



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on
Alberta's Economic Future

Agrifood and Agribusiness

Wednesday, February 1, 2017
10 a.m.

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The 29th Legislature
Second Session**

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (W), Deputy Chair
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Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (ND)
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (ND)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)
Horne, Trevor A.R., Spruce Grove-St. Albert (ND)**
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (W)
Piquette, Colin, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (ND)
Schneider, David A., Little Bow (W)
Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (ND)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (ND)***

* substitution for Graham Sucha

** substitution for Maria Fitzpatrick

*** substitution for Shaye Anderson

Also in Attendance

Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (W)

Support Staff

Robert H. Reynolds, QC	Clerk
Shannon Dean	Law Clerk and Director of House Services
Trafton Koenig	Parliamentary Counsel
Stephanie LeBlanc	Parliamentary Counsel
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Sarah Amato	Research Officer
Nancy Robert	Research Officer
Corinne Dacyshyn	Committee Clerk
Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Aaron Roth	Committee Clerk
Karen Sawchuk	Committee Clerk
Rhonda Sorensen	Manager of Corporate Communications and Broadcast Services
Jeanette Dotimas	Communications Consultant
Tracey Sales	Communications Consultant
Janet Schwegel	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

10 a.m. Wednesday, February 1, 2017

[Loyola in the chair]

The Acting Chair: Hello, everyone. I'd like to welcome members, staff, and guests to this meeting of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future.

My name is Rod Loyola, MLA for Edmonton-Ellerslie, and I'm stepping in as chair of the committee for today. I'd ask that all members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then we'll hear from those on the phone. We'll start off here to my right, please.

Mr. van Dijken: MLA Glenn van Dijken from Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Mr. Drysdale: Wayne Drysdale, MLA, Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Orr: MLA Ron Orr, Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mr. Schneider: Dave Schneider, Little Bow.

Mr. Taylor: Wes Taylor, Battle River-Wainwright.

Ms Dotimas: Jeanette Dotimas, LAO communications.

Dr. Turner: Bob Turner, Edmonton-Whitemud.

Mr. Coolahan: Craig Coolahan, MLA for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. Dach: Lorne Dach, MLA, Edmonton-McClung.

Mr. Horne: Trevor Horne, MLA for Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

Mr. Carson: Jon Carson, MLA for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Mr. Koenig: I'm Trafton Koenig with the Parliamentary Counsel office.

Dr. Amato: I'm Sarah Amato, research officer.

Dr. Massolin: Good morning. Philip Massolin, manager of research and committee services.

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

The Acting Chair: I will now go to those on the phone. If you could please introduce yourselves.

Mrs. Schreiner: Kim Schreiner, MLA for Red Deer-North.

Connolly: Michael Connolly, MLA for Calgary-Hawkwood.

Mr. Panda: Good morning. Prasad Panda, MLA, Calgary-Foothills.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Thank you very much.

For the record I would also note once again that I'm an official substitute for Mr. Sucha, that Mr. Horne is an official substitute for Ms Fitzpatrick, and that Dr. Turner is substituting for the Hon. S. Anderson.

We've just had another member join us at the table. Member, if you could please introduce yourself.

Mr. Piquette: Colin Piquette, MLA, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Thank you very much.

Before we turn to the business at hand, a few operational items. For clarification, the microphone consoles are operated by the *Hansard* staff. Please ensure all cellphones are on silent mode.

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Before I continue, I just want to mention that at the suggestion of Mr. Drysdale when we were on the Resource Stewardship Committee, when I do ask for votes, I will simply ask who is in favour and then wait for those on the phones to answer rather than ask for those on the phone at the end. I will wait because I do know that people have to unmute themselves. Again, I will ask who is in favour and wait for everybody to respond, even those on the phone, and then I'll ask if anyone is opposed and then wait for people to respond, including those on the phone.

Moving on, would a member move a motion to approve today's meeting agenda, please? Yes. Mr. Taylor. Thank you very much. Moved that the February 1, 2017, meeting agenda of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future be adopted as circulated. All in favour? Thank you. Anybody opposed? Hearing none, that motion is carried. Thank you.

Mr. van Dijken: Who moved that?

The Acting Chair: Mr. Taylor.

