



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
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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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1:01 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

Location: Edmonton

The Chair: Good afternoon, everyone. I want to welcome everyone and call the meeting back to order for the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future. My name is Graham Sucha. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Shaw and the chair of this subcommittee.

I'll have members introduce themselves for the record, starting with the member to my left.

Mr. Gotfried: Good afternoon. My name is Richard Gotfried. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Fish Creek.

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

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

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

The Chair: Excellent. I'll go over a few housekeeping things just for the sake of people who are joining us here this afternoon. Before we turn to the business at hand, please ensure that all of our cellphones are on silent mode. Also, as a note, audio proceedings are live streamed on the Internet and recorded by *Alberta Hansard*. Audio access and meeting transcripts can be obtained via the Legislative Assembly website.

Before we hear from the first presenter, I'll go over a few comments about Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, which the committee has been tasked to review. Bill 203, if passed, proposes that as of November 2018 the Daylight Saving Time Act would be repealed and Alberta would remain on Alberta standard time.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 being Mountain Daylight Time, the same time we are on right now.

On April 3, 2017, the Legislative Assembly of Alberta 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 four public meetings with Albertans to gather additional feedback on the bill. The subcommittee has already held meetings in Grande Prairie and will be holding meetings in Calgary and Lethbridge as well as the one we're having here today in Edmonton and will report back to the committee on what it hears during these meetings. 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 via e-mail or through mail correspondence.

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

With that, I would ask that the committee clerk call the first presenter.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jack Gillis.

Mr. Gillis: Good afternoon.

The Chair: If you could state your name for the record before you proceed, please.

Mr. Gillis: My name is Jack Gillis.

The Chair: Excellent. Please proceed.

Jack Gillis

Mr. Gillis: I'm 69 and actively retired. I am the financial administrator of a Christian-Jewish congregation in Edmonton, an actor in a seniors' drama group, and a Scottish country dancer. I walk extensively in the Edmonton river valley and regularly climb the 202-step Ezio Faraone staircase a couple of blocks away, 25 times last evening. Adopting standard time will mean not being able to climb those stairs on winter evenings, which is very dangerous because the edge of each step is difficult to see going down.

But the effect on airlines and air operations in Alberta is the main reason I am speaking here today. I was born in Edmonton in January 1948, attended public schools here, and graduated from the University of Alberta with a bachelor of commerce degree in 1973, specializing in air transportation studies, including accounting and Fortran computer programming courses. My special project was a study of the U.S. airline industry, for which I received top marks.

I joined Wardair in September 1974 to produce flight-by-flight computer scheduling and financial forecasting systems, completing them by mid-November 1974 for the 1975 financial plan. This enabled Wardair to acquire its second Boeing 747 mid-December 1974. Our fleet grew from four to as many as 17 large jet aircraft.

I worked closely with the marketing department, becoming familiar with the aircraft scheduling process, including passenger demand and travel preferences, airport slot times, and curfews. Airline aircraft scheduling is an entire-world process involving the major and many minor airlines operating big jets. During my time at Wardair, airlines met twice a year to bid on gate access slots at all main airports. Once an airline got gate access slots, they sort of had grandfather rights to them for the arrival and departure times the airline had been awarded. At some major airports slot times cannot be changed without going through the bidding process again.

In North America almost all states and provinces operate on daylight saving time during the busy summer season and then go back to standard time in the winter months. The only exceptions I am aware of are Saskatchewan, Hawaii, and the Navajo areas of Arizona. If Alberta were to exit from the spring ahead/fall back time zone areas, it could mean some significant schedule changes and route cancellations. The world airlines will spring ahead and fall back even if Alberta does not, but air operations here may suffer. Moving out of sync with most of the world may mean losing airline jobs here.

Toronto is Canada's major city and airline hub. Because of that, my Wardair head office job in Edmonton and I were transferred to Toronto in 1980 even though we had a 747 hangar here in Edmonton. Will adoption of standard time all year in Alberta mean that WestJet jobs and the head office go to Toronto or Vancouver? WestJet executives already expressed concern in Calgary last week on this issue, but I say: let's not take the chance by upsetting them.

