



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 Edmonton

Tuesday, September 12, 2017
9 a.m.

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**Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 29th Legislature
Third Session**

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Subcommittee

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Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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9 a.m.**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

Location: Edmonton

The Chair: Good morning, everyone. Before we begin, obviously I speak for all committee members as we express our concerns about the Waterton Lakes area, and our thoughts are with everyone down there in Pincher Creek, Taber county, and the Kainai First Nation and hope that everyone is safe and sound during this time.

I would like to call this public meeting of the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future to order. I'd like to recognize that this committee is commencing on the traditional land of Treaty 6.

My name is Graham Sucha. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Shaw and the chair of this subcommittee for the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future. I would ask subcommittee members to introduce themselves for the record, starting with the member to my right.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Good morning. Craig Coolahan, the MLA for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. van Dijken: Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

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

The Chair: Before we turn to the business at hand, a few operational items to note. Please ensure all cellphones are on silent mode. As a note, audio proceedings are streamed on the Internet and recorded by *Alberta Hansard*. Audio access and meeting transcripts are obtained via the Legislative Assembly's website.

Before we hear from our first presenter, I would like to make a few comments about Bill 203, 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 Bill 203 proposes that if passed, as of November 2018 the Daylight Saving Time Act would be repealed and Alberta would remain on Alberta standard time.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 Co-ordinated Universal Time and would be the equivalent of Mountain Daylight Time, the same 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 its review the committee has heard from numerous stakeholders and over 13,000 Albertans through written submissions. On August 8, 2017, the committee established a subcommittee to hold public meetings with Albertans to gather additional feedback on the bill. The subcommittee has been directed to hold meetings in Grande Prairie, which was last Friday, 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.

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

With that, I will ask the committee clerk to call our first presenter.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Alan Otway.

Mr. Otway: Good morning.

The Chair: If you could just for the sake of those at home speak your name into the mike for the record as well.

Alan Otway

Mr. Otway: Alan Otway.

I read through the 300 and some-odd pages of the survey that was posted, and I noted the 13,562 respondents. I do want to make sure that we are talking about the fact that this is only .3 per cent of the population of Alberta. Based on the information, taking the survey, I'll stand up and say that I actually completed the survey as a no. Reading the survey, especially the comments, I'm concerned that this question is more about opinion than facts. My research shows that 1967 was the year Albertans voted against daylight saving time. Four years later, after experiencing being out of sync with the rest of Canada, not including Saskatchewan, Albertans voted for daylight saving time, and I can find no information from the government as to why.

I don't believe this issue was in the platform or promise of the current government, and I believe that if the current government wants to implement this change, put it on their platform at the next election as part of their mandate and, if given that mandate, fully support it. I would want to see facts, and I want to see reference to reliable documents. Wikipedia, Facebook, talk radio are not presentation of facts; it's presentation of opinion, and a lot of people are misinformed as the comments on both sides of the survey show.

One example I would have is of insurance companies telling me that there are more accidents on the morning of the change. That's not the same as police reports. The insurance companies protect their profits, the same as telling me that my rates are going up because of the wildfires in different areas or flooding and at the same time reporting record profits the previous year, the same year, and the next year and no indication as to when they're going to pay off that fire and reduce my costs.

Current proposals have school buses and parents unloading children in the dark with the sun coming up after 9 a.m. in several months. I don't understand the comments by teachers saying that the kids are out of sync. I think there are a lot more things that we could do to compromise, to make it work rather than just throw the baby out with the bathwater. For example, currently in November the Edmonton school board has a five-day no school time, where they have two days – I think the 9th and 10th of November – of no teaching. Then on the 11th and 12th is the weekend, and then the Monday is off to recognize the statutory holiday. It seems to me that if we chose that five-day process and the five or six days in March where there's no school, that one concern from some teachers would be sufficed.

I've read the statements that daylight saving time would increase utility use. I've also read that the current proposal would increase utility use. Which is it, and what is the source of this information? When we're closing utility plants, the last thing I want is to have to pay for electricity from British Columbia.

I expect my elected government to govern for the good of Albertans, to lead, and not to politic to public opinion for political gain.

Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much.

I'll open it up to subcommittee members for questions. I believe, Mr. Coolahan, you had one.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your presentation. I really appreciate it. Really important to hear from Albertans. I just want to ask a couple of things, make a couple of points. I do appreciate what you're saying about the 14,000-ish being .3 per cent of the population. However, I think it's good that we are going through this exercise because that was a lot of submissions. In fact, it was probably the most submissions we've had on anything, which is surprising, and I think to your point, too, it's something that a lot of people are passionate about and have a lot of opinions on, certainly. So I think it was worth investigating for that reason.

Mr. Otway: If I could say, I did notice reading through the names that on both sides there were parts where you would see – it was not laid out alphabetically. It seemed to be as to when people submitted. There were instances where you would see four and five names in a row that were all the same family so would probably come from the same IP address. How many of those people are voting Albertans? How many are children that are being influenced?

If I can say, I remember in 1967 being 12 years old and having our teacher ask us to all write a letter of thank you to the first Prime Minister Trudeau for the commemorative coins that we got celebrating the first centennial of Canada. My teacher and many teachers in our school had these letters sent in to say that this was a good thing. I did not understand what the coin was. I didn't understand the significance of what that cost the taxpayers. I had to scrounge around looking for pop bottles to get a stamp because my parents couldn't afford at the time to send a letter in and then taxpayer dollars that my father had to pay to send me a thank-you letter from the government for getting that same coin, which is now a worthless piece of metal in the drawer of my bureau.

Mr. Coolahan: I just want to ask you. You're saying no to this change. Are you saying that you would like to keep on changing the clocks?

Mr. Otway: I'm saying that I'd like to stay on daylight saving time until somebody shows me why not. What I'm saying is that current information that I see from the government and from what I can research is not convincing me that there is an advantage to changing it. I see no reference back to what's changed. It was obvious that governments of the day and the rest of Canada are still staying on this except for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I would just like to make a point of clarification. You talked about not being part of the government's platform. This is not a government bill. This is a private member's bill.

Mr. Otway: I understand that.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I mean, any private member if they're lucky enough to draw high enough can put forth a bill of their choice.

Mr. Otway: Absolutely.

Mr. Coolahan: This was a private member's bill, so it's not really necessarily a reflection on the government. This could have come from an opposition member. Yeah. I think it's a misnomer to say that it should be part of a platform.

9:10

Mr. Otway: It has become the government's decision to follow through on this.

Mr. Coolahan: No. It's become the committee's decision to follow through on it, to investigate it. It's not quite the same. But thank you for your presentation.

Mr. Otway: Okay.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Alan, for your time this morning. I really, truly appreciate it and your comments as well. I think what we found, as you mentioned, was we had the 13,562 respondents, but we did have an opportunity to speak with some other stakeholders recently who pointed out some of the costs that could be a consequence of this action from businesses, which was very illuminating, I think, for us. Some of our concerns were that the average Albertan, who is maybe saying that it's inconvenient to change a clock, also needs to know what the impact is on our economy. Those are some of the things I hope that we will not only address and pay attention to as a committee but that we will be in a better position to share some of those issues with Albertans so that when we make a decision or if a decision is made or if we, as you said, put that to the electorate in one way, shape, or form, we can make a well-informed decision and understand the consequences and the impact of these decisions.