Okay. Moving on, a set of draft minutes from the November 15, 2016, meeting were distributed for consideration, and I'll ask at this point if there are any errors or omissions in the minutes from the November 15, 2016, meeting. I'm not hearing any errors or omissions being brought up, so if I can get a motion to approve the minutes, please. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Dach. Moved by Mr. Dach that the minutes of the November 15, 2016, meeting of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future be approved as distributed. All in favour? Is there anybody opposed? Okay. That motion is carried. Thank you very much, everyone.

Now we're going to move on to the communications update. As members will recall, this committee approved implementation of a communications plan to increase awareness about our inquiry into the province's agrifood and agribusiness sectors and to invite written submissions. We currently have in the room with us Ms Dotimas to give us an overview of the success of that campaign.

I'll turn it over to you, Ms Dotimas.

Ms Dotimas: Thank you, Chair. Of the 104 submissions that were received, 48 of that total were sent in using the online submission form. From that, 10 per cent of the submitters indicated that they heard of the study through their local newspaper, 31 per cent of them indicated that they received the information through social media, and 33 per cent indicated that radio was their source. Additionally, the remaining 25 per cent indicated that they heard the information through word of mouth, so either various associations, a local college, or their own MLA.

The total cost of the campaign came in at \$47,620, which was well under the proposed budget, which we set at \$64,000.

The Acting Chair: Thank you very much, Ms Dotimas.

Does anybody have questions for Ms Dotimas at this point? Yes. Mr. Carson, please go ahead.

Mr. Carson: Thank you, Chair. I'm just wondering if you felt that any aspects of the communications plan or which parts of the communications plan were the best value for the dollar.

Ms Dotimas: Just looking at the submissions and the responses to that, the radio definitely added the most value for the cost. It was relatively small compared to the print ads, for example, and yielded the best value in terms of what they indicated was their source of information for the ads.

The Acting Chair: Any additional questions for Ms Dotimas?

Mr. Taylor: Which was it you said that gave the best?

Ms Dotimas: Radio, the radio ads.

Mr. Taylor: Oh, radio. I thought you said: media.

Ms Dotimas: Well, media but radio specifically.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. I was going to ask specifically: what media was it that worked?

Ms Dotimas: They're relatively close at 31 per cent through social media and 33 per cent through the radio.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

The Acting Chair: Any further questions for Ms Dotimas?

Okay. Well, thank you very much, Ms Dotimas, for your report.

This committee has received over 100 written submissions as part of our review. A few of these submissions did come in after the January 15, 2017, deadline but in time to be included in the written submissions summary document. They were submissions 102 and 103 and one that was received just two days ago, number 104. Is it the will of the committee that these submissions be included in the review process? If so, I would look for someone to make a motion as such.

Mr. Dach: I support receiving those later submissions, so I'd be prepared to make a motion that

the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future include all written submissions received by January 31 as part of its inquiry into growing Alberta's agrifood and agribusiness sectors unless otherwise directed by the committee.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Any discussion on the motion? Okay. Hearing none, all those in favour of the motion just made by Mr. Dach? Anybody opposed? Hearing none, that motion is carried. Thank you, everyone.

This committee also needs to make a decision about whether or not to make the submissions available to the public by posting them online. Both the stakeholder notices and the advertisements regarding our review did indicate that submissions and the identity of the submitter could be made available to the public. It is, however, common practice for committees to still redact personal contact information such as e-mail addresses from submissions before releasing them. Submission 016 does request that one paragraph on the first page be kept confidential. If it is the will of the committee, this could easily be accommodated by redacting that one paragraph of text before posting the document.

With all of this in mind, what is the will of the committee when it comes to posting these submissions?

Mr. Horne: I'd be in favour of posting the written submissions with the exception of the requested redaction if the committee so chooses.

10:10

The Acting Chair: Okay. Any further discussion on the matter?

Mr. Horne: I'm not sure if you have a suggested motion.

The Acting Chair: Yeah. I can give that. Moved by MLA Horne that the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future make all written submissions accepted by the committee as part of its inquiry into growing Alberta's agrifood and agribusiness sectors

available on the public website with the exception of personal contact information and the third paragraph of submission 016.

