



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on the
Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
8:59 a.m.

Transcript No. 31-2-4

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The 31st Legislature
Second Session**

**Standing Committee on the
Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund**

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Johnson, Jennifer, Lacombe-Ponoka (UC), Deputy Chair

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*substitution for Justin Wright

Also in Attendance

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Rachel McGraw	Research Officer
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Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
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8:59 a.m.**Tuesday, September 29, 2026**

[Mr. Yao in the chair]

The Chair: Good morning, everybody. I'd like to call this meeting of the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to order and welcome everyone in attendance.

I'm Tany Yao. I'm the MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo and chair of this committee. I'd ask that members, guests, and staff at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then I'll call on those joining us remotely. We will begin to my right.

Mr. Wiebe: Good morning, everyone. MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti, Ron Wiebe.

Mr. Dach: Good morning. Lorne Dach, MLA for Edmonton-McClung, standing in as an interested party.

Ms Stevenson: Good morning. I'm Karleigh Stevenson with LAO communications.

Ms Sorensen: Good morning. Rhonda Sorensen, manager of communication services with the LAO.

Mr. Quirk: Good morning. Adam Quirk, legal counsel.

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

Mr. Huffman: Warren Huffman, committee clerk.

The Chair: Fantastic. Now we'll go to those joining remotely. I'd ask that you unmute and turn on your cameras and introduce yourselves when I call your names. Let's start off with Mr. Getson.

Mr. Getson: Shane Getson, MLA, Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland.

The Chair: Thank you so much.
Mr. Ellingson.

Member Ellingson: Court Ellingson, MLA, Calgary-Foothills.

The Chair: Mr. Stephan.

Mr. Stephan: Jason Stephan, MLA, Red Deer-South.

The Chair: Mr. Kayande.

Member Kayande: Samir Kayande, MLA, Calgary-Elbow.

The Chair: Mr. Rowswell.

Mr. Rowswell: Garth Rowswell, MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright.

The Chair: Thank you all so much for that.

I should note the following substitutions for the record: Mr. Getson for hon. Mr. Wright.

A few housekeeping items to address before we turn to the business at hand. Please note that the microphones are operated by LAO staff. Committee proceedings are live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. The audio- and videostream and transcripts of meetings can be accessed via the Legislative Assembly website. Those participating by videoconference are encouraged to please turn on your camera while speaking and mute your microphone when not speaking. Members participating remotely who wish to be placed on the speakers list are asked to message the committee clerk, and those in

the room are asked to signal the chair or the committee clerk. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

Let us go to the agenda. A draft agenda was made available to all members. Does anyone have any changes or additions to the draft agenda? If not, would someone like to move that the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund approve the proposed agenda as distributed for its September 29, '26, meeting? Mr. Wiebe. Any discussion? All right. Well, all in favour? Sorry, Lorne. I keep on looking at you. All right, then. Sorry. Online, all in favour of approving the agenda as written? Perfect. Anyone opposed online? Fantastic. That motion is carried.

All right. Approval of the minutes. We have draft minutes from our April 13, 2026, meeting. Do members have any errors or omissions to note? If not, would a member like to move that the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund approve the minutes as distributed of its meeting held on April 13, 2026? Mr. Wiebe. Thank you very much. Any discussion? If not, all in favour of the motion to approve the draft minutes? All in favour, please say aye. Online? Fantastic. Anyone opposed online or in the room? Perfect. That motion is carried. Thank you very much.

With that, I'd also like to introduce the Member for Sherwood Park, please. Go ahead.

Mr. Kasawski: Thanks, Mr. Chair. All roads lead to Sherwood Park, but sometimes the roads leading out of Sherwood Park are under construction, so I apologize. Glad to be here representing Sherwood Park. Kyle Kasawski.

The Chair: Fantastic. Thank you, Mr. Kasawski.

Okay. We are moving on to the annual public meeting, everybody. Hon. members, at our last meeting, on April 13, the committee began planning its annual public meeting, which it is required to hold under section 6(4)(d) of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act. The committee has yet to choose a date or location for this year's public meeting. I'd suggest that the committee make these decisions today so that preparations can begin.

If we could discuss location. At our last meeting the committee considered the location of a public meeting and discussed holding it outside of Edmonton, where it had been held for the past 15 years. The committee tasked the LAO with providing cost estimates for holding a public meeting in McMurray, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, or Medicine Hat. A document with the cost estimates and a brief history of the annual public meeting was posted on the committee's internal website for members to review. Before opening the floor to questions, I'd ask our committee clerk, Mr. Huffman, to give us an overview of this document.