Thank you for allowing me to express my views on this issue. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Gillis.

I'll open it up, especially with your expertise, to members of the subcommittee here.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Gillis. Certainly, those concerns we heard from WestJet and the airports. The primary concern from WestJet was around it being a hub in Calgary, being one of their main hubs if not their main hub. I think one of the examples they use is that somebody flying to, say, Dallas or Houston may, instead of taking that very early morning flight to connect in Calgary, choose a flight that might connect in San Francisco or Los Angeles or something to that effect. Yeah, we're certainly cognizant of their concerns, and they will play a big factor when the committee actually delivers its recommendations when we come to the end of it.

Just a quick note. I know we have this business aspect, but a question for you is: personally, it sounds like you would like to have it one way or another.

Mr. Gillis: Yes. From the airline point of view, I would prefer it to remain the way it is right now. Personally, I'm undecided, but the staircase issue, I think, would really affect here those of us who climb stairs. Somebody this morning pointed out that it'll be dark in the winter months by 5 or 6, which means climbing the stairs over here would be very dangerous because you simply can't see the edge of each step going down. It is all one big grey area going down. It would curtail the stair-climber's opportunity to climb at night after working 9 to 5.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

In your time at Wardair did you ever go through a time where time zones had changed, and how did that work?

Mr. Gillis: No. It was constant all the time. There wasn't any change.

Mr. Coolahan: There weren't any changes during your time?

Mr. Gillis: Well, no one area changed, that sort of thing. Our operations were centred in Toronto, and everything was based on connecting through Toronto.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you.

1:10

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Gillis, for taking time to join us here today. I also spent about 20 years in the airline business, with Cathay Pacific. I know many people in the airline industry who came from Wardair and are still very proud of the product that that airline was able to produce, I think rather iconic in some people's minds in the Canadian airline industry.

It sounds to me like you're not dissimilar to many Albertans who have some personal comments and thoughts on it and some inconveniences, but you're looking at it from the economic impact with respect to the airline operational issues that could affect us here in terms of growing and nurturing the hubs here that we're blessed to have. We've had airlines like Wardair and Canadian Airlines and Pacific Western in the past, and now WestJet and Air Canada are serving the markets here. Is it your thought that for us to be out of sync could have a significant economic impact on our ability to grow our Calgary and Edmonton hubs?

Mr. Gillis: Yes. I've read the transcript from Calgary, and the head of WestJet, I believe, said that operations on the west coast would be severely impacted by this because it's two hours away.

Mr. Gotfried: I think what we also heard was that on a competitive basis it might not only hamper our ability to draw people to a Calgary or Edmonton hub, or to a Calgary hub in this instance, but in fact they may consider moving their hub from Calgary to a west-coast city if that made sense for their expansion plans for the future, particularly with the long haul of transcontinental and inter-continental flights. Was that what you took from that presentation as well?

Mr. Gillis: Well, from what I read and what they had to say, WestJet could move to Vancouver, and that would impact jobs in Calgary. Essentially, their hub would move to Vancouver from Calgary.

Mr. Gotfried: And then I believe that that would probably take with it jobs and investment, I would suspect, as well. Would that be your take on it from your experience?

Mr. Gillis: Well, based on what happened at Wardair. You know, our whole head office – we had 200 or 300 people here in Edmonton. Virtually all of them went to Toronto.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Gillis. I really appreciate your time and all your experience and insights you brought to us today. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other questions from panel members? Excellent.

Thank you, Mr. Gillis, for your feedback as well.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jayne Lyone.

Ms Lyone: Good afternoon.

The Chair: Good afternoon.

Jayne Lyone

Ms Lyone: I feel like I shouldn't be here because I just realized from some people that you're actually looking to stay with Mountain Daylight Time, which is what I agree with. I haven't set my time back ever in the fall for the past three years.

