



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Third Session

Standing Committee
on
Alberta's Economic Future

Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act
Subcommittee
Public Input Meeting in Grande Prairie

Friday, September 8, 2017
1:10 p.m.

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Third Session**

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Subcommittee

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1:10 p.m.

Friday, September 8, 2017

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

Location: Grande Prairie

The Chair: All right. We'll call this meeting back to order. This morning was quite an interesting one, where I believe that most of those who opted to present have presented already as we saw close to a dozen people who brought forth information, including the Grande Prairie chamber of commerce, who opened us up for the day. Because of that, right now we don't have any registered presenters until 2:30. To make good use of the committee's time, I think it may be an opportune time for us to sort of debrief on what's happened here.

For the record, for those who are joining us at home, who are listening to this live audiofeed, I'm Graham Sucha. I'm the subcommittee chair and the MLA for Calgary-Shaw. I'll move to the members on the left here.

Mr. van Dijken: Yes. Good afternoon. I'm the deputy chair, Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Mr. Drysdale: Good afternoon. Wayne Drysdale, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA for Lethbridge-East.

The Chair: And Craig Coolahan, MLA for Calgary-Klein, will be joining us momentarily as well.

First, I think this would be a very good opportunity, Mr. Drysdale, because we're in your home riding and your home city here. What is some of the feedback you've been getting from some of your constituents in relation to this?

Mr. Drysdale: Well, pretty similar to what we've heard this morning. My office has had quite a few people have input. I was guessing it was around a third, a third, and a third, and that's what we heard from the chamber this morning. I wasn't too surprised at that, and even in our presentations it's kind of split which way. I think a majority say: "Quit changing the clock. Leave it at one." But then it's split on which one you leave it on, whether it's Mountain Standard or daylight saving. You know, that's where you get the third and the third. It's pretty much what we heard this morning, for sure.

The Chair: Excellent.

I'll just open it up for our members to kind of give some feedback and some of the observations that they heard from the presenters today. Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Sure. I mean, like Mr. Drysdale says, it's a lot of the same opinions we've heard over 14,000 submissions, which is: everyone has an opinion, and they all seem to be quite a bit different. I think that what we've heard more here than anywhere else, at least than in any other presentations, was the fact that they would prefer Mountain Time rather than Central Time. That's a bit new up here, for sure. Clearly, that's a regional opinion, and we have to take that into consideration because it is a very big consideration. We've continued to hear here, as we have in Edmonton, business concerns with the changing time, so we have to always take those fiscal matters into consideration.

This is clearly a debate that everyone has an opinion on, and in some ways some people are very passionate about it. I mean, I was speaking earlier with Mr. Drysdale. Like, my house is divided on

this, right? I mean, I can't even get consensus in my own house, so it's difficult to do that across the province.

But I think this has been a great exercise. I'm glad we came to Grande Prairie. I think we heard a few additional submissions that give us even more food for thought. It hasn't made it easier, but it's contributing to the dialogue, so I appreciate all the input that we've had here today.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's been interesting for me to hear from individuals on the west side of the time zone and how they have, again, another perspective. That, quite possibly, is why their perspective would be to be more in line with Mountain Standard Time, because of the fact that the day is already a little bit later on this side of the province. That was an interesting perspective.

Also, we heard this morning, we've heard in other presentations that we need to get a good understanding on how it's going to affect commerce and business to the west and to the east. We need to have a good understanding on: is this a national discussion, or is this a provincial discussion, and how are we going to affect business and trading arrangements throughout the country east and west?

The Chair: MLA Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I really appreciated that people who came today really provided thoughtful, reflective responses and certainly looked at different sides of this argument. I really appreciate that. Of course, it doesn't make our job any easier, and my house isn't divided.

Mr. Coolahan: No?

Ms Fitzpatrick: No. However, I certainly appreciate that in many places houses are divided on the issue. We have a large province, and certainly we're going to hear from pretty much all sides of our province. We still have a lot more to hear, and then it will be our obligation to sit down and make a decision. So I really appreciate that people give us their feedback, and we certainly received that this morning.

The Chair: Mr. Drysdale.

Mr. Drysdale: Yeah. It seems we have some time here that we could take advantage of. I'm just a substitute on this committee, so I might add my personal point of view. I was trying to listen to my constituents, and we've heard that. I might take the opportunity to add my point of view to this committee. I might not get another chance.

I was born and raised on a dairy farm and dairy farmed all my life, and it cost us money every time with the time change. It really upset the cows. I either had to get up 4 in the morning instead of 5 or I had to switch the cows for an hour. That cost production, and they were quite upset with me. So I'd be glad as a dairy farmer not to have to put up with the time change again. At the same time, after the dairy I was a beef producer, and you always like to feed your cows in the daylight. You can't really see if there are sick ones or what they're like. If we went with a year-round daylight saving time up here, it wouldn't get light till 10 in the morning, so you would have to wait till after that to feed your cows or else do it in the dark. So from a farmer's perspective, you know, I would have to say: don't change the time, and leave it at Mountain Standard Time. But that's just my personal view. I think we've heard what my constituents had to say.

You know, I think, to sum it up – and you may have heard this before – I was at a conference one time when an Indian chief spoke at the mike and said: leave it up to the white man to cut a foot off the top of the blanket and sew it on the bottom of the blanket and think he had a longer blanket. I'll leave it at that.