Again, I will ask if there's any discussion on the motion before we proceed.

Mr. van Dijken: For clarification, the third paragraph would be starting with, "It is our belief." Or which paragraph are we talking about in submission 016?

Dr. Amato: It's "Over the past three months" a little further down, the paragraph just below.

Mr. van Dijken: Fair enough.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Hearing nobody bringing up any discussion, I will now call for the question on the motion, which I previously read. All in favour of the motion? Anybody opposed to the motion? Hearing none, that motion is carried. Thank you, everyone.

At our last meeting we also directed research services to prepare a summary of the written submissions received regarding our review. I'm going to invite Dr. Amato to give us a brief overview of this document before I open the floor to questions.

Please go ahead, Dr. Amato.

Dr. Amato: Thank you, Chair. I'm hoping everyone can hear me. The document I'm discussing is the summary of written submissions. This document is a summary of the wide variety of ideas put forward in all written submissions and is organized by category. The document is intended to assist the committee as it decides the next stages of and further focuses its inquiry.

As was just discussed, the committee received a total of 104 written submissions. These include submissions from 16 associations, 36 businesses, seven academics, four municipalities, and 40 private citizens. The category of associations, in case that's unclear, includes chambers of commerce and economic development associations.

Most submissions suggest initiatives for growing and improving the agricultural sector in Alberta, and many organizations and individuals used their submissions as an opportunity to explain their business initiatives and ideas and offer their expertise to the committee going forward.

On page 4 and page 5 you'll find an overview of the issues raised in the submission. If I could just draw your attention to page 4 and page 5, the first category that you'll see there is the category of value-added, and submissions in this category suggested a definition of value-added and suggested initiatives with respect to value-added production fairly generally.

The next category is suggested government initiatives. These are suggestions with respect to areas where the government might incentivize the growth and diversification of Alberta's agrifood sectors. Suggestions in this category pertain to, for example, access to capital and loans, crop development, ecological and sustainable agriculture, encouragement to buy local, food supply contracts in schools and other public-sector institutions, investment in small companies and businesses, various suggestions with respect to regulatory frameworks, suggestions with respect to research and development, also suggestions with respect to tax relief, and much more.

In the next category you'll find suggestions regarding specific industries, grouped by category.

In the final category of the summary you'll find local initiatives and considerations. Submissions in this category discuss local initiatives and concerns, including the need for processing hubs

throughout rural areas and more direct access to the expertise of government.

Two more comments. I also want to draw your attention to the table at the end of the summary, which has several columns listing all submissions and also a notes column.

To conclude, let me just say that information provided in the submission is very wide ranging, and it would appear to me that the committee now has a task of sorting through this information and deciding the further focus of its inquiry.

Thank you very much.

The Acting Chair: Thank you, Dr. Amato.

We'll now open the floor to questions to Dr. Amato.

Mr. Schneider: Sorry. I just feel a little remiss here because I should have brought it up before we got to this point, but now that we're talking about written submissions, can you identify the submissions that came in late that were accepted, that we already accepted?

Dr. Amato: If you turn to the table.

Mr. Schneider: Yeah.

Dr. Amato: I don't have number 104 here because it came in after I had posted this online, but I believe – am I right? – that it's numbers 002 and 103, and then there's 104, which is not included in the summary.

Mr. Schneider: Okay. It's included online.

Dr. Amato: It's posted online. Yeah.

Mr. Schneider: Okay. Thank you very much.

The Acting Chair: Thank you.

Any further questions for Dr. Amato? Yes. Please go ahead, Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr: Yeah. Your last comments I think were extremely to the point, that this is extremely wide ranging. My question for you is: in having read through it, I think our challenge as a committee is going to be to actually focus. Obviously, we're not going to fix everything that's named here. I mean, this is massive. So is there any sense in the work you've done on it as to sort of – I don't know – priorities of concerns or priorities of value, suggestions, or any way to focus this broad scope of things?

Dr. Amato: Well, my task was merely to summarize the issues. I think that I would be remiss if I did not say that that's the committee's decision going forward.

Mr. Orr: Okay. Fair enough. Looking for help. That's all.