I thank you for your time today and hope that we do the right thing for Albertans when we move forward with a decision, that the decision is a well-informed one, that Albertans are satisfied, and that we do that in a well-informed manner. So thank you for that. I hope that you'll have an opportunity to see some of that information that we got from such organizations as WestJet and the airport authorities. Again, I think you mentioned being out of sync.

Mr. Otway: We would be two hours out of sync with B.C.

Mr. Gotfried: Correct, and that has some significant implications economically for us, but we also heard from other sports groups and things like that. I think it was mentioned on the radio this morning that a 9:30 start time for hockey games might have some emotional implications as well for fans of the Edmonton Oilers and other teams in this province.

Thank you for your time today, and trust me; we will take your comments very seriously, as we do with all Albertans. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. Thank you, Alan, for your presentation. I very much appreciate you coming out this morning. Early in your presentation you talked about how Alberta voted against moving to daylight saving time and then four years after that decided that it was wise to move in favour of daylight saving time to be in sync with other jurisdictions. That's the first I've heard of that. Did other jurisdictions move to daylight saving time before Alberta?

Mr. Otway: In 1967 all of Canada went to daylight saving time except Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Mr. van Dijken: Okay. Good. Thank you for that information. That's important information. It allowed Albertans to experience being out of sync with the rest of Canada and possibly more in the continent, and then they were able to make a decision through a referendum based on experience.

Thank you.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Mr. Otway, for your presentation. There were a couple of points that you mentioned. One was about the kids going to school in the dark. I lived in Yellowknife for about seven years. The kids went to school in the dark, and they came home in the dark during the winter. In fact, in the northern part of our province that happens as well. Depending on where you live in the province, whether you live on the east side or you live on the west side, certainly people have different opinions

right throughout the province. I appreciate you articulating what you've had to say in your comments. I just wanted to say that I certainly recognize that.

I liked your idea about doing the time change when the kids were out of school for a week. Unfortunately, not all the schools are out at the same time.

Mr. Otway: Oh, I understand that.

Ms Fitzpatrick: So there would be other co-ordination.

The other point that I wanted to mention is that we did hear from sports groups, a number of different sports groups. Minor sports groups particularly like the extra hour of daylight in the evening during those summer months when minor sports are going on. We heard from the Alberta council for the national golf association, who also identified that if we were to stick with Mountain Standard Time, they in fact would be impacted within 85 per cent of their business because of it.

I truly appreciate that you've shared your opinion. Certainly, a decision on where this bill is going hasn't been made. That's why we're doing the consultation.

Mr. Otway: And I appreciate that.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Again I thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Okay. Alan, just as a point of clarification, we did hear from the golf community. When we asked them if there would be any impact at all on their business, the answer was, "None, absolutely" if we stay with the status quo, where we change our clocks to daylight saving time in the summer months and switch back. I just wanted to clarify that for you.

Mr. Otway: Sure.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Alan, thank you so much for presenting today.

Mr. Otway: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Clerk.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The next registered presenter, Orest Windjack.

Mr. Windjack: Orest Windjack, a resident of Edmonton.

The Chair: Please proceed.

Orest Windjack

Mr. Windjack: Bill 203, daylight saving time. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you this morning. I was not aware of what is about to transpire until July 24, when Global News had a little blip for this, about three seconds, that we had until July 28 to cast and respond to a survey whether we were in favour or otherwise. The reason I'm here: I was perturbed by the misinformation presented by the presenter to the Assembly. That's Thomas Dang. He's the MLA in our constituency. I don't know him; I have nothing to fall back on with regard to him. That prompted me to speak on the facts regarding Saskatchewan, Montana, and the Northwest Territories, which are without merit.

I grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan. You know, we didn't operate by a clock. When the roosters crowed in the morning and the sun was up, we pulled the blinds up. When the sun was up, we

had breakfast, and off we went. We worked by the sun; we didn't work by the clock. At noon we knew when the sun was overhead and that was the time of day.

It is not surprising to me that Saskatchewan, an agriculture-dominated province, did not go on daylight saving. Their demographics are changing, though, so who knows down the road?

Now, with regard to Montana, as stated, not being on daylight saving, that is totally wrong. Two U.S. states do not switch to daylight saving, Arizona and Hawaii. In the U.S. the federal government controls state times under the time change act, passed over 60 years ago. An application by a state to change time must be approved by Congress. As a matter of fact, over that period of time three eastern Midwest states applied to have the state change to one time because the timeline split the states, but they were declined.

In regard to the Northwest Territories: why would they go on daylight saving time? They are situated on top of the world. They have some four months of near total daylight and, similarly, in darkness. How would daylight saving time benefit them? You tell me.

Also, from this presentation and the information provided by Mr. Dang, reference is made to a survey of 26,000 people. I requested the information by a phone call to Thomas Dang's office to learn when, where, and how the survey was conducted. My request was declined. I am very skeptical of the reported results. I spoke to at least three dozen people about Bill 203 – I had a time limit; I only had a few days – and not one had heard of it. In the process not one was in favour of it.

9:20

Getting back to the comment that it's time for change, to change what? Some 75 countries along our range of latitude are on daylight saving and have been for many, many years. In fact, Canada was the country that created daylight saving time as we know it – I don't know if you know that – in 1906, by Port Arthur-Fort William, which, of course, is now known as Thunder Bay. So it's been in existence for a long time.

I now want to reveal the benefits of having the extra hour of sun each evening. It's about lifestyle. It's about quality of life and, most importantly, our health. Ottawa spends a lot of money on participation. A lot of people don't arrive home from work until around 5:30, 6 o'clock. All you have to do is look at our main arteries, and you can see the traffic out there. It gives them time to carry out outdoor activities like gardening – I've been down that road – having their children participate in activities like soccer and baseball; I've had that. Golf: that's a very important aspect to our community. All you have to do is go by the community playgrounds and see them filled with children enjoying the outdoors.

Further, we've been from the west coast, from Vancouver. We lived in four provinces, so we've had exposure. We've travelled through Saskatchewan in the evening, back and forth on our trips, at least 30 times. You go by there in the evenings, and there's nobody in the playgrounds. They're all bare. There's nobody there because there's no time. It's so limited, you know. It gets darker there an hour and a half before it does here.

The Chair: If I may, with the consent of the committee, just because the five minutes have elapsed, I'll give you an opportunity to continue the speech.

Mr. Windjack: Okay. Can I close off?

The Chair: Yeah. You can continue. I just had to get consent from the committee before we carry on, but you can continue.

Mr. Windjack: Can I continue?

The Chair: Yeah.