The Chair: There were some comments made in relation to moisture on the farm, especially as the temperature starts to decrease. Would you see, especially Mr. van Dijken, because I know you're very familiar with, you know, harvesting – Mr. Drysdale, I'm not sure if you utilized a lot of harvesting of hay or anything like that – do you think that would have any implications as a farmer as well?

Mr. Drysdale: Well, you know, definitely not, because I think that's the point that urban people miss. The daylight hours haven't changed. There are still the same number of daylight hours. Farmers go out and harvest when it's dry and when it's ready, and it doesn't matter what the clock says. So our daylight hours haven't changed at all. You harvest when it's ready. It doesn't matter to a farmer whether you start at 11 or 12. You might have to go all night, or you might be done in six hours. That really doesn't affect the drying time because daylight is the same.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken, do you . . .

1:20

Mr. van Dijken: Sure. I can add a little bit of perspective. You know, we know that a number of years ago we were changing the clock, I believe, in the third week in October, where we fall back. If we were still harvesting after that, it seemed like, "Wow, it's dark already, and it's only 6 o'clock," that kind of thing. Then we went to where the clock went back at the first part of November, and you noticed the difference. We still worked with mealtime based on the clock rather than the sun.

Yeah. Like Wayne says, the amount of time that you have in a day to actually perform field operations is based on the sunlight and not based on the clock. You know, we do get it done when there's an opportunity to get it done.

The Chair: I know we have one presenter up, but I think that just before we get to that presenter, I'll use this as an opportunity just to ask a quick question that might also help with some of the dialogue. We heard from one individual – and it was Mr. Belke – who presented us with a document here to kind of go over some of those details. With, as you said, Mr. Drysdale, not being a fan of the time change because of the cattle industry and with people not knowing necessarily what time zone we're going to be adopting or having some confusion as to what that means at the end of the day and with the prospect of any regret over which time we adopt, I'd love to open up the dialogue to quickly address the confusion between Mountain Standard Time and Mountain Daylight Time. I know, Mr. Coolahan, you had some clarifications earlier.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Well, first of all, I don't have cattle, but I do have kids. My wife certainly says that there is a noticeable difference with my children every time the clock changes, and I hope the fact that I don't notice that doesn't reflect on my parenting. Getting to your question there, Chair, I like having the long summer days, which is what we would continue to have on Central Time. I think a lot of people enjoy that.

However, the downfall with that comes with the fact that we would be distinctly different from B.C., two hours. We've heard many comments, particularly in Edmonton, this week about how that would impact the economy. Like I said, here it's been quite

different to hear people more passionate about Mountain Standard Time, so that's given us a lot of food for thought. I know there's certainly been a lot of talk in Calgary about how it would impact minor sports and golf. I don't know if it would have the same impact here. I'd probably leave that to Mr. Drysdale to answer, but that confusion is correct. There is confusion around what it would actually look like year-round. I think I tried to make a clarification earlier about Central Time having that extra-long evening and Mountain Time not.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, I think I keep reflecting back on, certainly, my time as a mom when my kids were growing up and having to deal with the kids either fighting to get up in the morning or wanting to stay up too late at night. If the clock didn't change, then it certainly would have made it better for them. I noticed that they were cranky. I taught school. The kids were cranky in school. They were not focused on what they should be learning for several days after the clock change, and it took an awful lot more work for me as a teacher to get them kind of reined in to pay attention. Their sleep patterns were definitely affecting their behaviour and their ability to do what they needed to do in the class.

I also reflect back to the numbers of people that have come to my office right from as soon as I moved into my office and every time the clock has changed since. A flood of people come and say to me: you have to stop changing the clock; like, you have to do something about it. Certainly, I think we are in a position to do something about that, and the bill, in fact, is about repealing the old daylight saving bill. Of course, the recommendation that the private member has done is actually to go to Central Time. I have my own feelings about it, but I have to listen to my constituents, and we have to listen to Albertans.

As we heard from the chamber here, generally there's a three-way split. That isn't what I heard in my office. What I heard in my office was: stop changing the time. And then probably the majority of the people who came in, probably 75 per cent or 80 per cent, wanted to go with Central Time versus Mountain Time. So I think we're going to see a split depending on where people live throughout the province, and we certainly have to reflect on that when we make decisions on the bill.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sometimes I question whether or not we need to take more consideration. Yes, we do have some difficulties that we face during that period when we're changing the time, but then we spend, I believe, close to eight months in a new time. Do we find that the benefits of being able to be spending the longer evenings in the summer – can we find benefits that outweigh the fact that we have to take that week or two weeks, whatever it takes, to have that biological change occur within each individual and within the livestock we're dealing with? I'm not sure. You know, like, we did have Mr. Belke talk about that there's confusion over it. But there are two decisions that need to be made here, the decision whether or not changing the time is helpful, or are we done with that? And if we're done with that, then the decision has to be made: what time do we prefer to have year-round?

Mr. Drysdale talked about what his personal preference was. Myself, my preference is to continue with daylight saving time. I know that in my time raising livestock – I was in the hog industry – I spent half a day's work in the middle of winter, and a lot of that is that you feel quite lonely in the dark. To make the morning that much longer in the dark – I think there are benefits to being able to change the clock back so that we can get some daylight a little bit

earlier at the start of our workday. I am one that is fine with changing clocks and sticking with what we're currently doing, but then again, like Mr. Drysdale has said and others have alluded to in the chamber just this morning, quite often it's a three-way split. One is to not change what we're currently doing. For those who want to change what we're currently doing, the two-thirds or so, half are going one way and half are going the other way. So it is a difficult decision to make.