Mr. Carson: I'm just wondering if you saw any difference in themes between private submissions and . . .

Dr. Amato: What I think is evident in the document – so just let me respond, maybe, when I say no – is that what went on is that people offered both their opinions and their expertise. Whether they were private citizens and private citizens who are also perhaps working in the agrifood sector or businesses or chambers of commerce, everyone spoke from their perspective and offered a variety of suggestions to the committee going forward. They were very much from their personal experiences working in the field. So I think all of the submissions are equally valuable from that perspective.

The Acting Chair: I'm just going to check in with members on the phone. Are any of you wishing to ask Dr. Amato a question?

Okay. Hearing none, please go ahead, Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. Thank you. If I heard correctly, then the late submissions, 102 and 103, were included in your summary but the last one was not?

Dr. Amato: That's right. It was simply received after the document was posted. That's the reason for that.

Mr. van Dijken: Okay. Thank you.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Anybody else have questions for Dr. Amato?

I'll double-check with those on the phone. Just making sure, anybody on the phone have questions for Dr. Amato?

Hearing none, thank you, Dr. Amato, for that. We'll carry on.

With that being done, let's move on to the discussion of whether or not there needs to be an invite of additional presentations as part of our review. We received a lot of interesting information from the written submissions provided to the committee. There were a multitude of views and proposals on our topics of agrifood and agribusiness value-added development from the various individuals and stakeholders who made submissions. This would be an excellent time to determine if there are any particular subjects or focus areas that stand out for committee members. If we identify our target interests now, this will help us determine whether or not we need to invite additional presentations, and if we do, this will provide useful information for the presenters to have.

I'd now like to open the discussion on this. Of course, this would include individuals, organizations, and businesses that we would like to invite. I'll open the floor to that.

10:20

Mr. Taylor: Okay. I've got a list that includes some that are not on the list here of the written submissions, but we're asking about oral presentations as well.

The Acting Chair: Please go ahead, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. I would move that the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future invite the following for oral presentations . . .

The Acting Chair: It doesn't need to be a motion at this time because we're just discussing all the . . .

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Then let's just go with it.

The Acting Chair: Yeah. Please go ahead.

Mr. Taylor: We'll work with that. Dan Madlung, BioComposites; Byron Peters, Mackenzie county; Larry Sears, Alberta grazing association; Alberta Greenhouse Growers; Robert de Groot, Red Cup Distillery; Alberta sugar growers; Michael Munton, Ben's Meats; Steve Bank, Sunora Foods; Galimax eggs; Dave Chalack, Agribusiness Advisory Committee of Calgary Economic Development; James Walper, citizen; Ed Sterenberg, Millet; Bryan Walton, Alberta cattle producers; special areas water board, Jordon Christianson; Bryan Perkins with Perkins Farms; Frank Novac, Alberta Pork; Rich Smith, Alberta Beef Producers.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Taylor.

I'm just going to interject at this moment because we've been joined by another member on the phone, and I'd like to give that

member an opportunity to introduce themselves for the record. Please go ahead.

Mr. Gotfried: Richard Gotfried, MLA, Calgary-Fish Creek.

The Acting Chair: Thank you, Mr. Gotfried.
Okay. Yes, Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Mr. Chair, I was just hoping that we could get a rundown of the list that Mr. Taylor presented because it was hard to follow.

Ms Rempel: We're actually just preparing a copy of that list now, so we'll have that shortly.

Just one note to make. Often when decisions like this are made, the committee will simply invite an organization or a business, and then that group will decide who would best represent their interests in front of the committee. Of course, some of these are private individuals as well, but just something to bear in mind.

Mr. Dach: Just a quick clarification for Mr. Taylor that when he said Alberta sugar growers, if indeed he actually meant Alberta Sugar Beet Growers?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah. I might have said something, and now I don't have it in front of me. I can't even – whatever.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Good.
Would anybody else like to interject at this time?

Mr. Coolahan: Well, I would just like the opportunity to review the list before moving forward if that's okay. How long is it going to take? I don't want to hold up the committee too much.

The Acting Chair: It will take approximately five minutes. That being said, we can entertain – oh, perhaps not. Here we go. It took less than we expected. Thank you.