The Chair: Sorry. Just for the sake of our *Hansard* staff, if you could state your name for the record, too, please.

Ms Lyone: Jayne Lyone.

Okay. I'm in agreeance with leaving the time as it is because we do get that extra hour of daylight in the afternoons. So when it's dark for most people at 4:30, on daylight it's actually 5:30 when it's getting dark.

I really don't have a whole lot to say on the topic now that I know where we're going. But will this be voted on by the people, or do you guys just take this back and decide?

Mr. Coolahan: There has been some talk of a referendum. Some people have brought that up. It's rather costly and maybe not the best way to pursue it. But this subcommittee will, through these presentations, have a recommendation that will come forward to the Legislature.

I do have a question for you. You're saying, then, that you're okay with the proposal moving this way and keeping Mountain Daylight Time, but are you okay with the clocks changing, or you don't want the clocks to change?

Ms Lyone: I'm not sure what you mean. Like, we're going to go back in the fall. Soon we're going to change our clocks back, and then in the spring we're going to move them forward again.

Mr. Coolahan: Correct, but the bill is reading that it would end the changing of the clocks.

Ms Lyone: Right.

Mr. Coolahan: Right. So I'm asking: are you okay with the clocks changing?

Ms Lyone: No. I totally agree with having the clocks stay the same time all the time. I don't understand. When Mr. Gillis was talking about the planes and whatnot and the economics, how do we differ from Saskatchewan, who never changes their time? How does their plane system work? Like, why is it so different?

Mr. Coolahan: If I could answer that, Chair?

The Chair: Yeah. Go ahead.

Mr. Coolahan: Primarily it was WestJet who would come to – they presented last week, I believe it was. As Mr. Gillis was saying, Calgary is a hub for WestJet, okay? I gave the example, too, that one of the examples they used was that if we're too far away from B.C., a business traveller or any traveller for that matter who would normally leave at, say, 6:30 or 7:30 in the morning would now have to leave at 5:30, perhaps. Especially if they were heading to somewhere in the south, they may choose another hub, therefore another airline, so they're concerned about the economic impact. I believe Mr. Gotfried said, too, that that would hinder growing the hub in Calgary. They are a big economic player in Calgary and the province.

Mr. Gotfried: I spent 20 years in the airline industry, Ms Lyone. The difference is that in Saskatchewan they tend to have to get out of Saskatchewan to find a hub to travel, so Regina and Saskatoon are not considered hubs. They have flights east and west typically to reach hubs in either Calgary or Vancouver or Toronto. There could be some out of Winnipeg as well, but they really have not established themselves as a hubbing city, which would draw traffic in. With all due respect, they have to kind of work around the hubs and the hub timing, so their flights would be adjusted.

What it does mean, though, is that when everybody else adjusts to daylight savings time or changes their clocks, when they remain the same, then they have to be adjusted. Chances are what happens is that their 6:30 flight might move to 7:30 to adjust. You'll see that their flight timing and departures will change when everybody else's don't, so a 6:30 flight during Mountain Standard Time or Mountain Daylight Time is probably still going to be a 6:30 flight. In Saskatchewan it might go from 6:30 in certain times of the year to 7:30 in different times of the year to mesh with the other schedules and the other time zones. So that would be the difference.

Ms Lyone: Okay. But every six months, like, we're changing, so the airports would have to change also, right?

Mr. Gotfried: Well, no, they don't because everything changes. A 6:30 flight is still a 6:30 flight, so they actually don't change anything. The clocks change, and they change with it.

Ms Lyone: Okay.

Mr. Gotfried: But they don't have to adjust. If we didn't change, then a 6:30 flight might have to turn into a 5:30 flight so that we

don't mess up trying to make a connection in Chicago or Vancouver or Toronto, so we would have to be the odd one out. I think that where the concern comes from is not being in synchronization with the majority of other jurisdictions today. That could change, of course.

Ms Lyone: Uh-huh. I hope.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Just a quick clarification on that. B.C. changes their clocks as well, so then we are in sync. That's the concern from the airports and the airlines. If we change and B.C. does not, that's what throws us off.