Mr. Huffman: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you said, I'll just give a brief, high-level overview of the document. The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act was amended in 1996 to require the committee to hold public meetings with Albertans to inform them about the investment activities of the fund. It started out holding four public meetings per year in 1997 and 1998, and after those public meetings were concluded, the committee determined that the public attendance at those meetings was not what they would have liked it to have been, so they actually worked with the Minister of Finance to try to amend the legislation to remove that requirement to hold public meetings and then engage with the public to inform them about the fund in other ways. That amendment ended up not going through, so that requirement still remains today. It ended up dropping down to just one public meeting per year between 2000

and 2010, and it moved around the province, different locations every year. There was a mix of rural and urban meeting locations, and they had varying attendance levels from the public. There are specific details in the document if members want to see that.

9:05

The one thing that was fairly consistent is that the committee was always trying to find more ways to engage the public for the public meeting, and so in 2010 what they ended up doing was – it was the first time Shaw broadcast the public meeting. It ended up getting, I think, 6,000 people across the province being able to view that. It went from being just the few dozen people in the room to thousands of people across the province. From then on the committee has continued to broadcast it to Albertans and just hold the meeting in Edmonton.

Then in 2015 the QE II Building renovations were finished, and so all committee meetings and operations were being held out of these meeting rooms, and the public meeting as well was held here ever since then. That brought the broadcast and everything in-house where the LAO manages all of it, so the cost is pretty much nil compared to any other committee meeting.

The cost estimates that we came up with for holding it in those six locations that you mentioned off the top included vehicle rentals, venue rentals, meals, hotel rooms, all that sort of thing for travelling to the location, and those are estimated to be about between \$5,000 to \$6,000. The big cost comes from the actual technology to be able to record and broadcast the meeting to the rest of the province. That includes hiring external audio-video technicians to arrive, set up all the microphones and cameras and lighting, record the meeting, and transmit it back to the QE II Building for it to be broadcast out. All that expense was ballparked to be around \$30,000, so that broadcast expense and the expense of the travelling to the public meetings all in is about \$35,000, give or take.

That pretty much covers the report. I'm happy to respond to questions if members have any.

The Chair: Mr. Huffman, you're a scholar and a gentleman. Thank you for that information.

I'll open the discussion with a question to the committee. Would members like to hold this year's public meeting here in the QE II or outside of Edmonton? I'll open the floor to members for a discussion about where to hold this year's public meeting. Mr. Wiebe.

Mr. Wiebe: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'd like to move a motion if I can.

The Chair: Sure.

Mr. Wiebe: I'd like to move that
the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust
Fund hold its annual public meeting on Monday, October 26,
2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. here at the QE II Building.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Mr. Ellingson, go ahead.

Member Ellingson: Yeah. Quick question. I'm just curious. With the Shaw-Rogers broadcast do we still have about 6,000 people watching?

Mr. Huffman: You're talking about today? Is that how much we're getting now?

Member Ellingson: Correct.

Mr. Huffman: That I'm not sure. I don't know if maybe LAO communications has a response.

Ms Sorensen: I couldn't actually say definitively. I know that our numbers increase on broadcast, but we don't actually get the numbers from our Assembly TV broadcast. We do get numbers from the streaming on social media. However, I don't have those numbers in front of me, but I can say it's a lot larger than just what's in the room.

The Chair: Mr. Kayande.

Member Kayande: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is about the Heritage Fund Opportunities Corp. Is that on the agenda for the public meeting since there's a CEO now, and is it the intention that, being part of the heritage fund, staff from there be present to answer questions?

The Chair: Please go ahead.

Ms Robert: Thanks, Mr. Chair. We could certainly transmit if that's a desire. I don't know what Treasury Board and Finance and AIMCo are planning to do in terms of who they're sending to be at the public meeting. If it is a desire of the committee to transmit that request, that personnel responsible for that fund be present, we could certainly transmit that request on behalf of the committee.

The Chair: Mr. Kayande.

Member Kayande: Yeah. A follow-up: why is Treasury Board and Finance not here to answer questions?

The Chair: Today we're doing a meeting just to decide on the date and time of our next general public meeting, where they will be in attendance.

Member Kayande: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Mr. Kasawski.