For those on the phones, a photocopy has been made of the list that Mr. Taylor has provided to the committee, and that is being passed around to the members sitting around the table at this time, just for your information. What's going to happen right now, for those on the phone, is that Jody Rempel, our committee clerk, will now read these into the record.

Ms Rempel: Thank you. We have Dan Madlung with BioComposites; Byron Peters, Mackenzie county; Larry Sears, Alberta grazing association; the Alberta Greenhouse Growers; Robert de Groot, Red Cup Distillery; Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, I believe; Michael Munton, Ben's Meats; Steve Bank, Sunora Foods; Galimax eggs; David Chalack with the Agribusiness Advisory Committee of Calgary Economic Development; James Walper; Ed Sterenberg of Millet; Bryan Walton, the Alberta cattle producers; the special areas water board, Jordon Christianson; Bryan Perkins of Perkins Farms Inc.; Frank Novac with Alberta Pork; and Rich Smith with Alberta Beef Producers.

The Acting Chair: Good. Thank you very much, Ms Rempel.

Mr. Drysdale: I don't want to get picky, but Bryan Walton is with Alberta Cattle Feeders, not producers.

The Acting Chair: Alberta Cattle Feeders: that's Bryan Walton?

Mr. Drysdale: Yeah. He's on the list, but they've got "cattle producers." It's actually Alberta Cattle Feeders. It's Alberta Beef Producers. Not getting picky, but we might as well . . .

The Acting Chair: We always enjoy your clarifications, Mr. Drysdale. Thank you.

Okay. Mr. Coolahan, please go ahead.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Chair. I also have a list of people or organizations and individuals that I would like to invite for an oral presentation. The reason I wanted to see this list, of course, is because there is some overlap. We have some of the same organizations that we wanted to invite, including Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, Calgary Economic Development, to name just a few, also Alberta Greenhouse Growers.

I can present the list for distribution as well. Would you like me to do that first and then read it out? What would be easiest for us?

The Acting Chair: If you could give a copy to Leah. Do you have a copy to further read from?

Mr. Coolahan: Yes, I do.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Let's give a list to Leah so that she can make copies of it, and then please proceed.

Mr. Coolahan: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask the following to give an oral presentation to our committee, starting with TK Ranch, Alberta Food Matters, Peace Gourmet Honey, Calgary Co-op, Medicine Hat Meat Traders, and some educational institutions here: Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at U of A; crop protein and cellulose program; department of agriculture, food and nutritional science at the U of A; and then Olds College. Some other groups include: Alberta Food Processors Association, Alberta Food Cluster – we've already mentioned Alberta Beef Producers and Greenhouse Growers – Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund, Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, Sofina Foods, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Egg Farmers of Alberta. Are these all the same people?

Mr. Dach: No.

Mr. Coolahan: No, they're all different. Hold on. Let me separate this: Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Egg Farmers of Alberta, Alberta Turkey Producers, Alberta Milk, Alberta Chicken Producers, Organic Alberta, and another duplicate, the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers.

I think Mr. Dach has a further list if that's okay.

Mr. Dach: Yeah. I have a few others as well that I'd wish to suggest as presenters. Awqaf Canada, focusing on halal production; Devon mayor, Stephen Lindop, representing regional hemp initiative as well as – it may have been called already – BioComposites group, representing hemp interests; the Alberta Small Brewers Association; Big Rig distillery. I'm not sure if it's been mentioned, but I certainly would like to invite Edmonton Economic Development as well. From the town of Magrath, Sustainable Agricultural Education Partnership should be invited; plus Starfield Centre, also from Magrath; as well as West Grow Farms, an aeroponics indoor farming group; and BioWise as well. Also, it would be interesting to hear the mayor of Lethbridge, Mr. Chris Spearman, talk about the Cavendish Farms announcement there.

10:30

The Acting Chair: Okay. Between both lists it looks like we have quite a considerable list. I want to go to those on the phone just to make sure. Would anyone on the phone like to recommend anybody for the list?

Mr. Gotfried: Yes, Mr. Chair.

The Acting Chair: Please go ahead, Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two names I'd like to add. One is Bryan Walton from the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association. The other one would be Michelle Ball, Brant Lake Wagyu beef. I'll e-mail those to the committee clerk after so that she has the full details.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Were those the only two suggestions that you had, sir?