Again, I think we need to really get all the information, do the analysis, and get all the information gathered as to how likely it is to affect the business that we do, commerce that we do, and those types of things also.

The Chair: Mr. Drysdale, any additional comments?

Mr. Drysdale: I think it's all been said most of the time, but, you know, the golf thing, about golfing after work: the golf courses don't open until May, and in May there's lots of time after 5 o'clock to get a round of golf in. Even up here right now you can still get a round of golf after work, and then up here the golf courses close in October. We're only talking, you know, a few weeks of the year where you can't golf after work because it's too dark, so it's not, like, an all-year thing. Sometimes it's hard to get to sleep here when it's daylight at 11 or 12 at night, so if it was backed up by an hour, it might even be better for that short period.

1:30

The other part to consider is putting our kids on the school buses in the dark. You know, up here now it's still dark till just about 7, a little before, but pretty soon at 8 o'clock it'll be dark, and we'll be putting our kids on the bus. You know, if we left it daylight savings all year round, then all of a sudden in September you're putting your kids on the bus in the dark, and you'll be putting them on the bus in the dark until March. That's not going to be helpful either, I don't think.

I'll just leave it at that. I think I've said all my points. It's a lot of listening to what the people have to say, and I still say that it's a three-way split there.

The Chair: Yeah. It's always interesting to hear that perspective. As the committee chair I always restrain myself from putting any position down, especially after the committee was struck, but if you go back on the record before this committee was established, I've put a position down from my experiences as a business operator and restaurant manager. The one thing that I probably didn't take into consideration was the ties with the western Pacific trade routes that we have because I was very focused on a company that was actually an Ontario-based, centrally located one, where a lot of our correspondence happened with the east. That was why my vantage point, my perspective was there. But as we start to hear – you can kind of see both sides of the argument as this unravels, so it's been a pretty remarkable process.

Moving forward, I know we have some presenters that are available here. Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Duncan Finlayson.

Duncan Finlayson

Mr. Finlayson: Yeah. Good afternoon. My name is Duncan Finlayson. I'm from Eaglesham, Alberta, and I came here to present my thinking on the type of method we're going to use to keep track of time. Most of you have made the same points that I'm going to make, I think. I also love the extra time at the end of the day. It makes a big difference.

If we went with Mountain Standard Time year-round, it would really impact the golf course I'm involved with. Because we're a small community, our members actually come from Grande Prairie, Peace River, whatever, and I run leagues after supper on Friday nights. For example, tonight after supper is couples' night. For the people to get there after work from Grande Prairie, Peace River, Donnelly, Falher, we'd have to start golfing before they could get there. That impacts our income because we depend on those leagues. I do a men's league night as well, and there's a women's league going as well. From the middle of August or even before we'd have to maybe do away with that league play, and that would really impact our income. I'll put it that way.

In no particular order, the connection with Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, and that block of B.C. – I'm sure it affects business and that type of thing, too. But also being a hockey fan, it would really impact the North Peace Hockey League because games usually start at 9. It's a working man's league, so people have to work and then get to the game. If we went with 8 o'clock games on this side, Dawson Creek and them would be 7 o'clock if we're on Central Standard Time. If it was the other way around – like, Spirit River, Fairview, Manning, Grimshaw going to B.C. – and they start at 8 o'clock, it would be 9 o'clock our time. Then they wouldn't be able to get home till after midnight. So I'm sure some of that would impact that hockey league.

Keeping with the hockey theme, years ago the NHL and CBC for *Hockey Night in Canada* started their games in the east, in Toronto at 7 o'clock their time, 5 o'clock our time. Then the game would be over, and we could pick up the western feed at 8 o'clock. Now it won't be until 9 o'clock, so I'm sure the Oilers and the Flames would probably lose a few fans. To take a family out to their games, they'd say: ah, it won't be over till midnight; that's too late. And I'll have to stay up to after midnight to watch my Oilers lose.

The Chair: They did well in the playoffs.

Mr. Finlayson: Yeah.

I was a schoolteacher also, and I would worry about the impact of bringing kids to – like, right now in January the sun doesn't come up until 9:30 almost, and now it would be 10:30 before the sun came up. It would impact the kids' learning as well, I believe. I have no studies on that, but I think it would impact the alertness of the kids in the morning.

I would gladly keep the system as it is. I'd like to gain that hour. If the sun is rising at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning, I'd gladly shift that to the end of the day so that I can go play my round of golf and get home and still do some yardwork. The people who have to work in this day and age are working until 8 o'clock in the stores. It gives them some time to get home and do yardwork or get out and go for a walk, walk the dog or whatever they do, get some exercise. That would be a benefit to our health care system, I'm sure. Mountain Standard Time would take at least an hour of that away, and we might not be able to do it.

Central Standard Time: you'd still have that, but it's the morning part that I would be worried about. Like Mr. Drysdale said, the kids getting on the bus in the dark is not very safe. Now that the sun isn't rising until 7 o'clock or whatever, I would gladly like to see the clock shift back so that I can get that daylight back in the morning. In the summertime I don't need it in the morning because I'm sleeping at 4 o'clock.

Those are the points I'd like to make. I'd really like to see the system stay as it is, spring ahead and fall back.