Mr. Kasawski: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the motion already made by the other member. I want to return to your initial question. Is there value in locating at an outside venue? I'd like to just say, you know, at least for the record that I think there's great value in that. I think that, given our current politics with maybe people's view of Edmonton or Calgary versus other parts of Alberta, there's great value in moving to places like Medicine Hat or Lethbridge or Fort McMurray or Grande Prairie and having a public meeting and making quite a show of the provincial government with one of our most important committees, at least an important fund, to kind of bring that forward to people. So I think that's something I'd just like to make a statement about, because I think it was a great question you asked.

I think, to the member's motion, I'm just going to point out that October 26 is actually fewer than 30 days away. When I'm involved in other organizations, when we're going to have an annual general meeting – I'm sure for public corporations when you're going to have a presentation of a report, you want to give the public time to consider it and review it. I just think this time frame – I'm sure it's picked for a reason – is in a narrow window that doesn't really allow us that kind of standard of 30 days for presentation of information so people can consider it before they come and ask questions at a public meeting.

The Chair: Noted.
Mr. Wiebe.

Mr. Wiebe: Yeah. Thanks, Mr. Chair. Given the availability of broadcasting I think holding the meeting outside Edmonton is not cost-effective or a good use of taxpayers' money. Also, it's consistent with past practices.

The public meeting is proposed for Monday, October 26. That date is normally held because it's just before session resumes. It's the first week back, and later dates, November and December, can present weather-related challenges for people attending in person.

The Chair: Thank you very much for that, sir.

Any other – ah, Mr. Ellingson. Go ahead, sir.

Member Ellingson: Yeah. Just appreciating that we don't have Treasury Board and Finance here to answer questions, can we say definitively that the annual report will be in the public's hands before we host this public meeting?

The Chair: We hope so, but we can't guarantee that. Again, that's up to that ministry to provide that detailed information.

Member Ellingson: I guess here at committee, I mean, we'd be spending, you know, money on advertising, and I just wonder – I'm not disputing the motion. I would just put to the committee: what happens if we're hosting a public meeting and people don't have the annual report? Like, what do we expect from a public meeting when citizens don't know what's going on? How would they ask questions?

The Chair: Yeah. At the very least we would be speaking on whatever information is available online and readily available to the public. We can't assume that the report will be done by then, but certainly fingers crossed. It traditionally is.

Mr. Rowswell, go ahead.

Mr. Rowswell: Yeah. The year-end is the end of March, right?

The Chair: Yes.

Mr. Rowswell: Yeah. And we won't have the report yet?

The Chair: That's correct. Sorry; it's typically June 30 that it's available.

Mr. Rowswell: Yeah. There you go. So June 30. Okay.

Maybe to the clerk: when has it usually been available?

9:15

Mr. Huffman: I can speak to that.

The Chair: Mr. Huffman.

Mr. Huffman: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is in the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act that the report be available to the committee for review by June 30, and once the committee completes its review, then it gets distributed publicly. The Minister of Finance came out with a press release, I believe in late June, saying that the reports would be released in early fall. I believe that was the last known communication about that that I know of, anyway.

Mr. Rowswell: Okay. So that's outside the norm, then.

Mr. Huffman: Yes.

The Chair: Go ahead, Mr. Ellingson.

Member Ellingson: Yeah. Again, just on this point, I wonder what notification we can send to Treasury Board and Finance. Can this committee send, like, a directive or some kind of statement to Treasury Board and Finance saying that we really need this report for this public meeting? It's kind of a disgrace that we don't have it yet.

The Chair: I don't see why not, Mr. Ellingson. If it's the will of the committee for someone to create a motion to that effect, we could certainly have that discussion.

Mr. Kayande, go ahead.

Member Kayande: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one more thing about the lack of annual report is that I believe that the press release from the Finance minister pointed out that all annual reporting within the Alberta government would be delayed because of the health care reorganization and the immense consequences, especially the fiscal consequences, of tracking all of the spending in the government. I do want the minutes of this meeting to register my objection that the Alberta heritage savings trust fund, first of all, is not subject to any of the health care reorganizations that have apparently caused a catastrophe within the Finance ministry but, secondly, as well that the larger issue is that there is no accurate financial reporting in the provincial government right now.

The Chair: Your words are noted on the record.

Member Kayande: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Kasawski.

Mr. Kasawski: I'll try my best at making a motion and hope that the clerk and team can . . .

Mr. Huffman: An amendment to this motion on the floor?

Mr. Kasawski: The motion to request the report being ready for the meeting.

Mr. Huffman: We have to deal with this one first.

Mr. Kasawski: So it wouldn't be an amendment. Okay. Yeah. Thank you. I take your guidance.