Mr. Gotfried: That is correct.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you.

The Acting Chair: I'm hoping that we can do some magic here really quickly and our committee clerk can compile all suggestions being made. Is that possible, Committee Clerk Rempel?

Ms Rempel: Yes, of course.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Anything is doable. Jody can do anything.

Let's give her a moment, though. Let's take a coffee break, ladies and gentlemen. We will come back at 10:35 if all are in agreement. All are in agreement. I see nodding of heads. For those on the phone, we're going to take a quick break just to let Ms Rempel put together the list. Feel free to refresh your coffees. We'll be back at 10:35.

[The committee adjourned from 10:32 a.m. to 10:38 a.m.]

The Acting Chair: Okay, everyone. I'm going to call us back to order here, so if everyone can please take their seats, I would appreciate it.

Ms Rempel has worked diligently to co-ordinate both lists, and she will be reading that list out momentarily. Whenever you're ready, Ms Rempel, please take it away.

Ms Rempel: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I did also have one addition that was given to me during the break, so I'll simply include it on the list now, and the committee can make its decision.

The Acting Chair: Who made the suggestion, if you don't mind? Mr. van Dijken did?

Ms Rempel: Yes.

Mr. van Dijken: What I requested is Alberta Council of Technologies. They are doing work with regard to – they did a written submission also, so I think it would be helpful to hear from them.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Perfect.
Please go ahead.

Ms Rempel: All right. I believe that we now have a list that would include Mackenzie county; the Alberta grazing association; Red Cup Distillery; Ben's Meats; Sunora Foods; Galimax eggs; James Walper; Ed Sterenberg; the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association; the special areas water board; Perkins Farms; Alberta Pork; TK Ranch; Alberta Food Matters; Peace Gourmet Honey; Calgary Co-op; Medicine Hat Meat Traders; the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta; crop protein and cellulose program, CP2; the department of agricultural, food, and nutritional science, also at the University of Alberta; Olds College; the Alberta Food Processors Association; Alberta Food

Cluster; Alberta Beef Producers; Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association; Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund; the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef; Sofina Foods; Alberta Hatching Egg Producers; Egg Farmers of Alberta; Alberta Turkey Producers; Alberta Milk; Alberta Chicken Producers; Organic Alberta; Alberta Sugar Beet Growers; Awqaf Canada; the regional hemp initiative; the BioComposites group; Alberta Small Brewers Association; Big Rig distillery; Calgary Economic Development; Edmonton Economic Development; the town of Magrath; Sustainable Agriculture Education Partnership; Starfield Centre; West Grow Farms; BioWise; Brant Lake Wagyu beef; Alberta Council of Technologies, the agriculture and food processing section.

Dr. Turner: I may have missed it, but the mayor of Lethbridge was listed by Member Dach.

Ms Rempel: Okay.

Mr. Orr: Just a question. Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Egg Farmers, Turkey Producers, Alberta Milk, Chicken Producers: are we listing – what is it? – five individual groups there? Their written submission was a unified one. Are we asking for one submission or five? It was on the list as one group.

The Acting Chair: Yes. Please go ahead, Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: I believe we are listing them as an organization, and they can choose to send whom they'd like.

Mr. Orr: Are we asking for all five groups or just as the marketing board group, which is how they submitted?

Mr. Coolahan: That would be up to them. I guess I would have to defer to the marketing group. They could send an individual from each one if they so chose. That's my understanding, anyway.

Dr. Amato could enlighten us a bit on that, maybe.

Dr. Amato: I'm afraid I can't. The submission was from the marketing group, and it combined all five organizations.

The Acting Chair: Please go ahead, Ms Rempel.

Ms Rempel: Just one general comment. I think committee members have probably all been with other committees who have received panel presentations. Usually what happens in that instance is that you have one individual from any particular group or organization that is at the table making the presentation. So the committee probably would want to clarify at this point whether they are inviting the organizations listed as one group, in which case they would get one representative, in total, at the table, or if they are in fact extending their invitation to all five of them, in which case they could either send their own individual or they could decide as a group to just send one individual. But we would need direction as to whether or not they are invited individually or as a group.