The Chair: Thank you.

Any questions from committee members? No.
I think you covered it all. Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Finlayson: Thank you very much.

The Chair: Just because we have some more people joining us here in the room, I thought I would quickly go over the context of how we've kind of gotten here today. Early in the spring session on April 3, 2017, MLA Thomas Dang brought forth a private member's bill, Bill 203, the Alberta Standard Time Act, in the Legislature.

The Legislative Assembly referred Bill 203 to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future for review. As part of the review the committee has heard from numerous stakeholders and over 13,000 Albertans through written submissions. On August 8, 2017, the committee established this subcommittee to hold public meetings with Albertans to gather additional feedback on the bill. The subcommittee has been directed to hold meetings here in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge and report back to the committee on what it hears. The committee has also heard oral presentations from a number of key stakeholders on Bill 203. A decision has also been made to accept additional written submissions until September 15, 2017. If any additional information needs to be provided, the committee will still be accepting those written submissions till that date. Just as a note, the committee has been tasked to report back to the Legislative Assembly with its findings from Albertans by October 4 of this year. Within less than a month we will be reporting back to the Legislature on many of the findings and the feedback that we get from meetings like this one today.

One of the things we did this morning was that once we got through our scheduled presenters, we gave the opportunity for those who were in the audience to provide any supplemental feedback that they wanted to provide or any information to the subcommittee. At this time if there's anyone in the audience who would like to provide any feedback to the committee, I'd invite you to take the mike and proceed.

Ms Kurylo: I wasn't expecting to speak today. I wasn't quite sure what the format would be, but I'm thankful for this opportunity to speak.

1:40

The Chair: Just because we're streaming live audio, if you could give us your name for the record, too.

Paulette Kurylo

Ms Kurylo: My name is Paulette Kurylo. I'm a long-time resident of Grande Prairie, for over 40 years. I lived in Edmonton prior to that, so I have been in this part of Alberta for most of my life.

Firstly, I would like to say that it is really important that we come out of this mechanized idea that we can play around with the sun, play around with nature, and try to make things work our way. It doesn't work that way. The sun does what it does, and we can't change it, but humanity can change the way they operate. I think it's absolutely possible that we can have a good working relationship with the different time zones in this country and the different time zones down south by remaining Mountain Standard Time.

I grew up mostly under Mountain Standard Time, well, in my childhood. My observations have no – what was mentioned: there are no studies. I haven't done studies on this. This is merely my observation and my experience. Whenever the time changes to daylight standard time, people are not happy. They complain about sleep deprivation, they complain about their natural rhythm clock,

their body clock changing, they're losing sleep, they're not functioning well at work during the day, and of course it was mentioned about how it does affect children. I am the mother of two adult children now, but I do know that it's very difficult to get children to sleep when the sun is outside and everyone else is out there mowing the lawn or walking the dog or doing whatever they do in those hours.

I'm really glad that this opportunity is here to discuss it because of the controversy that has always existed with Mountain Standard Time and how people are not happy with it. We have to face the fact that there are different time zones, and to try to change that is just so totally unnatural to how we function and operate. I think we've made this much more complicated than it needs to be. Everybody has an opinion, and that's a good thing because if everybody thought the same, nobody would be thinking at all. However, I do think that in this case we have to just get back to basic Mountain Standard Time. B.C. has Pacific Standard Time. Time goes as it does as you go east.

I do notice that nobody knows what time it is anywhere else anymore. We are Mountain Daylight Time right now. Well, what is Prince George, and what is Fort St. John? They don't change the clock, so they're the same as what they normally are. Honestly, if we keep fiddling around with this any longer, we are going to have to carry a chart that names the cities and what time zones they're in like what you see in airports or whatever. You have this wall of clocks that tell you what time it is in different areas.

In wrapping up, I would say: let's just get back to basics, leave the sun alone, leave the clock alone, and let's just have Mountain Standard Time throughout the year. Thank you very much.

The Chair: Any additional questions from committee members?
Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Just a comment, I guess. I do like the comment that we can't change the sun, and I think we do have to remember – and you're point is well taken – that time is a human construct, right? We're dealing with the sun here. But we do want to try to ensure that we are doing the best we can. I mean, from a personal perspective, much like Mr. van Dijken, I don't have an issue with changing the clocks, but many do. Many, many do, actually. I think it was about 75 per cent – it was up that high – that don't. Ms Fitzpatrick said that in her office it seems to be a hundred per cent.

Ms Fitzpatrick: No, no. There are a couple left that don't want it.

Mr. Coolahan: So 99.9. Yeah. And we have to take that seriously because this is, you know, what people are saying.

If we're going to eliminate that, which is what we're talking about here today, the question then becomes: which side to go on? That becomes the more critical piece, I think, for everyone involved, on a personal level and an economic level.

Again, I appreciate your input here today. All input is helpful, and it makes it much more difficult. Thank you so much.

The Chair: Excellent. Are there any other members within the public that wish to present?

Mr. Finlayson: Sorry. Duncan Finlayson again. There was one thought that I had that I forgot to mention. Talking about farm animals, I've heard the argument that the production of chickens laying eggs and cows producing milk is affected by me switching the hands on my clock. I don't think that would be the truth.