Mr. Windjack: You know, in actual fact, I've looked at this, and of course I'm an outdoorsman. In fact, we have about 10 weeks of full summer: four weeks prior to June 21, because in May the weather is skeptical, and approximately four weeks after as evenings shorten. Let's look at today, for example. Now, if it weren't for daylight saving time, it'd be dark about a quarter to 7. We'd have no evening activity, giving us little time for activities.

In lifestyle, not being in continuity with the rest of the world timewise, everyone would be forced to change their daily routine when it comes to TV programming. Virtually all programs are based on eastern time. People whose jobs involve companies in eastern Canada will have to make connections before 2 o'clock.

From the standpoint of travel intercontinental airlines would prefer to skip Alberta, that would be out of sync with flight times. European airlines do not like that. If I were arranging an intercontinental trip, I'd double-check the time schedule, make sure, you know, what your scheduled time is based on. Over a period of time Calgary could be vulnerable to losing intercontinental airline business because of nonstandard time cycles.

A positive fact that I benefit from by having daylight saving time is one hour of power every day. I know there are some that say otherwise. I'll tell you a real fact. In 1784, while in Paris, Benjamin Franklin did a study of candles saved by adjusting daylight time. His in-depth study and calculation revealed a saving of 100 million candles per 100,000 people each year. It doesn't matter what the source of energy is. It's still the same fact, whether it's power or otherwise.

The approval of DST, or daylight saving, originated by a vote of all Albertans. If a change is to be considered, it should go through the same process. Due to the incorrect information provided to the Assembly that created Bill 203, my request is that it be rescinded and withdrawn.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much, Mr. Windjack.

Mr. Coolahan, you had a question?

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Windjack. I really appreciate you taking the time out today. I just want to clarify: where are you landing here? I'm not quite clear. Do you want to remain status quo and switch the clocks, or do you want to do what the bill is presenting, which is to be on DST all year long?

Mr. Windjack: I want to stay in continuity with the world and stay on the current programming.

Mr. Coolahan: Switching clocks?

Mr. Windjack: Yeah.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you.

Also, just a point of clarification. I have to actually check with the chair, but I think we had this opportunity for presentations in four different cities. I also believe that the timeline for written submissions has been extended . . .

Ms Fitzpatrick: To the 15th.

Mr. Coolahan: To the 15th of September.

The Chair: That's correct, yeah. Online by e-mail to the clerk or through even traditional letter means can be submitted until the 15th to provide additional time.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation.

Mr. Windjack: You're welcome.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Windjack, thank you for your time and your presentation. My question to you is a very simple one. How much of an inconvenience is it for you to change your clock twice a year?

Mr. Windjack: No inconvenience. You know, I hear that, and I've heard comments that it's affected their health, and I say that you'd better see a specialist. Do you know that the second-biggest movement of people in the world every day, besides people going to work, is people travelling? All you have to do is go to the airport. There are millions. I've known a lot of people. We've travelled to Europe as well and gone through a time change of seven to eight hours. It didn't affect us. I've never heard of or even read of a person's health being affected by all of these sudden time changes that they go through. If they win the lottery or they come upon some wealth, the first thing they say is that they want to travel. Well, if there was a negative factor, a health problem with travelling, I don't think they'd be going.

Mr. Gotfried: I think you're right. Between Calgary and Edmonton I think there are about 23 million passengers per year that choose to fly to other time zones, so you're not incorrect on that predisposition for people to actually seek other time zones.

Thank you, Mr. Windjack.

The Chair: Excellent.

Ms Fitzpatrick: First of all, thank you very much, Mr. Windjack, for your presentation. I was quite concerned when you began your presentation by saying that you requested the results of Mr. Dang's survey, so I sent a message. His results were provided to the media, all of the details of his survey, and in fact we can certainly arrange to make sure you get a copy of those.

The other thing I wanted to talk about is that you talked about it not affecting people when the clocks change. In a former life I was a teacher, and in fact there was a noticeable change in students when the clocks changed, both in the spring and in the fall. It took probably about a week – in fact, the previous presenter had mentioned that maybe we need to do it over a period of time when schools are out, and maybe if they were in sync, we could do something like that. I personally noted the change in students when the clocks changed.

The other thing that I wanted to mention. You had said – oh, there was one other comment you'd made. I'm sorry; I've kind of lost it.

Mr. Windjack: Do you know the subject of it?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, it was about – I remember now – the number of people who had replied to the survey online. When I was elected and I opened my office, the very first day that I was in the office, I actually had three people come to my office, and they said to me: stop changing the clock. I kind of looked at them because that wasn't part of our platform, and I was surprised when they came in to say it to me. Since that time, every time the clock changes, I have a stream of people coming into my office to say: stop changing the time.

9:30

Certainly, everybody in this province, I'm sure, has a different opinion about the clock changing, about when it should change if it's going to change, and certainly your feedback and the feedback of everybody else who's going to do or has done a presentation will

be considered when we make a decision and a recommendation on this bill.

I wanted to thank you for your presentation. Certainly, I understand the points that you have provided in your presentation, so again thank you for coming and doing your presentation.

Mr. Windjack: Okay. Yeah.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Windjack, it seemed like you had done some research on the airline impact of this particular bill. In a former life I was in the airline business for 20 years. We've heard from WestJet and some of the other presenters that there could be a significant financial impact, I think as you mentioned, to building our Alberta hubs here for people to use as a gateway to the world and the rest of Canada. They wouldn't specifically say what the cost of that would be, but we did some extrapolation, and it could be in the terms of millions of dollars per year.

For us to take this to a referendum might cost us a couple of million dollars. It would be a one-time cost to make that decision, to give Albertans their voice, versus what could be an ongoing cost of millions of dollars in lost economic opportunity for Alberta. Do you think that that's a fair trade-off, if we were to move to a referendum-type thing to give Albertans a voice, to take that expense, particularly in light of the fact that the economic impact could go on for years and years or decades even if we were to do that?

Mr. Windjack: Well, you know, that should be included. As far as doing something just independently, on its own, put it on a ballot when we have an election. If it's done mechanically, the cost is reduced immensely. I've been involved with those elections, and that's been over many, many years.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent.

MLA Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Windjack, I just want to kind of follow up on what my colleague over here said. We have checked, I believe, with Legislative Offices in terms of the cost of a referendum, and we'd be looking in the neighbourhood of \$6 million. But apart from that, when the businesses did their presentations to us, everything was a presumption of losses or a presumption of the consequences of changing the time.

We're also aware that about 23 states right now are looking at the same kind of legislation in terms of not changing the clock anymore. Certainly, if the rest of the world is moving on, I don't want to be behind the eight ball. Now, having said that, I haven't made a decision in terms of what I think about this bill. Having presentations like yours and like the other presenters is where we get our responses from. But as I said previously, I would suspect I had probably 200 people come to my office, before this bill was ever announced, about stopping the changing of the clock. There are lots of opinions out there. Like I said, in terms of figures from businesses, that is a supposition because they won't know until something happens, if it happens.

Mr. Windjack: That's why I would support having a vote by referendum, putting it on the ballot. Remember that you're talking about a one-time cost. I'm skeptical about the estimate of \$6 million. You know, it's one time, and you're going to have to remember that that's spread out. That isn't a one-day situation. That's extended

over many, many years because that cost covers something that's going to be in place for some considerable time.

