

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Report on Presentation by Radicle, December 9th, 2021

Thirtieth Legislature
Third Session
February 2022



Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

February 2022

**To the Honourable Nathan Cooper
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Alberta**

I have the honour of submitting, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, its report respecting the presentation it received from Radicle on December 9, 2021.

Sincerely,

[original signed]

Nathan Neudorf, MLA
Chair, Standing Committee
on Alberta's Economic Future

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MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

30th Legislature Second Session

Nathan T. Neudorf, MLA
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Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)

Jordan Walker, MLA
Sherwood Park (UC)

Substitutions on December 9, 2021, Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4):

Shannon Phillips, MLA²
Lethbridge-West (NDP)

¹ Formerly Michaela L. Glasgow

² Substitution for Janis Irwin

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future is one of three legislative policy committees appointed by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Standing Order 52.01(1)(b) indicates that the Committee's mandate is related to the areas of Advanced Education; Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women; Jobs, Economy and Innovation; Labour and Immigration; and Infrastructure. Under Standing Order 52.08(1) the Committee has the ability to hold public meetings on any matter within its mandate.

On November 2, 2021, the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future received a request from Radicle to make a presentation to the Committee. On November 18, 2021, the Committee decided to invite the Radicle to present to the Committee.

The Committee held a meeting on December 9, 2021, and received a presentation from the Radicle on its initiatives.

Pursuant to Standing Order 52.08(3) the Committee directed that a report be prepared summarizing the presentation heard by the Committee on December 9, 2021, for tabling in the Assembly and distribution to relevant Government of Alberta Ministers.

52.08(3) A Legislative Policy Committee may report to a Minister or responsible public official on issues arising from a public meeting.

This report contains a summary of the presentation received by the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future on December 9, 2021. This report is not intended to be a comprehensive record of the Committee's proceedings. For a complete record consult the transcripts of the Committee proceedings, including the oral presentations made to the Committee, which are available online at assembly.ab.ca.

2.0 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

Radicle

Alastair Handley, Founder and Board Member of Radicle, a company based in Calgary, presented information on growing international support for greenhouse gas emission reductions and the important role Alberta can play in this effort. Handley noted that international support for ambitious climate targets and emission reductions is increasing. In his view, there are many economic growth opportunities to be realized through the transition, especially across six sectors, which are also Alberta's economic strengths. These are agriculture, oil and gas, heavy industry, renewable electricity, buildings, and transportation.

Handley sought Government support for Alberta's transition to a low greenhouse gas economy. He requested that the Government support these initiatives. In Handley's view, "the following types of statements made by the Government of Alberta" will accelerate transition opportunities:

We understand that the world is moving to low GHG fuels, and we're committed to helping our energy companies transition their operations to provide the world with these fuels. We have the resources, knowledge, and people to make this happen. Or: our goal is to become a global centre of excellence in a clean technology hub fostering the development of the goods and services that will be needed to transition to a low GHG economy and thrive in it.

Handley discussed three other potential Government actions to support this transition. First, providing funding to the Ministry of Environment and Parks so that it "can support and expand [Alberta's] amazing carbon market, because in many ways it's one of the best carbon markets in the world." Second, the Government can commit to the creation of "the Alberta healthy soil initiative." Third, the Government can "support the creation of a methane abatement protocol for a new technology, created in Alberta, that will drive revenue to regional waste management authorities and communities across" the province.

With respect to the healthy soil initiative, Handley explained that it

would create an overarching, consolidated organization to promote the development and management of Alberta's rich soils. It would create an appropriate reward program that recognizes the climate benefits through healthy soils and encourages the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. It would be a farmer-friendly system, eliminating the cost of complexities of carbon markets. It can be paid for from revenues generated by Alberta's carbon market.

In order to realize the initiative, Handley advocates the investment of "\$50 million a year, collected through Alberta's carbon market, in our agricultural sector to promote climate-smart agricultural practices with the people that are the backbone of our rural communities."

Handley also described a new landfill biocover technology developed by an engineering company called Tetra Tech. This new technology creates an environment that supports a bacterium known as methanotrophs, which consume methane. According to Handley "there are more than 100 landfills in Alberta today where this technology can be deployed." In Handley's view, "if all of these landfills implemented this technology, they could generate up to \$40 million worth of carbon credits every year, with that revenue going into their communities in which these landfills are located."

In conclusion, Handley argued that Alberta has "the resources and experience that are required to become world leaders in this transition" to a low greenhouse gas economy, and more Government support will help Albertans realize the economic opportunities to be gained.

APPENDIX: LIST OF PRESENTERS

Individual	Organization
Alastair Handley, Founder and Board Member	Radicle