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Review explores solutions for pooling casino dollars, decreasing wait times for charities

Edmonton... An MLA committee will examine aspects of the province's charitable gaming model and make recommendations on how to improve wait times and the pooling of proceeds from licensed casino events to eligible charitable groups. The committee will also review the number of volunteers a group needs to provide to conduct and manage charitable casino events.

This three-member panel was appointed by Fred Lindsay, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security, responsible for the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC). The committee comes in response to concerns raised by some charities that proceeds and wait times between events vary throughout the province. Charities also expressed difficulty in recruiting and retaining enough volunteers to support their activities including casino events.

"Alberta has a unique charitable gaming model that allows eligible organizations to benefit from casino events," said Lindsay. "These charities earn revenue from casinos to support their many worthwhile causes and we want to help ensure the charitable casino model and gaming proceeds continue to serve the best interests of these groups."

In 2008-09, almost 3,500 licensed charities earned \$252 million in proceeds from casino events.

The MLA Committee consists of: Chairperson Rob Anderson, MLA – Airdrie-Chestermere and Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security; Dave Rodney, MLA for Calgary-Lougheed; and Doug Elniski, MLA for Edmonton-Calder.

"We look forward to meeting with the various licensed organizations and hearing their insights and ideas," said Anderson.. "From there, we'll review the options and make recommendations."

Meetings will be held with charities throughout the province between October 5 – 15 and written submissions will be accepted until October 30. A final report with recommendations will be completed by March 31, 2010.

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Backgrounder: Alberta's charitable casino model

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