You've got, you know, the result of people living in different circumstances across the province. Like, for example, there are four of you from Calgary. I would say that now with your timeframe you get very little daylight like we do here. Your time: it probably gets dark in Calgary at 6:30 or even earlier than that, 20 after 6, eh? Anywhere in the mountainous area – I've lived there, so I know what I'm talking about – there's no twilight. It's just like when we've been to Hawaii or the Caribbean: when the sun falls and drops down in the ocean, it's instantly dark. There's no twilight.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your presentation again. I just want to build on what Ms Fitzpatrick was saying. Yeah, many jurisdictions are looking at doing away with DST, or changing of the clocks, and there are many reasons why. I think what's spooking a lot of jurisdictions right now, including the Northwest Territories, is making a unilateral move. So the Northwest Territories is actually looking to us to see what we're going to do before they make a decision. I think that somehow we're going to have to think about that as well, particularly based on what we heard from WestJet and the airports and our National Hockey League teams.

In terms of a referendum, I'm not in favour of that to decide this issue. I think this is a better forum and to then come up with a decision based on what the committee hears. I agree with our previous presenter on that, too, because I think this is an issue that people are very passionate about and have strong opinions on but sometimes lack facts. So I think that perhaps a referendum might not be the best forum.

Mr. Windjack: Yeah. Well, I found that out when I questioned at least three dozen people, and that's being conservative. I would say that the bulk of them were really upset by the bill. They were not positive at all. They were really opposed to the bill. They had a really defensive attitude toward it.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, yeah. This is what we get from surveys, right? I mean, 75 per cent of those who wrote in said that they would like to do away with it.

Mr. Windjack: Well, I'd like to see it on a vote versus, you know – because I don't know. That's why I wanted to ask Thomas Dang: where, how, and when was that survey conducted? I know of nobody who knew anything about that survey. By the way, with children: we have raised a family of three. We have three grandchildren. Daylight saving never ever affected them. None whatsoever. They wouldn't even know it happened.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Windjack, I just wanted to sort of position things. We've heard from 13,562 people, which we've heard from a previous presenter is .3 per cent of the population. For myself as an MLA, when I have 200 people coming into my office, I take notice, but also, I think, if you do the math on that, those 200 people represent .004 per cent of the constituents. You know, I think we have to be concerned here, again, with the statistics. We also know, as I think was mentioned by the previous presenter, that the mobilization of respondents can be sometimes groups that are special-interest groups or others that can front up. So I guess I'm concerned that we're hearing from Albertans. You're hearing from some Albertans, some several dozen.

We've heard referendum costs referenced as being \$6 million, but we do know that if we do that as part of a general election, it is reduced to \$2 million. We have heard, certainly, some extrapolations of what the economic impact could be from some businesses who employ Albertans and create economic activity here. Again, I think that's some of the information you're hoping that Albertans will receive, or us as legislators, before we make those decisions.

Your points are well taken in terms of the impact and the respondents to those surveys and the fact that we need to put those into perspective, so I thank you for that.

Mr. Windjack: Thank you.

The Chair: Other questions?

Excellent. Thank you, Mr. Windjack, as well.

Mr. Windjack: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Dellas Raessler.

9:40

Mrs. Raessler: Good morning. Well, thank you for this opportunity.

The Chair: Excellent. If you could speak your name for the record as well, please.

Mrs. Raessler: Okay. It's Dellas Raessler.

The Chair: Excellent. Please proceed.

Dellas Raessler

Mrs. Raessler: Okay. Thank you for this opportunity. I do not agree with Bill 203. The ad read: mountain daylight. The title was confusing. People thought it was Mountain Standard Time, I for one, instead of daylight saving. It's easy to turn our clocks ahead; our bodies are difficult. I want Mountain Standard Time year-round. I feel daylight saving time is not natural. Adults, children are cranky. There are more accidents because people are tired and in a hurry.

Our animals stick to nature, the sun. When I raised chickens that were out in a large field, I had to chase them in so the predators didn't get them when I should have been in bed. I know of businesses that leave their animals on Mountain Standard Time year-round. Also, in my farming experience, when taking crops off, when there was dew, we went by the sun, not the time.

Come wintertime, if daylight saving time was to go in, I'm personally concerned for my grandchildren plus other children from the ages of kindergarten to grade 6 that have to be in school by 8 o'clock. It's going to be very tiring, and they will not function well. As for the golfers, they need to get up an hour earlier and, if they have a business, set their hours to adjust so they can golf. There are other states who want to go back and stay on the original time.

In closing, why are we trying to fight nature? It was here before we were.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you for your presentation, Mrs. Raessler. Can you just clarify: you want to stop changing the clocks and stay on Mountain Time?

Mrs. Raessler: Yes. I would like to see, like, when this fall comes, that we stay on Mountain Standard Time.

Mr. Coolahan: That's fair.

Mrs. Raessler: Yeah.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. That's a position that we heard a lot in Grande Prairie last week, which was refreshing, actually, because mostly we've heard that they want to stay on Central Time if we're going to stop it for that extra daylight, but it's good to hear a different opinion in Edmonton, too.

Thank you for your presentation.

Mrs. Raessler: You're welcome.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mrs. Raessler, for your comments. I think, just in clarification, of course, that this bill is about going to Alberta standard time, which would be daylight saving time year-round, so unless an amendment were made to that bill, on the table it is not an option to go to Mountain Standard Time. What the options are currently with this bill would be to go to Alberta standard time, which is daylight saving time year-round, or to stick with the status quo, where we change our clocks between Mountain Standard Time and Mountain Daylight Time. Unless an amendment were made to that bill in the Legislature, that option currently is not on the table. Just for a point of clarification for you.

Mrs. Raessler: Oh. Okay.

Mr. Gotfried: But, again, I think that an opinion we want to hear from people is: which way would you want to go? Bill 203 says that we go in one direction. If that bill is not proceeded with, we would then stay with the status quo, or an amendment could be made to that. So, really, what you're advocating for is an amendment to Bill 203 that the time zone would not be Alberta standard time but would be back to Mountain Standard Time. Is that correct?

Mrs. Raessler: I guess that's what it is, but that's what I didn't totally understand. When I went on the survey on the e-mail, my impression there was: are you for daylight saving time, or are you wanting Mountain Standard Time?

Mr. Gotfried: Yeah. It's really about daylight saving time year-round or the status quo as the legislation currently sits, but it doesn't mean it can't be amended in the Legislature. It's just that that's not really what's on the table right now, but your comments are well taken.

Thank you.

Mrs. Raessler: Yes. I believe that maybe it should be amended to put on there to give people a choice of what they feel.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I just want to say that that's why we are carrying out this exercise, too, because as part of the subcommittee we could recommend an amendment in our report. So that's why we like to hear from everybody.

Mrs. Raessler: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to ask a question?

Seeing none, Mrs. Raessler, thank you so much as well.