And these other arguments: I think people think they're not going to be out of sync because we can't change the sun. But the sun changes itself. We have varying hours of daylight throughout the

year, and I think you'll find out that you're still going to have depression and whatever in the winter, when you have fewer hours of daylight. I know I do. Then in the summer I've got all kinds of energy. I can go out, play a round of golf, go home and mow my lawn, and have lots of energy. In the wintertime I lack that energy. I think you're going to find out that kids and everybody else are affected as well, and it's the changing number of hours of daylight that is affecting their behaviour, not because we stick to one time or not.

The Chair: I'll allow another opportunity if there are any other members within the audience that wish to provide us with any additional feedback or information.

Seeing and hearing none, we have another individual scheduled for 2:30 to present to the subcommittee, so we'll utilize this opportunity to take a recess until that time. We'll reconvene at 2:30.

[The subcommittee adjourned from 1:48 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.]

The Chair: Good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to call this meeting back to order and welcome everyone to the subcommittee of the Standing Committee of Alberta's Economic Future.

Before we begin, just for the sake of the people who have joined us this afternoon who weren't here earlier today, we'll all introduce ourselves. My name is Graham Sucha. I'm the subcommittee chair as well as the chair of the standing committee, and I'm also the MLA for the constituency of Calgary-Shaw. I'll start to my far right and have us work our way down here.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Good afternoon. I'm Maria Fitzpatrick. I'm the MLA for Lethbridge-East.

Mr. Coolahan: Good afternoon. I'm Craig Coolahan, the MLA for Calgary-Klein. Thanks to everyone for coming today. It's been a great time in Grande Prairie, for sure.

Mr. van Dijken: Good afternoon. MLA Glenn van Dijken. I'm from the Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock constituency.

Mr. Drysdale: Good afternoon. Wayne Drysdale, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti, best constituency in Alberta.

The Chair: The MLA for Grande Prairie-Smoky might take exception to your comments.

Before we hear from our next presenter, I would like to make a few comments about Bill 203, the Alberta Standard Time Act, that the committee has been tasked to review. Bill 203 proposes that, if passed, as of November 2018 the Daylight Saving Time Act would be repealed, and Alberta would remain on Alberta standard time. Alberta standard time is defined as being six hours behind Coordinated Universal Time and would be the equivalent of Mountain Daylight Time, the time that we are on right now.

On April 3, 2017, the Legislative Assembly referred Bill 203 to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future for review. As part of the review the committee has heard from numerous stakeholders and over 13,000 Albertans through written submissions.

On August 8, 2017, the committee established this subcommittee to hold public meetings within Alberta to gather additional feedback on the bill. The subcommittee has been directed to hold meetings in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge and report back to the committee on what it hears.

The committee has also heard oral presentations from a number of key stakeholders on Bill 203. A decision has also been made to accept additional written submissions until September 15, 2017, so

anyone present or anyone listening, if they want to provide any additional feedback or any feedback to the committee, there is still time to do so online.

Just as a reminder to presenters, you will have five minutes to make your presentation, and if you have supplementary materials from your presentation you wish to present to the subcommittee, please provide them for the committee clerk. The committee clerk will keep track of presentation times and will signal when you have one minute remaining for your presentation and when your presentation time has expired.

With that, Mr. Roth will call for the first presenter.

Mr. Roth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Susan Schneider.

Ms Schneider: Good afternoon. Is that loud enough?

The Chair: Good afternoon. Before you proceed, if you could state your name for the record and for those listening as well.

Susan Schneider

Ms Schneider: Susan Schneider. I'm completely unprepared. I came to listen to what's going on, but I want to have a little input, I'd say.

I have MS. I have caregivers come into my home. I have a routine. I'm very routined. Every time the time is changed, my internal clock is disrupted. My routine is disrupted whether it's in the spring or in the fall, so I would be in support of eliminating daylight savings time.

As well, my parents and several others are farmers, and they find that animals on their farm, their internal clocks are disrupted as well. People have an internal clock, a routine. When the time is changed, your feeding time is changed, your milking time. All of that is changed. People like routine, so we would be in favour of eliminating daylight savings time.

Thank you for listening.

The Chair: Thank you, Ms Schneider. It's great to have someone who likes to talk about the internal clock involving themselves as well, and it's the first individual that we've had today who's talked about the personal struggles that come from this, too, so thank you.

I think Mr. Coolahan has a question for you.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you for your presentation, Ms Schneider. Not changing the clock, do you have a preference on which way to go, central or mountain time?

Ms Schneider: That I do not have a preference on. I just know that changing the clock – a lot of people say that they like it in the fall. You get an extra hour sleep. It still disrupts schedule. Mountain or standard: it's the clock changing, that hour, the disruption, a disruption in routine. We're creatures of habit, and we have internal clocks. Disrupt that, and it disrupts the whole week, not just the day, not the next day; it takes about a week to two weeks to get back into a good feeling of that routine.

Mr. Coolahan: This disruption: is it both physical and psychological?

Ms Schneider: Yes. Yes, very much so. Psychological, I think, is a lot stronger than people think.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

Ms Schneider: Thank you.

The Chair: Any other members of the subcommittee wish to ask any questions?

Excellent. Thank you so much.

Ms Schneider: Good. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gord Lengurenus.

Gord Lengurenus

Mr. Lengurenus: Yeah. I'm Gord Lengurenus. I've been in Grande Prairie for 40 some-odd years now. As far as daylight savings a friend of mine once told me: if you cut a foot off the bottom of the blanket and sew it on the top, you don't get the blanket any longer.

