entertaining us out of their own pocket. Is that not correct? Have we passed that motion?

Mr. Doerksen: Tell you what. Even if you want to come to my place for entertainment, you may.

The Chair: If everyone is in agreement with that, we’ll work towards that date, the 10th of October 2007.

Mr. Doerksen: Of course, you’re going to have to check to see what’s happening in our community on that day, and if there are some changes required, we’ll have to make some changes.

Mr. Rogers: So it’s tentative right now.

The Chair: Are there any other additional items for discussion?

Mr. Doerksen: Just on the date, when are the municipal elections?

Mr. Rogers: The third Monday of October.

The Chair: Okay. The date of the next meeting: a date in September to be announced.

We just need someone to move adjournment.

Mrs. Mather: I’ll move that.

The Chair: Mrs. Mather. Thank you very much.

[The committee adjourned at 9:27 a.m.]