Mrs. Raessler: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: All right. Right now all the scheduled presenters until 10:45 have been completed. Similar to what we did while we were in Grande Prairie, I'll allow an opportunity – we have about 45 minutes at this time – for anyone who's in the audience who might have any supplementals or any comments or wish to present in relation to Bill 203 to come up and present.

Yeah. If you could say your name for the record as well, please.

Neil Hollands

Mr. Hollands: Yeah. Good morning. I'm Neil Hollands. I'm a resident of Spruce Grove. I'm in favour of changing the status quo so that we're always on one time. I don't have really a preference one way or the other, whether it's on Mountain Daylight Time or Mountain Standard Time. I haven't sort of landed on that. What I do see as a problem with going to mountain daylight saving time, a special time zone, is the two-hour difference between us and B.C. for half the year. I think that would be problematic. However, the way our lifestyles are today, we really do enjoy the greater daylight in the evenings, so I fully understand the preference to go with that.

What I'd like to do is just speak to the reason that I'm in favour of sticking with the clocks, and I will by context say that I've spent about half my life in Saskatchewan and half my life in other jurisdictions that changed the clocks. I haven't seen that it's problematic for the province of Saskatchewan or other jurisdictions that stick to the clocks year-round as far as how they operate their business. You know, economically there perhaps are some impacts that we're not aware of. I guess I see that we can adjust.

Really, the main reason why I see the time is for a change and I think why so many jurisdictions are considering it is because we have become such a small world and everybody that we deal with is on some other time zone. I shouldn't say everybody but the majority of people. We've moved over the last 40 or 50 years from our circle of business and so on being quite localized to being where really almost everybody is working on a world clock these days. Therefore, I don't see that there would be really a great difference, the fact that we would be on a certain time year-round and that others would change for half the year.

My last comment is that the fact that there are so many jurisdictions looking at it, I could see Alberta taking a lead. Perhaps with the bloc of Alberta and Saskatchewan setting the tone, it could well be that within a short period of time the rest of the country and perhaps other countries would consider moving that way as well.

That's all.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you, Mr. Hollands.

Any questions from any members?

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Hollands. Your last comment with regard to Alberta and Saskatchewan setting the tone, setting the stage: there is a little bit of a difference with what's being proposed by Bill 203 within Alberta, where Alberta would remain on daylight saving time year-round whereas Saskatchewan remains on their Central Time year-round. Other jurisdictions are looking at it. It does concern me, I must admit. Other jurisdictions will have to make a decision as to: well, are we going to go on daylight saving time year-round, or are we going to stick with our world clock time in our jurisdiction? There's a concern that it'll be all over the map.

9:50

So with our initial presentation this morning with regard to the United States the federal government is going to mandate over the time zones. Would you see it in the best interests for Alberta and Albertans to have this as a national discussion as opposed to an

individual jurisdiction discussing it and setting the stage for the rest of the jurisdictions that are discussing it?

Mr. Hollands: Yes. I would actually be in favour of that. I don't see this as something that has to be rushed. As I said, I think Alberta can take a leadership role in doing the conversation. I realize some people see this as being, you know, an insignificant matter to discuss when there are greater things to deal with. However, I really do believe that there's a movement, a momentum for people that are questioning: why are we changing twice a year? Certainly, within my circle of friends and business colleagues the predominant preference would be to stick to the same time year-round. You know, I guess it varies with people's circles of friends that they have.

If I may add – I forgot to add earlier – I understand where a referendum is not good for this kind of thing because people will not necessarily drill down and find the facts and so on. So a referendum is concerning. Likewise, a forum like this tends to bring the naysayers, the people that have actually concern with change, as opposed to people that are pro-change. So I would caution the committee to not entirely rely on these few days of consultations as your only source of information either.

The Chair: Just a question. Because you had alluded to your business colleagues, do you mind if we ask what you do for a profession just to give us some context as well?

Mr. Hollands: Yeah. Well, I'm currently semiretired. I spent most of my career in government and related. It's not so much that, like, my direct job, but the people that are within my circle who are business leaders and so on. They've also indicated that they're good with keeping the same time.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Hollands. I just want to ask a couple of questions. You know, this elicits a lot of opinions, this topic, and of course we on the committee have our own opinions. I'm of the opinion that I don't mind changing the time. It doesn't bother me. It really bothers my wife. Apparently, it really bothers my kids. I can't get consensus in my own house. Can you get consensus in your house?

Mr. Hollands: Yes, I can. Yeah.

Mr. Coolahan: You can? Okay.

Mr. Hollands: But I think it's more of a convenience thing than, you know, a practical thing, right? Every time it's the time change, everybody grumbles and says: aw, why do we have to do this? I wouldn't support it just simply from a convenience point of view. I think the world is changing, and it's time to get back into a sort of a unified nonchanging time in every time zone.

Mr. Coolahan: Did you notice when you moved from Saskatchewan to Alberta that it had an impact, the time change, on your psychology and your physicality?

Mr. Hollands: Probably small changes. There are so many other factors in our lives that I don't know that that would be. I understand there are a lot of statistics that show that traffic accidents are way up the day after a time change and mental health issues arise and so on. Personally, it hasn't affected me.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. And I do appreciate your comments on sort of taking the lead on maybe a bloc on this in terms of time change, because that's sort of where I'm heading in my opinion. The more

I hear, it's going to be difficult to make a unilateral change. We need to have a larger discussion with the other provinces and perhaps states even.

Thank you for your presentation.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yes. Mr. Hollands, thank you. You alluded to a small consequence of change for individuals to change the time yet possibly a large benefit of being able to change the time for extended daylight if we're on daylight saving time during the summer and then having daylight a little bit earlier if we're on our normal Mountain Standard Time. Do you feel that the benefits of the current system, where we're changing clocks, outweigh the inconvenience of changing the clock?

Mr. Hollands: No, I don't. I honestly don't see that there's a significant amount of benefit to having the change twice a year.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Mr. Hollands, for your presentation. I just want to say a couple of things, one because there have been comments made in terms of having a national discussion. There were also comments made this morning about a government bill versus a private member's bill. Mr. Dang, from my discussion with him, received constituents in his office who identified for them that it was a problem that we kept changing the clock. In fact, I think the number was – he did a survey and about 26,000 people responded to it. I've said that I have a flood of people who come into my office, and certainly every single one of their opinions are important to me.

I did a little survey in my church choir. There are 39 of us in the choir, and I asked them how people felt, and 38 of the 39 said: stop changing the clock. One person said: I don't care. To me, that was pretty significant. I certainly listen when anybody comes into my office to express a concern. This came before us because constituents came and expressed a concern. We're listening to feedback from as many Albertans who provide feedback as provide feedback. Certainly, I appreciate that you and everybody else that came to speak today has come to speak and offer their thoughts on this. As my colleague said, in his house there's no consensus. In my house there is consensus, but that consensus is private for this moment.

Anyway, we do have to consider all sides. For me, one of the most positive things about this is that we are having a discussion. I think that's very important for Albertans to delve into the meat of a matter and to have real discussion on what's going on. I thank you for your contribution to that, as I've thanked everybody else who presented today.