The Chair: Yeah. Sorry; we're still debating this current motion to hold our meeting on the 26th. I do know what you're trying to achieve there, so give me a moment here.

All right. Thank you all very much again. We're here just to first debate when to hold our next meeting. Your points have been noted, Mr. Ellingson. This is still an adequate amount of time to hold the meeting on the 26th. As of now it's still September 29, so it is within our parameters.

Does anyone object, I suppose, to holding the meeting on Monday, October 26, from 6 to 8 p.m.? If not, I'm going to call this question to a vote if there's no other debate on this issue. All in favour of the following motion, that we hold it on Monday, October 26, please say aye. In the room? Online, anyone in agreement with this, please say aye. Anyone opposed, in the room or online?

That motion is carried.

Thank you so much for that. The next meeting will be on October 26.

Now, Mr. Kasawski.

Mr. Kasawski: Right. I guess there are two components I'd like to have available for the October 26 meeting. One is to have the annual

report ready, so I'd like to compel Finance and Treasury, or I guess whoever prepares the annual report, to have it ready for the October 26 public meeting.

The second part would be – it may even require a second motion. We know that HFOC is now hiring. They've been stood up for two years. It's time that they be brought in and kind of report to the public on what's going on and what activities are being undertaken with that \$2 billion fund that's just sort of been left idle there for the last couple of years.

The Chair: Can we just give it a moment here?

Mr. Kasawski: Yeah. I'll stop talking.

The Chair: Yeah. There might be two motions there, so if we could just allow our team here to craft those and then debate.

Mr. Kasawski: Mr. Chair, does it need a vote, or is it just something we can request? Like, we sometimes make requests of Treasury, and they just come back with reports.

The Chair: You know what? Everything we have to do needs to be official, so let's make sure we do it as a proper motion and then we'll just have that debate.

Mr. Kasawski: Okay. Sure.

The Chair: My only thoughts on this, though: I don't know if we can use "compel."

Mr. Kasawski: Yeah. You know, actually, Mr. Chair, I guess, given the short notice, it just feels like even for turnaround, let's just pull back. So I'll just withdraw my ideas.

The Chair: Thank you very much, Mr. Kasawski. I appreciate that greatly. So no motion stands on the floor, just to confirm?

Mr. Kasawski: No.

The Chair: Fantastic.

Well, all right. Let's move on. Now that the location and date have been confirmed, we can go down to our communications plan. At our last meeting the committee tasked the Legislative Assembly Office with creating a communications plan to advertise this year's public meeting. Since the location had not been chosen, two communication plans were created, one for the meeting to be held in Edmonton and one outside of Edmonton. Those reports were made available on the committee's internal website ahead of today's meeting for members to review.

Ms Sorensen.

Ms Sorensen: Thank you very much. Yes. As you know, you had two communications plans provided to you, but now that we know the date and location, we're focusing in on the Edmonton plan. We had provided quite an array of communications tactics that could be used because there were a number of unknowns, so we wanted to provide quite a bit of information.

Based on the conversation around the table today, if I may, Mr. Chair, I would recommend that the committee stick with the no-cost and low-cost options to advertise the public meeting as we are targeting a relatively stable audience that has been following this committee for quite some time. It still allows us to saturate the areas that we want to get that participation from the public, but we would be focusing in on using some reels and promotional clips, of course the committee websites and media relations and e-card that members could send to their constituents and their audiences. As

well, the main focus for the minimal cost would be in social media advertising.

The Chair: Fantastic. Thank you so much for that.

I'll look to members if they have any questions.

Mr. Wiebe: Mr. Chair, I'd like to move another motion here. I move that

the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund approve the communications plan as distributed and direct the Legislative Assembly Office to implement the no-cost and low-cost options identified in the communications plan to promote the committee's annual public meeting.

The Chair: Thank you for that, Mr. Wiebe.

A draft motion has been set out for everyone. Go ahead, Mr. Dach.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Yao. I just had a question about the low-cost, no-cost option that the LAO is considering. Of course, Assembly TV is the medium through which we would be broadcasting this. I'm wondering: are there targeted social media posts on the Assembly's sites that they might have, on Instagram or others, that will direct people to promote and advertise as part of your low-cost, no-cost promotion of the meeting? Do you typically promote these meetings on your social media sites?