The Chair: Was it Mr. Drysdale? Because he said that two hours ago.

Mr. Lengurenus: So you know, really, daylight savings, as far as I'm concerned, is frivolous and foolish. Depending where you live, the sun comes up – I don't look at a clock – and it goes back down. It doesn't matter what part of the planet you're on. Your day is your day. I don't know if they accused Benjamin Franklin of coming up with something so stupid, but they were trying to save kerosene, I believe. But now it doesn't apply. Before the Industrial Revolution people were basically farmers and stuff like that. They'd sleep their night. They'd get up. They'd work for three or four hours, have a nap, and then go do some more work, have a nap, have their nightlife or whatever. But since we've had the Industrial Revolution and the creation of the light bulb, our circadian rhythm has never been normal, and it never will be.

The study they've done in the armed forces with fighting forces – and this is just what I've heard; I can't back it, but I think it's worth researching – found that their fighters, when they're out into battle, they're good for about four hours. Let them have a rest. Put another shift in, and let them fight. They're more effective that way. The basic premise that it comes to is that the human being needs roughly eight hours of sleep a day. Doesn't matter when you have it as long as you get it. Some people are more inclined to be up in the daytime, and some are less inclined, are more like night owls. But whatever your circadian rhythm is, it's your rhythm, and you can't say that everybody has the same rhythm. They don't.

That's all I have to say.

The Chair: Excellent.

I'll open it up for questions from subcommittee members. Mr. Drysdale.

Mr. Drysdale: Just for the record, to be clear, are you saying don't change the clocks? What would be your preference: Mountain Standard Time all year round?

2:40

Mr. Lengurenus: Just leave them the way they are. Set them one way or the other, you know, just something that's agreeable, something that maybe the three western provinces can go one way and the eastern provinces go another, something within reason. In light of our current situation, everybody gets up and goes to work in the morning and stuff like that. You know, we have to have some regularity. I was in a bad accident last year, and the words don't come as quickly as they should. I had my head whacked pretty hard. As far as changing it every season, I think it's foolish. I really do.

Everybody in my house agrees, and they sent me down because they're too busy to come.

The Chair: Excellent.

Mr. Coolahan: Just as our previous presenter gave us some personal perspective on how it actually impacts her, does the changing of the time impact you both psychologically and physically?

Mr. Lengurenus: Well, I've been a truck driver all my life, and I have to say that the clock was something I ignored until I got older. Now, I really worked hard and worked all those extra hours for basically nothing because you don't get any further ahead. You may temporarily, but the government takes it away from you, or the bureaucrats, I should say. They're not government. People are government. Bureaucrats are bureaucrats. That's the other thing about daylight savings. It is more for the bureaucrats than it is for the people. Yeah. Because I believe in government of the people, by the people, and for the people but not a government of the government, by the government, for the government.

Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. David Lahoda.

Mr. Lahoda: Yeah. Just give me a couple of minutes here.
Good afternoon. Hello, everyone.

The Chair: Yeah. Just for the record and for those listening online if you could state your name for the record, please.

David Lahoda

Mr. Lahoda: Yeah. David Lahoda. Could I please ask which party each of you are affiliated with?

The Chair: Absolutely.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I'm Maria Fitzpatrick. I'm the MLA for Lethbridge-East, and I'm NDP.

Mr. Coolahan: I'm the NDP MLA for Calgary-Klein.

The Chair: I'm the NDP MLA for Calgary-Shaw, but in my role as chair I must maintain neutrality and be nonpartisan.

Mr. van Dijken: MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock and part of the United Conservative Party.

Mr. Drysdale: Good afternoon. Wayne Drysdale, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti and part of the United Conservative Party.

Mr. Lahoda: Yes. Thank you for giving me the democratic right to speak my opinion here. I just got here, but from what I heard from the last speaker, I believe that I am of the same philosophy. Daylight saving time, this whole committee, is nothing but a smokescreen for our provincial socialist NDP government. A smokescreen for what? For the incredible, incredible debt that we have, \$10,000 for every child, woman, and man in this province. And what's being done about it? We're running around spending money on a committee like this about daylight saving time. For what? What's it going to solve? Nothing. There are as many pros as there are cons for changing it.

There was an excellent editorial in the *Calgary Herald*. I believe today is Friday; it was on Wednesday. I was trying to find it; I didn't. But this editorialist's comments were to the effect that, yes, you're just trying to delude us that this is an important issue. Give me a break. Whether a parent has a child not sleeping at nighttime because it's still light out, isn't that same child going to be waking up too early in the morning on standard time?

The airlines: they're indicating that to have a change to standard time is going to muck up their schedule. They point to Saskatchewan with its standard time, that people have confusion there. So we're going to create more confusion here by changing from something that we have to something else? What's the point? Dollars. Dollars. From where? From us, from everyone in this room and everyone else who is a citizen of Alberta, money being sucked out of our pockets. I'm sorry, but I call this political parasitism. Leave us, the taxpayers, alone, please. Leave us alone. Just let us go on with our lives. Let us be able to have a productive economy, which we still don't. Oil is still in the tanker.

This NDP government has thrown a carbon tax on us that is, again, sucking money out of our pockets. Show me actual science for the need for a carbon tax. Show it to me. It's not there. And it shouldn't be politicians debating the need for a carbon tax or not. It should be scientists debating that. I just don't understand it.