The Chair: Excellent.

Mr. Hollands, thank you very much.

Mr. Hollands: Thank you.

Mr. Toker: Morning. My name is Corey. I just have . . .

The Chair: Can we just grab your last name as well?

Corey Toker

Mr. Toker: Toker is my last name. I feel it's very short sighted to just, like what the last gentleman said, think of Alberta and Saskatchewan when the rest of Canada, the rest of the mainland United States minus Arizona, and Europe stick to the time change. I was just wondering: why are we bucking the trend when we want

to be part of the economic powerhouses in Canada and in North America? Why are we making the change?

10:00

Mr. Coolahan: I'll attempt to answer that. It was a private member's bill put forward. It was done so, in my understanding – as I think we've seen with the input, it's elicited a lot of response. It has to be investigated. People are really passionate about not changing the clocks anymore. I mean, a lot of it has to be around a lot of the statistics around accidents and heart attacks and things like that that occur as a result of this hour time change. I mean, the member brought forward the bill because of all the response saying – as Ms Fitzpatrick said, people walk right in her door and say: stop changing the clocks.

Mr. Toker: Right.

Mr. Coolahan: I think it's worth investigating. It's a worthy private member's bill, and we all have different opinions on it. I stated mine earlier. I don't mind changing the clocks. So it has to be done, and I think this was a good forum to do it. I'm sure we'll continue to receive feedback on this.

Mr. Toker: I appreciate it. What concerns me is going on the website and then seeing who is opposed and who is for. A lot of the businesses that are opposed, like WestJet, like Edmonton International Airport, like the Calgary Airport Authority, have billions of dollars in our economy, and going against them, on Mr. Dang's website, the two main are the Boyle education centre and St. Thomas Catholic school. While I do understand Ms Fitzpatrick's polls, I don't think polls necessarily are the be-all, end-all. We could see with the polls that happened south of the border with the presidential election.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Fair enough. You know what? I mean, we're left in a very difficult position, this subcommittee, because on the one hand we have 75 per cent of the 14,000 saying: stop changing the clocks. On the other hand, we have billions of dollars in economic activity who say that they are threatened by a move particularly to Central Time. So, yeah, we have to balance that out, absolutely. That's what we're engaged in, and it's going to be a tough decision in the end, I guess.

Mr. Toker: I appreciate you having this.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Toker. I appreciate you taking your time here today to come and see us. I think you've noted that there have been a lot of statistics brought forward, but most of them seem to be sort of purported, anecdotal statistics on some of the impact. We've heard individuals here say that it has no impact. So I'm not sure we have any, you know, hard empirical evidence on some of the negative things.

What we do know is that we've heard from some businesses during a tough economic time in this province who are job creators, who are investors – I think the number, statistic I came up with for WestJet is that they've got about \$13 billion of aircraft, another \$4 billion minimum on order – that there are some economic and strategic considerations that may not come into play for Albertans at first blush, looking at whether they want to change clocks one time of the year or another. But I think that all Albertans are concerned about economic activity, about investment, and what we heard from WestJet was about the strategic positioning of Alberta as, you know, either a continental or global player.

Those are some of the things that we've heard, and I think that we need to share better with Albertans so that if the decision does

get put into the hands of Albertans, those decisions are made with full disclosure of some of the impacts that could come from this.

I think your comments are well taken, and I think it's part of our concern as a committee that we're not making this on an emotional basis or even a preference basis or whether people do or don't like to change clocks twice a year. We haven't really heard from the firefighters because, of course, they use that as a reminder to people to change their batteries in their smoke detectors, so we don't know whether that's going to be an impact either. I'm sure there would be some comments on that as well. But your point is well taken that we need to take a look at the businesses, and it's not just businesses; it's the businesses, the investments they make, the revenue that they make, and the jobs that are created through those opportunities that will impact all Albertans and, certainly, some key sectors as well.

So I thank you for your time and any additional comments.

Mr. Toker: Yeah. I know what was said before about car accidents and so on. I tried to do as much research as I could before I came here, and I couldn't find a statistic that said that car accidents went up. On Mr. Dang's website and so on the biggest reason for changing or getting rid of it is that it disturbs sleep patterns, and I just don't think that's a reason to do that, especially with all the other effects that could happen to the economy. Even the Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames stated that it could affect 1,800 full- and part-time jobs. So as our economy needs to get going, affecting those 1,800 jobs could be another kick in the pants.

Mr. Coolahan: Just on empirical evidence, I mean, to be fair, you said that you weren't able to find anything on accidents. We did hear a presentation, I believe, on the road builders. I've also seen insurance evidence that says that accidents go up. I've also seen something on heart attacks. So to be fair, I think that is the only empirical evidence that we actually know about. I totally appreciate WestJet's and the airports' and the NHL's submissions, but, I mean, really at this point they're not presenting any empirical evidence either, right? I think we have to be very cognizant and very cautious about what could manifest in what they're saying, but it's conjecture at this point, really.

The Chair: Also as a note, Mr. Toker – and if you've looked it up, I apologize for mentioning it – all of the information as it's been received has been posted on the internal committee's website to view personal comments and also even breakdowns of demographics to allow you to know where different regions within Alberta are landing. It's actually quite a thorough document. Our research team has done a really good job to really compile that. For your own interest, if it's something you want to see, you're more than welcome to. And as the process continues, we'll continue to post that stuff online, too.

Thank you very much for joining us.

Mr. Toker: Thank you.

Holly Toker

Mrs. Toker: Good morning. I'm Holly Toker. I guess I'll start by saying that in our house we also do have an agreement. We agree on what should happen, whether it be for different reasons. I have also heard all the economic information, all that. I understand that part and you've already discussed that, so I'm going to take a different approach. Mine is kind of more personal on two levels.

Growing up, I lived right on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. I was on the Alberta side, so we, of course, changed our clocks. When I went to my grandparents' house on the Saskatchewan side, I was surprised as a child to see that kids were going to school in the dark,

totally black outside. To me, I mean, as a kid how do you wake up in the morning to go to school when it is dark outside? Now, having two young kids of my own, I know that they have a harder time as it's dark in winter getting up every day for school whereas in summer they're out of bed at 5 o'clock in the morning, which isn't great either. From a child's perspective maybe it takes them a few days or a week to adjust to the time changing, but I think that's worth it to have months where you actually have some light in the morning before you go into a classroom for a whole day. They can still play in the evening, when it's dark outside. That doesn't really change the flow of the day in the afternoon or in the evening, but in the morning I think that makes a big difference to them. Like I said, I can remember when I was a kid feeling that when I would be at my grandparents' house in Saskatchewan versus just on the other side of the border in our house.

My other point is also personal, but I think it applies to many others. I have a driver's licence restricted to daytime hours, and I know I can't be the only one in this province. If we don't change the clocks, suddenly I can't drive until 9:30 in the morning, so that has a big impact on me and our family for getting myself to work every day and getting my kids to school in the mornings. I know that might sound selfish thinking just of that, but, again, I know I can't be the only one. There must be, you know, a broader reach of that impact that's worth considering. I mean, I know you can't base a decision on one fact, but it's something that could possibly play into the greater picture.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you.