Ms Sorensen: If I may, Mr. Chair. Absolutely, Mr. Dach. We do use all of our channels that are available to us to try and draw people back to the fact that we will be broadcasting live on Assembly TV and social media. In addition to the advertising, we also do some organic posts which are more educational because we do want to make sure that people are tuning in to the appropriate channels, and we want to boost both the viewership on Assembly TV as well as on our social media streams.

9:25

Mr. Dach: Great. Quick follow-up: in addition to the Assembly TV that you may be directing people to to watch the meetings from your social media posts, are there actually links, live links, that, if they're on their social media posts or looking at it, they could just pop in and join live without having to go separately to search for the TV broadcasts?

Ms Sorensen: Yes. If I may, Mr. Chair, generally yes, we would do something like that, similar to what we would do with session, where we're linking right to the actual live broadcast. Of course, we don't have anything developed right now, but we would certainly take that into consideration and include that in the posts.

Mr. Dach: Sounds good.

I'll just make one other additional comment, and that is that now it's 10 years, I believe, since Mr. Ed Polanski passed away. Ed Polanski was the originator of live broadcasting of the Assembly in Alberta and ultimately in the House of Commons, so now I'm sure he and his family would be proud to know that we're looking at even deeper saturation using Assembly TV, that he started on the cable TV network which began in Thorhild and then Athabasca and then ultimately became QCTV in Edmonton and then Shaw capital cable. Interesting that 10 years since his passing we are developing even deeper ways of communicating. I look forward to seeing Assembly TV penetrate even better.

Ms Sorensen: Thank you.

Member Ellingson: Well, I want to thank my colleague for that history. That's something that I didn't know, so thanks for that.

I do have a couple of questions here. One is that I do want to kind of challenge the question or the notion that we're simply targeting our stable audience. I think we should be looking beyond our stable audience, and we should be trying to engage more people. That should be our goal. Every year we should be trying to engage more people. We want more people to be aware and a part of the conversation of this item, which is pretty significant for Albertans.

Now, on that note, in the report that was provided, what I don't see in the report – and thank you for doing the work. I appreciate that, but what I would like to see is: from the different options do we have ideas there of which options garner more engagement? Do we have any idea of which types of advertising have the higher level of engagement, that are most likely to pull people in to engage with the meeting? As I said, I'm very interested in us growing our audience, and I'd like to know what kinds of advertising are going to do that. I noted that last year the budget was \$11,000. We spent only \$7,000. I'd like us to grow our engagement, not to – flatline isn't what I'm shooting for.

The Chair: Thank you very much for that, Mr. Ellingson. We'll go to Ms Sorensen for some answers there, but also note regarding your discussions around spread that you also, all your members also, can advertise us through your own channels as well, through your social media.

But back to Ms Sorensen.

Ms Sorensen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah. I understand your comments absolutely. I've been a part of this committee for a long time, and our goal is always to grow the audience, so when I talk about a stable audience, I mean that we do have a fairly consistent following. Social media: I don't have the numbers in front of me, but I know that we have pulled them. Social media does tend to be where we're able to grow the audience the most, particularly for committee work. When we do other campaigns, things like theatre ads and billboards and stuff like that may pull people in, but they're for a longer term event or activity whereas this is a two-hour meeting one night, so it tends to be a relatively large investment for a very short period. I mean, based on that, our recommendation would still be to put the majority of the funds into social media advertising where we can geotarget and we can pull a bigger, broader audience in as well as what the chair talked about in terms of using your own networks to spread it throughout the province.

The Chair: Mr. Kayande.

Member Kayande: Thank you, Mr. Chair. While I appreciate that we do want to have as wide a dissemination as possible, I guess my question is, for the committee staff: how much of our advertising spend do we anticipate being spent on Elon Musk's platforms? The reason I ask, of course, is that Musk is promoting separatist bot farms, election misinformation. He works hand in glove with President Trump, who wants to annex us, and is deeply un-Canadian. It seems to be inconsistent with an elbows-up strategy, dealing with Donald Trump's attempt to destroy our country, to send Elon Musk our taxpayer money.

The Chair: So you want us to divest.

Ms Sorensen, do you want to . . .

Ms Sorensen: Happy to answer that, Mr. Chair. I again appreciate the comments, and of course it would be up to the will of the committee if they choose not to advertise on those platforms. What I can say is that we're targeting the audience more so than, I guess,

who owns the platform, and there is a large political contingent on X. That being said, we actually have credits on that, so we don't actually expend that much money on that. We tend to focus on Google Ads and LinkedIn, which tend to be our higher platforms for meetings of this nature.

The Chair: Mr. Ellingson.