The Acting Chair: Yes. Please go ahead, Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Chair, since I did make that submission, I will say that it is as a group, and then they can send whom they would like.

The Acting Chair: Okay. Perfect. Thank you, Mr. Coolahan, for that clarification.

Any further discussion on the current list? I'm just going to check with those on the phone.

Go ahead, Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr: Yeah. As a last minute add-in I'd like to suggest the Marketing Edge. I think the challenge before us has a lot to do with marketing. I realize some of these other people will talk about marketing, but this one, in particular, focuses directly on marketing. It's a big part of it, so I'd just like to suggest to add it.

The Acting Chair: Okay. The Marketing Edge has been added to the list.

Okay. Please go ahead, Dr. Massolin.

10:45

Dr. Massolin: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to point out to committee members that we've got quite a response here. I've counted 49 groups. That's an approximation; I could be off. We're just under 50, so I think you've set a record.

Having said that, I think Ms Rempel's suggestion to put these into panels would be wise unless you want to spend a week doing this. As it is, I think there might be two days' worth of meetings at least – right? – possibly three days, I'm advised. I know it's an upcoming agenda item in terms of the timeline and the review process, so just bear that in mind.

Thank you.

The Acting Chair: Good. Any further comments on the current list that we have going?

Okay. I have a proposed motion: moved by someone on the committee that the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future invite individuals and organizations to make an oral presentation to the committee as part of the inquiry into growing Alberta's agrifood and agribusiness sectors.

Would the committee like Ms Rempel to reread the list? Okay. I'm seeing nodding of heads as no, for those on the phone. Would anybody like to make that motion, please? Mr. Taylor. Yes. Moved by Mr. Taylor that

the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future invite individuals and organizations to make an oral presentation to the committee as part of the inquiry into growing Alberta's agrifood and agribusiness sectors.

Okay. I will call the question. All in favour of the motion? Anybody opposed to the motion? Hearing none, that motion is carried. Thank you very much, everyone.

I'm glad I'm not going to be here for all those meetings. Just joking. I'm sure it's going to be very informative.

Okay. Building on our discussion of next steps, I want to remind everyone that under the standing orders this committee has a six-month time limit for completing this review, which means that this committee must report its recommendations by April 20, 2017, and I think it is reasonable to expect that between now and then there will be a period of two or three weeks during which this committee will have to focus its attention on the consideration of the 2017-2018 main estimates. With this in mind, I would encourage

committee members to continue considering what they see as some of the key issues identified throughout this review so that the committee will be in a position to make some meaningful recommendations at the end of the process.

Any comments at this time regarding the timeline of the review? Okay.

Hearing none, we move on to other business. Do committee members have any other business they wish to raise at this time? I'll double-check with those on the phone. Any other business that committee members would like to raise?

Mr. Orr, I see you have your hand up.

Mr. Orr: The suggestion to put some of these into panels: are we going to do that, or how do we decide that?

The Acting Chair: Ms Rempel, would you like to comment on that?

Ms Rempel: Usually the process with other committees has been that once the committee makes a decision as to who it would like to hear from, then the staff work with the chair and the deputy chair as far as putting together a schedule and some panels once they've had a chance to go through the list and also once they see who is in fact interested in appearing before the committee, and then that just becomes part of the agenda for the appropriate meeting.

Mr. Orr: Mr. Chair, do you want a motion? Do you need a motion to that effect, or are you good?

The Acting Chair: I don't believe we require a motion for that, Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr: Okay. I'm good, then.

The Acting Chair: Thank you very much. Good question.

Okay. One more time I'll ask: any other business at this time that members would like to raise? Okay. Those on the phone? Just double-checking.

Hearing none, then, the date of the next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

With that being said, members, I would like to entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dach motions to adjourn.

Thank you very much. Have a wonderful day.

Dr. Massolin: Mr. Chair, should you conduct a vote?

The Acting Chair: Oh, yes, of course. I'm getting ahead of myself. A motion to adjourn is on the table. All in favour? Anybody opposed? Hearing none, that motion is carried.

Thank you very much, everyone.

[The committee adjourned at 10:49 a.m.]