Ms Fitzpatrick: First of all, thank you for your presentation. I have a question for you. You said that your licence is restricted to daytime hours. Do you check to see what time legal daylight is during the winter?

10:10

Mrs. Toker: The restriction on my licence is a half-hour to dawn, basically, so there has to be light in the sky. It's not down to the minute of when the sun officially rises, but there has to be light, basically.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. It's just that it's called legal daylight, and legal daylight is a time before the sun comes up and a time after the sun goes down. I'm just asking: in the wintertime do you check to see what time legal daylight begins?

Mrs. Toker: No, I don't look the time up online. I look out my window, and I see if I have enough light to drive in because I know that I'm not comfortable when there isn't enough.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. Do you live in Edmonton?

Mrs. Toker: Now I do, yes.

Ms Fitzpatrick: All right. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mrs. Toker, for your presentation. I just wanted to comment. You talked about children getting up in the morning, and being a parent of three children, I think I noticed it more in the evening, when it was getting darker a bit earlier, how much easier it was to get them to bed. It seemed to be a bigger issue. That same principle, I think, works for getting them out of bed in the morning. I think it's something that is kind of personal, not, obviously, something that we treat as being some sort of statistic or even something technical but something that we all as parents

certainly know and witness in the long winter nights, how much easier it is to get our children to bed versus having it light at 10 o'clock at night. It's just a natural cycle for them, I think, and they respond to that. I, you know, echo your concerns about the morning time, about getting them up and going and at their best as they head off to school.

Thank you for your comments.

The Chair: Thank you, Mrs. Toker.

All right. Any other members wishing to present? Excellent.

Seeing and hearing none, we're going to take a brief recess and reconvene at 10:45 in this room. Thank you all very much.

[The subcommittee adjourned from 10:12 a.m. to 10:46 a.m.]

The Chair: Good morning, everyone. I would like to call this meeting of the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future back to order.

Just for those who are joining in online and those who may have joined us in the room, we'll introduce ourselves for the record. My name is Graham Sucha. I am the MLA for Calgary-Shaw and the committee chair. I'll start with the member on my right here.

Ms Fitzpatrick: My name is Maria Fitzpatrick, and I am the MLA for Lethbridge-East.

Mr. Coolahan: Good morning. Craig Coolahan, the MLA for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. van Dijken: Good morning. Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Mr. Gotfried: Good morning. Richard Gotfried, MLA for Calgary-Fish Creek.

The Chair: Excellent.

As individuals are getting settled in right now, we'll kind of use this as an opportunity to quickly touch on our recent appearance in Grande Prairie on Friday, where we met during morning and afternoon sittings. We met with about 40, 50 individuals to discuss implications of Bill 203. I know that, as a whole, it was quite an interesting experience to hear from many people who had farming and ranching backgrounds, from the business communities, opening with the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce and hearing the diverse feedback that was being provided to the subcommittee at that time.

I thought I'd open it up for us, especially because Mr. Drysdale was substituting for Mr. Gotfried at that time, to kind of discuss some of the things that have been heard, and then, obviously, this will give our Parliamentary Counsel a little bit of an opportunity to help compile some of the feedback that was heard during this meeting.

I'll open it up for whoever may want to speak first in relation to this. Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Sure. I can touch on this. You know, in our previous meeting there was some concern about going to Grande Prairie, in the end, because we hadn't had a lot of sign-ups for presentations, but as it turned out, there were quite a few people there and quite a few presentations given, so I'm very glad that we went.

I think one of the things that was unique thus far in Grande Prairie was the fact that those who wanted to stop the clock from changing wanted to do so going the other way, to Mountain Standard Time, contrary to what's being presented in the bill. I was very glad to hear that because it added a brand new perspective to this discussion. Of course, being so close to Fort St. John, there's a lot of economic

activity going back and forth across the border, so that played a big factor in that sort of position.

So lots of unique positions, I think a lot of business-related decisions on why we should or shouldn't, a lot of personal decisions on why we should or shouldn't. Yeah. It was good to get that perspective from the northwest quadrant of our province.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. One thing that was very evident was that in Grande Prairie, being on the western side of our province, there was concern about going to daylight saving time year-round, especially in the winter, and what effect that would have on their morning hours of daylight. When you look at it, if you're on our eastern side in Lloydminster and then travel to Grande Prairie, right now it's about half an hour's difference between when the sun comes up in the morning and when it goes down for each jurisdiction.

A lot of trade happens with eastern B.C. The Peace region in British Columbia: they are on Mountain Standard Time year-round. In the wintertime the Peace region in British Columbia is on the same time as the Grande Prairie area. One presenter talked about different sporting activities. A lot of the sporting activities, when they're on the same time, work out quite well. There was concern going into a situation where they would be two hours out of sync with the southern part of the province of British Columbia.

It was good to hear from residents in Grande Prairie and get their perspective on going with daylight saving time year-round.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I agree with what everybody had to say, but one particular presentation struck me. It was a woman who expressed that she had some medical issues and was taking medication that had to be taken at the same time every day. She did not want the clocks to be changed because it was very difficult on her both physically and, she said, psychologically to adjust to that change. When asked about preference on time, she said initially that she didn't really have a preference and then thought that because it was Grande Prairie and because of their interaction with Fort St. John, I believe it is, maybe that would be the better time. She didn't want the clock to continue to change because it had such an impact on her physically and psychologically.

The Chair: Yeah. The one thing that I – it was always interesting to hear some of the feedback. Actually, it was, I think, a couple of farmers who alluded to the joke we heard a couple times that it doesn't take a genius to know that when you cut the bottom of a blanket off and sew it to the top, you don't have a longer blanket. You know, it's one of those situations where some of the groups that you may think would have a very strong opinion seem to be a bit indifferent and some of the groups – it would sometimes surprise you – actually have a very strong opinion about whether or not we move forward on daylight saving one way or another.

Right now we'll direct it back to comments from the Albertans who are joining us here today.

Mr. Clerk, is our first presenter here? Okay.

Right now we're still waiting on our next scheduled presenter to come here. One of our other ones was here earlier today. While we wait for the next scheduled person to join us, I'd like to open it up for members of the audience who would like to provide us with some feedback or comments in relation to the Alberta Standard Time Act or any of the amendments here.

Excellent. Good morning, sir. If you can state your name for the record, please.

Mr. Joyal: My name is Edward Joyal, CPA.

The Chair: Okay. Please proceed.

Edward Joyal

Mr. Joyal: The biggest problem I have with being standard or whatever you're going to do is in the wintertime sending the kids to school in the dark. As it is now, most people drive their children because it's dark even on standard time.

The next thing is the commerce. You're going to be out of step with the entire country and the world because you switched. This is no different than Quebec stopping the pipeline, and they get the majority of the equalization. So does that make any sense? Where is the sense in that? Why should someone be allowed to stop it and we pay for foreign oil when we've got all that they need right here? Why would we do that? You ought to give your heads a shake. I don't know why you are not pushing for the pipeline. Why keep it in the ground here and pay to foreign countries? Like, is there somebody in the graft in Quebec that is getting the money . . .