What is the allotted budget for this committee, please?

The Chair: The allotted budget for the committee?

Mr. Lahoda: Yes.

The Chair: I couldn't tell you the amount at this given time. But with that being said, the focus point on this right now and what we're trying to focus on is Bill 203, so I would caution all members to continue to keep the conversation focused on that point as well.

Mr. Lahoda: Okay. Well, I think it's important to know the cost of it. All of us that live, that have households: we have budgets. We know if we exceed it or not. For you to tell me that you don't even know how much money you have allotted to the budget: I find that ridiculous. It's just money pouring from the sky from our taxpayers. The money is coming out of our pockets, flying into the sky, and going to you so that you can run around and do this. It's absurd. Why do we have to do this? Why couldn't we be giving this money towards education, as the NDP seems to see as very important, or to the single moms out there with children that have very, very limited shelter, that don't know where the money is coming from for the next house payment, for rent? Why isn't the money going there?

The other thing is that for this NDP, green government this is contradictory because President George Bush actually expanded the length of time that we were going to have DST throughout the year in order to conserve energy – yes – so that we wouldn't have to spend so much on lighting. You're doing the opposite, so you're contradicting yourself. You're saying, "Hey, we're the almighty green party, pro environment and everything," and you're going to increase costs for lighting and, in effect, take more money out of our pockets, your constituents, towards lighting.

2:50

The Chair: I hesitate to interrupt, but the five minutes has concluded.

I'll open it up for Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Lahoda. I would have appreciated it, though, if you'd have stuck to the topic. But I'm going to, I guess, help you out a bit here. What we have in

front of us is a private member's bill, okay? It's not a government bill. For any private member from any party, if they introduce a bill, sometimes it gets sent to committee, and that's what happened with this bill, so it wouldn't have mattered, right?

Mr. Lahoda: But I can assure that the chances of an NDP private member's bill getting to where it is now is much greater than if it was the opposition.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, let me tell you that I don't think it's correct for us as a committee to dismiss the fact that we had 14,000 submissions on this. I don't think that's fair. A lot of people spoke up about this. A lot of people are passionate about this topic, and we're here to try and figure it out and make it the best way we can and do what's best for the province.

Mr. Lahoda: And waste the government's money; that is, our money, the taxpayers' money.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. I explained to you what a private member's bill is, and you can accept it, or you can't.

Mr. Lahoda: Yeah.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay.

The Chair: Are there members wishing to ask any questions? Excellent.

Thank you, Mr. Lahoda, for your presentation today as well.

Mr. Lahoda: Thank you. I see it as one of the few opportunities for me to actually address someone in the NDP. I am in the riding of Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, and your Minister of Energy and my MLA does not return my phone calls, will not talk to me. So there is no democracy.

The Chair: Mr. Lahoda, thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Lahoda: So here I am talking to you. I finally got a chance to talk to three living, breathing NDP MLAs, so I have achieved my mission.

Thank you very much.

The Chair: Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Valerie Wold.

Valerie Wold

Ms Wold: Hi. My name is Valerie Wold, and I was born and raised in this country. I know Mr. Drysdale quite well. We went to church together, hey?

Anyway, I wasn't going to speak, but I'm talking from the heart. I have five siblings. All five of us have problems with the time change, emotionally and mentally. I'm still on a fast train to nowhere till it changes back. It takes me a month to get back to what's normal for me. We only have November, December, January, and February left, basically. The first month is gone waiting for me to get back to normal, and I don't ever get adjusted. I don't ever adjust to the time change. It doesn't matter if you do it for the whole year. Then I'm hooped, and a lot of my siblings are also, right?

Like, that one gentleman talked about the internal circadian rhythm of our bodies. Well, mine is set on what the time was way back when. I don't blame the NDP for time change or anything like that. The biggest thing for me is that you can't blame it on a party

because governments before had the issue of lengthening it. It never used to be eight months out of the year.

I just stopped for a brief minute at Grant Berg's gallery over here, and he said: "Well, if you talk, tell them this. We're on the same line as California. We're farther west than they are. When you do the time change, we're the same as Florida. Why?" Right? So just from my own personal view and watching animals, animals are shocked, like, as far as being their normal selves also. They are born and raised on a certain time. It doesn't matter who changes the time. It's like if you believe in God or not. To me, it's like this is just normal, so quit trying to take and change God's way of our land.

Thank you very much.

The Chair: I'll open the subcommittee up for questions.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation, Ms Wold. Many jurisdictions are looking at changes right now for the very reasons you're talking about. We're not sure. I think there are a lot of misconceptions around the fact of why it was done in the first place, too.

Ms Wold: Right.

Mr. Coolahan: Right. I think we've dispelled the notion that it was the farmers that requested it. I think there were some sort of energy savings involved in it, and from what I've seen, I don't think that's actually occurring. Just to let you know, as you were, I think, somewhat alluding to, this isn't a partisan issue whatsoever. I was showing one of the earlier presenters the long list of jurisdictions in the United States that are looking at doing away with the changing of the clocks. It is such a passionate issue for so many people because it does impact them. If you weren't here earlier, I said that I can't get consensus in my own household. I don't mind the change of the clock. My wife hates it, and she says that the kids are off their rockers. I don't notice that part.

Ms Wold: Probably because you're out of the house.

Mr. Coolahan: Maybe. Yeah.