Member Ellingson: Thank you. Just circling back to the social media and appreciating what you've said about the social media, I just want to make sure that – you know, geotargeting: that's something that the MLAs can't necessarily do. Geotargeting does involve funds, and we don't necessarily all have the funds in our MSA to geotarget ads, but we can post generically, of course. Yeah.

Again, I am interested, I guess, particularly in radio, and I'm wondering for rural Alberta whether or not radio is a medium that is still used. I guess what I'll say, too, is that when we look at the low cost, no cost, I mean, I think we need to be honest with ourselves that the government in general is not shy about spending money on advertising. So I'd like us to, again, you know – we're trying to grow our audience, and if the government can spend \$4 million to advertise the referendum, I think we should think about the mediums that we have available to us for the heritage fund, because I think this is really important for Albertans to know about.

Ms Sorensen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. We actually have had some success with radio advertising and for this committee in particular as well. We did provide a tactic as an option under province-wide advertising. The cost might be a bit higher than what is put here simply because I think we got a bit of a break last year and I can't guarantee that we would get that break this year. Radio can definitely be something that does reach throughout the province, and it really would be up to the will of the committee. If they wish for us to pursue that, we certainly can. We have talked to the radio stations and have them on standby should the committee choose to go that way.

The Chair: Thank you so much for that, Ms Sorensen.

Any concerns, questions, comments?

Member Ellingson: I'll just follow up and say that I do think that's something that the committee should consider because, as I said, I think in rural Alberta radio could be relatively effective.

The Chair: Mr. Dach.

Mr. Dach: Yeah. Just briefly, Mr. Chair. One of the reasons I came to this committee meeting out of a serious interest is because we're very much at a crossing point in Alberta's history, where people are feeling uncertain about their retirement and about their ability to live month to month, and one of the things that many folks in Alberta rely upon is the solid backing of the investment funds that are found in the heritage savings trust fund.

I think there may be a stronger level of interest in this meeting that's upcoming than otherwise might have been in past years because of the concerns that this trust fund may be somewhat a target of foreign interest in terms of making sure that one side or the other wins in this referendum. So I'm looking to make sure that we do disseminate the advertising as widely as possible so that Albertans will feel the concern about the threats that may be made upon the policies of the heritage savings trust fund given this time of uncertainty, when Albertans are really concerned about their retirement and about the financial stability of the province given the upcoming separatist referendum. I hope that we disseminate the

advertising as far and wide as we can under the parameters that we've chosen on the low-cost, no-cost option.

9:35

The Chair: Thank you very much for that, Mr. Dach.

I should note for the record that LAO communications staff are nonpartisan. Their job is to do the best job they can to get this information out and advertise it and use any medium they have available. We've had these discussions before in previous committees over the years. I do support what they do. I know they do it to the best of their abilities. Again, as elected officials we all have our own mediums in which we can communicate these things in addition to what they provide.

I think the statistics, if you are to read what had been provided online, state that they've actually had success in advertising this stuff, but if folks want to give them more money to advertise or anything else like that, again, we're open to that. Otherwise, I'd ask that we move forward with this to implement the no cost or low cost. If they didn't maximize their budgets before, maybe they can give us assurances that they will be moving forward, including radio advertising. My radio stations – McMurray could use some love. If you could advertise up there in particular, that'd be fantastic.

But if there are no other comments or questions – going once, twice. Okay. Mr. Wiebe has moved a motion to approve the communications plan as distributed and direct the Legislative Assembly Office to implement the no cost and low cost. All in

favour of this motion, please say aye. In the room? Online, all who approve of this motion, please say aye. All right. Anyone opposed in the room or online?

This motion is carried.

Thank you all so much for that.

I'll note that the LAO, as done in previous years, will prepare a summary document of this year's public meeting participation for the committee's review at a future meeting, so we will be able to ascertain how effective the communications were with this. Ms Sorensen, thank you to you and your team for this.

Ms Sorensen: Thank you.

The Chair: All right. Are there any other issues for discussion today? Anyone online?

If not, the committee's next scheduled meeting is our annual public meeting. However, if the fund's annual report is available sooner, I will look to schedule a meeting to review that.

If there's nothing else for consideration today, I'll call for a motion to adjourn. Would someone move to – Mr. Wiebe moves that the September 29, 2026, committee of the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund be adjourned. All in favour in the room, please say aye. Online, everyone approving of this, please say aye. Anyone opposed in the room or online? That motion is carried. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you all so much.

[The committee adjourned at 9:38 a.m.]