The Chair: Sorry to cut you off. While you are making some very important points, we do want to make sure that we're staying focused within Bill 203.

10:55

Mr. Joyal: Yeah. Okay. As far as the time, it affects all the sporting activities that are going out of this province, going to Vancouver and then also going east. They're going to make a variance of an hour going all over. Especially for the airlines, everything is drawn up so that the transfers are very equal, but they're going to be out of whack, too. The Greyhound bus: the same thing. You create a problem there. People don't know how long they're travelling with that one-hour change. That's now going to be adjusted for. The only province that doesn't have adjustments to time is the province where the land wasn't really wanted by anybody, so they called it Saskatchewan.

I just don't see where your reasoning is in wanting to change, you know. But in 2019 I hope there's a referendum because that'll be the same time we change the government, too. Forty-two per cent doesn't win.

Really, that's my take on it. Any questions?

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Joyal, for presenting this morning. The discussion with regard to moving to Alberta standard time, which would be daylight saving time year-round: we've heard different presenters discuss going out of sync with the rest of the country, and now you also talk about it. Is it important, in your mind, to have this as a national conversation as opposed to just a single province having the conversation? If that's important, then is it something where Canadians as a whole need to make that decision?

Mr. Joyal: If we're a country, we've got to be all in step. If we're not in step, there's something wrong. It's like having a six-horse team and two of them are hitched in the wrong direction. You know, they're pulling the wrong way. I've got a neighbour that cuts her grass at 10:30 at night in July. She won't be able to do that anymore. As adults we sit out till 10:30 at night, but now, if you go back to standard time, that's 9:30. Those are beautiful evenings, and you don't get to sit out six months of the year.

Mr. van Dijken: Currently the way the bill is proposed, we have a decision to make, essentially, to either move in favour of Bill 203 – and that would stay with daylight saving time year-round – or the

decision to not move in that direction and stay with changing our clocks twice a year. Which would you prefer to see?

Mr. Joyal: Well, because of the effect on children with standard time in the wintertime, we need it at the hour where it is now, where you can send the children without it being dark. Going to school in the dark, you're going to keep them in the dark.

Mr. van Dijken: I'm hearing two things. I suspect what I'm hearing is that you would like to stay with changing the clocks twice a year so that you have the extended daylight hours in the summer and so that you have safety for the children in the winter.

Mr. Joyal: Correct.

Mr. van Dijken: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Joyal. Your comments about being in sync I think are well taken here because, again, we're a small population base in a huge country, and for us to succeed as Canadians, we need each other, and we need to be in sync and in step for us not only to succeed as a nation but, I think, also to compete internationally. I'm hearing from you that this being out of sync is a big concern for you. Just because our borders are drawn on a map doesn't mean that life and commerce switch over and isolate us. We have to live in a national and a global economy. Is that pretty clearly what you're trying to remind us of?

Mr. Joyal: What you're proposing would be good if you had an island in the south Pacific, you know, isolated. Or if you're in Tuktoyaktuk, maybe it wouldn't affect you because you've got 24 hours of darkness. You can just switch the clocks or not switch the clocks when you're up there, okay? But if you get down below that, north of the 49th parallel, we're 600 miles from the border. We're affected by the light as far as the sun goes and the sunset. You've got to give adults that time in the evening where they can sit out with their friends and associate and where the kids would still go to bed at 9 o'clock. My son's children do that even on daylight saving. They still go to bed at 9, and they are tired by then.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I'd like to go back to your point about the kids going to school in the dark. If you were here earlier, you would have heard me say that I lived in Yellowknife for almost eight years and that my kids went to school in the dark and they came home from school in the dark and that the five hours of daylight was in the middle. Everybody went out at lunchtime throughout the city to make sure they got a little sunlight.

In the northern part of our province and the southern part of our province the amount of daylight that they have during the winter is different, and it's because of where they are in the province and the curvature of the world.

Certainly, when my kids were in Yellowknife, going to school in the dark was no different than going to school in the light when we got around to February or March. Kids go to school when they go to school. I'd like to know from you: what is your concern about the kids going to school in the dark?

Mr. Joyal: Sexual predators. Okay? There are sexual predators who would take opportunities in this darkness. They're not sleeping. That would be a good time to go out and pick up a child. You've got the darkness that hides them. Why would you want to give them an opportunity?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. As I said, my kids went to school along with all the other kids that went to school in the dark, and that wasn't an issue.

Mr. Joyal: But you knew everybody in town by name. Okay? You're in a little town. This is not a little town, and Calgary isn't a little town. Red Deer: you wouldn't send small children out in the middle of the night now, would you? Would you do that?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, I'm not sending kids out in the middle of the night. I'm just asking you what your concerns were.

Mr. Joyal: The darkness, the darkness that the kids would confront going to school and with the sexual predators out there. Why give them an opportunity? Why enable predators?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: I have a question for you. Are you still a practising CPA, or are you retired?

Mr. Joyal: I'm retired.

The Chair: Oh. Okay.

Mr. Joyal: I do consulting.

The Chair: Okay. What implications would you see as a CPA that this would have? Like, you know, with the proposed bill we'd be an hour off . . .

Mr. Joyal: It's commerce. It's strictly commerce. The stock market. You know, you're out of whack. You've got that horse hitched the wrong way.

The Chair: Yeah. As a CPA did you do a lot more trade with the eastern seaboard and working with the TSX and the New York Stock Exchange, or was it closer with the Vancouver and the British Columbia based ones?

Mr. Joyal: Vancouver and Ottawa, Toronto. See, this is where the government has some offices in P.E.I. Our difference is that it's difficult to reach somebody unless you get up early in the morning and phone them. That's the problem even now, never mind communicating on a fixed time.

The Chair: Uh-huh. The proposed bill that's being brought forth as 203 would mean that in the wintertime we'd actually be an hour off the Toronto time zone. We'd be two hours off British Columbia in the wintertime.

Mr. Joyal: Right.

The Chair: You know, it's interesting to hear your perspective as a CPA because there are a lot of individuals who would sometimes speculate that it may be a bit more convenient to work an hour off Ontario. Would you see any of that difference?

Mr. Joyal: How long does it take you to adjust to the one-hour change? It doesn't take me any time. I get up after six hours of sleep, so no matter what time I go to bed, I get up six hours later.

The Chair: Excellent.

Mr. Joyal: It just doesn't make sense. Alberta will be out of step with everybody. That is what an NDP government wants. They want to be an island unto themselves, but unfortunately they're not.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Excellent. Thank you very much, Edward.

Any other members wishing to speak to the committee on Bill 203? Excellent.

Seeing and hearing none, are there any other comments or questions the subcommittee members would like to bring forward while we're here?

Okay. With that, our next scheduled presenters are slated for 1 o'clock, so we will recess until 1 o'clock this afternoon. Thank you very much.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 11:05 a.m.]