Anyway, I think it's our responsibility to ask which way you would go because this is actually the decision being made. We've come to a point where we are seeing that the majority of people want to do away with changing the clock, but which way do you go? Do you have a preference on that?

Ms Wold: Well, whatever we are – is it Mountain Standard Time that we will be at when we change it back, when we fall back this fall?

Mr. Coolahan: Yes.

Ms Wold: That's what I want. That's what my body works on, that time.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Any other questions from the subcommittee members?

Seeing none, thank you so much.

Ms Wold: Well, thank you for letting me speak.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you for sharing.

Excellent. We are through with registered speakers. Right now, similar to what happened in our morning session, we'll open this up

for individuals within the audience who are wanting to speak if they have any additional feedback or comments to provide in relation to Bill 203.

Before we move forward, I'll just kind of give the Coles Notes, and I'd be happy to allow any subcommittee members to supplement on anything I add. Some of the feedback that we had, looking at the debriefing when we spoke at the beginning of the afternoon session, is that it's been very interesting to hear sort of the perspectives and the challenges that the Grande Prairie region faces because of your economic ties with British Columbia. It's been a common theme that we've heard in other comments, whether it's from other business operators about whether or not we align ourselves more with British Columbia or if we align ourselves more with what we see in Saskatchewan going forward.

The chamber of commerce spoke with us earlier today. They said that of their members they surveyed, it was a three-way split between Mountain Daylight Time, Mountain Standard Time, and continuing to do the time change. Obviously, it allows us to go into a further dilemma and have to really weigh a lot of the feedback that's provided to us by many of the participants today.

It's been really remarkable because a lot of the people that have presented to us have had long ties with Grande Prairie. While many of them were not from Grande Prairie, as most people originally may not be from Alberta, some of them have been here for 30, 40 years and have really given that long perspective and can give the perspective of what it was like before we adopted the time change as well. It's been a very sort of fulfilling moment for us to really get all this perspective and to hear your stories about how this impacts your business or your quality of life or your family's quality of life.

With that, unless any other committee members have anything to supplement – Mr. Drysdale.

3:00

Mr. Drysdale: Yeah. I assume there's no one else coming to the mike. I just wanted to point out that there's a gentleman in the back that has phoned my office and made his point clear. He's, I guess, shy to come to the mike.

So just for the record I want to put it on the record that he's one of the group that would like to see it the way it is, keep changing our clocks back and forth each year. He's good with daylight saving time.

Mr. Ray: My name is Gary Ray.

The Chair: Well, Gary, if you would like to join us at the microphone.

Mr. Coolahan: He doesn't look like the shy type.

Mr. Drysdale: No. He's usually quite vocal.

The Chair: If you can state your full name for the record as well.

Gary Ray

Mr. Ray: Gary Ray, Beaverlodge. I want to leave it the way it is, that we switch back and forth. It's quality of life. People want to walk their dogs, play golf, even people in Edmonton and Lethbridge. To listen to people that want to go back to the way it was – it's been like this for 40 or 50 years. We might as well just continue on. That's why I'm shy, because I'm not speaking very well. You know, I have in-laws that come up from Edmonton, and they can't believe how beautiful the summers are. Maybe the lady from Lethbridge has never been up here in the summertime.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I lived in Yellowknife for almost eight years.

Mr. Ray: And you didn't like it?

Ms Fitzpatrick: I loved it.

Mr. Ray: Okay. Enough said.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I didn't mind the winters either.

Mr. Ray: Yeah. I don't know. I don't think it's that bad. I think the guy that figured this out was a pretty smart guy. We've got the best of both worlds, best summers and best winters.

That's all I've got to say.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you, but you've told us that we have to come back up here in the winter, then.

Alexa Oilund

Ms Oilund: Well, I'm not going to go to the mike, but I'm in favour of daylight saving time, just like that gentleman who talked. I have no problem with time change. It doesn't affect my life. I've got three cats and a grandpuppy. They don't mind. So I want it to continue the way it is. I love the long daylight because I love to exercise, so I can do it at midnight if I want.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you.

Are there any other members within the audience who wish to provide additional feedback about Bill 203 or any supplemental comments?

Mr. Lengurenus: Just getting back to that it doesn't matter what end of the day you put the time on. It doesn't matter. Everybody has

a choice to set their own schedule for whatever they want. If they want to get up early, they get up early and go to bed late. If they want to go to bed late, get up later. It's very simple. You can use your own watch; you don't need legislation.

Anyway, thank you.

The Chair: Not a problem.

I'll provide one final opportunity.

Seeing and hearing none, we got a lot of feedback here today, which has been very constructive. I want to thank everyone who has joined us in the meeting here today and those who made presentations to the subcommittee. I also want to reiterate that if there's any additional feedback – we've had some presenters who talked about some data or documentation – I'd really encourage you to submit it to the committee's e-mail site. Our legislative staff in the back has that contact information available should you need it.

Other than that, our next meeting, for those who are tuning in online, is going to be in Edmonton on September 12. Registration for that meeting, the Calgary meeting on the 14th, and the Lethbridge meeting on the 15th is still available until the day before.

With that being said, would a member of the subcommittee like to move a motion to adjourn?

Ms Fitzpatrick: I so move.

The Chair: Okay. All those in favour, say aye. All those opposed? That motion is carried. Thank you all very much. The meeting stands adjourned.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 3:04 p.m.]