Ms Lyone: But are there not two areas in B.C. that don't change?

Mr. Coolahan: There are. Yeah.

Ms Lyone: There are. Okay.
Well, thank you for your time.

The Chair: Thank you for your feedback. You know, it underlines, as we start to hear from a lot more people, the complexities of this debate, and it's not simply or necessarily black and white when it comes to how people may be impacted. I think you underline that it shows how complex that this conversation can be and how it's easy to think one thing is happening when in reality another is, too.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Gordon Tyndle.

Gordon Tyndle

Mr. Tyndle: Hon. MLAs, thank you for your time. My name is Gordon Tyndle. I live in Edmonton-McClung. I sure didn't think I would be downtown today, on the agenda today. I was supposed to be out of town. I realized I wasn't out of town today, so I looked at my schedule, snuck away for a couple of hours from work, so then had an opportunity to speak. Thank you very much. I totally appreciate it.

1:20

I'm speaking personally here today for myself and my friends and family and others. This has been a really big issue for us. I've got some notes here that I wrote to MLA Dang. I'm going to kind of summarize some of them. MLA Dang – sorry; not MLA Dang. MLA Dach, who is my MLA: we spoke in the springtime as well about this, you know, Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act. I believe that's what we're going to call it. One of the things that I'm concerned about personally, and nobody's been able to tell me this yet: I want somebody just to give me one logical reason why Edmonton in the wintertime would be in the same time zone as Chicago, two hours ahead of Vancouver. Nobody I've talked to yet has been able to give me a logical reason for that. To me it makes no logic whatsoever to that extent. I'd just leave that thought with you on that. You know, you'd think even people living in Jasper as opposed to the people living in Valemont – that's not a long drive, and you have a two-hour time zone difference.

I heard MLA Fitzpatrick speak this morning. I didn't realize it was online, so I listened for a few minutes and I decided that, yeah, I wanted to come down and watch for a while. She talked about living in Yellowknife. I lived in Inuvik for a year and definitely understand the concerns of darkness. Now, I don't suffer from seasonal affective disorder myself. Many of my friends do, and I find that they always tell me it's the lack of light in the morning that impacts them more than the light at the end of the day. Now, again, I'm not a doctor. I am not a medical professional. I'm a banker by

trade. That's the point I really stress to myself as well. What about those folks where they want light in the morning? Even myself, and I don't suffer from it at all, lately I've noticed the light. You know, it's getting dark in the morning now. I actually like November coming along, when you turn the clocks back. It gets lighter earlier.

Again, as you can tell, I'm for maintaining the status quo, but earlier this year we had a hired student from the NDP come to our home, a great young lady. We had a great conversation with her. She thanked us for not throwing her out of the house as well. One of the questions we asked her was about Bill 203, and we said: how are you going to feel as a university student in Edmonton when the sun in late December is not going to rise until close to 10 o'clock? And she said: "You know what? I'm going to find it very depressing at that point." I think some people don't realize as well that December 21, or approximately December 21, is when the days start getting longer; however, we still lose daylight in the morning until early January. We gain the daylight at night, but we're still losing daylight in the morning. So I for one am not really for a 10 o'clock sunrise in Edmonton in late December, but that's just my personal feeling.

I've heard some comments now today. You're exactly right. This is a more complicated matter than what we think it is. If we are going to move forward, I personally would prefer a plebiscite. Let the people vote, just like when it was brought in originally.

In summation, I'm sure I can walk out of here and say: Gord, you wanted to say a few more things that you forgot. But I trust, you know, that you've appreciated my comments. I thank you for the time. Like I said, I used to play at the Leg. Grounds. I grew up across the river. As a kid I used to play at the Leg. Grounds. It's kind of really neat to see the Legislature Building behind your head today. What an honour and privilege to be here today. Thank you for your time in listening to me.

The Chair: I'll open it up to members of the panel, and I think we also share in that honour and privilege as well.

Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you so much for your presentation, Mr. Tyndle. Just to directly answer a few of your questions. About being in line with Chicago, my understanding is that Mr. Dang in introducing this – of course, this is a private member's bill. You know, when you do have a private member's bill, you go through what you can. You get ideas from everywhere. Generally a lot of those ideas come from people who walk into your office, right? As Ms Fitzpatrick said this morning, as soon as she opened up her office, five people walked in and said: stop changing the clocks. So Mr. Dang probably was much the same, had the same reaction from a lot of constituents. Through his consultation and in presenting this bill, what he determined – and I don't want to put words in his mouth, but I think this is how it went – was that most people said that they preferred the light at the end of the day for the longer hours for golfing, minor sports, and things like that, gardening. We all enjoy that extra light.

Mr. Tyndle: In the summertime we love that. Exactly.

Mr. Coolahan: We love it. Yeah.

Mr. Tyndle: Absolutely.

Mr. Coolahan: Then you kind of suffer though in the winter for sure.

Yeah. I just wanted to answer that question. I mean, you're right. This elicits so much response from so many people. Everyone has opinions on it. Everyone is very passionate about it. As I've said

more than once in a couple of these hearings, you know, I can't get consensus in my own house, so how do we do that across the province? And it is a fine balance between economic activity and responsibility and the will of the people, too.

I appreciate you coming down here today on your few hours off.

Mr. Tyndle: I definitely understand that. You know, I looked at the Global TV Edmonton survey the other day. The survey is getting pretty close to 50-50. I know that's not an exact survey either, but a lot of people have answered that survey, and it's running close to 50-50 right now on changing or not.

Thank you so much.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Yes. Thank you very much for joining us today, Mr. Tyndle. It's great that you're taking your time here to join us. You pointed out some of the concerns on, again, the possible depressing nature or seasonal affective disorders that could come from the late mornings. In Edmonton 9:48 would be the sunrise on December 21, and if you live in High Level, that will push to 10:37 in the morning. I share your concern not only for the sort of emotional standpoint but for students. We had previous presenters talk about the safety of students getting to school, and I also worry about outdoor workers who get up in the morning and who, if they start at 7:30, for example, may not have sunlight for two hours or more working in the outdoors. I would suggest that some safety issues could come from that as well.

You know, I think these are, again, some good things for us to consider. I think many people have their personal opinions. I think what we've been trying to do at this committee is to create some opportunities for people to have their personal opinions, which may be as simple as not wanting to change the clock, or they may have other issues around what they feel are the safest or most convenient times. We're also hearing from businesses and how that will affect people's jobs, the economy, our ability to be a strategic leader in terms of air travel and other things like that. I think we're learning here that there are many different considerations. You said that the Global survey is 50-50, so maybe as people are getting more informed, they're bringing more factors into consideration here. I think we're hoping to learn those, but I think we're also hoping to share those with Albertans so that they can have well-informed opinions on this and perspectives.

Thank you for taking the time as we all learn on this.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much for your presentation, Mr. Tyndle. You mentioned you were in Inuvik. My understanding – and I could be wrong – is that Inuvik actually in the wintertime is dark for about six weeks. Yellowknife wasn't. The kids went to school in the dark, came home in the dark, but there were five hours of daylight in the middle. Until it was below minus 30, every kid in town was out at recess time and at lunchtime to get some sunlight. I don't suffer from SAD, so I really don't know how you're affected by that, but no matter where you are, if you're in Yellowknife, if you're in Lethbridge, the amount of daylight you get during the day, no matter what time it is, is the amount of daylight you're going to get during the day.

Mr. Tyndle: I fully understand that, MLA Fitzpatrick. I fully understand that.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. Certainly, as I had said this morning, one of the presenters had talked about having a medical issue and being on medication that has to be taken at the same time every day. Now, that time, if you're changing the clock, means that you're getting

up earlier or you're getting up later when you take your medication, and your body then would have to adjust to that. For that person it was a huge issue. She initially didn't really mind which side of the time it was going to be as long as it didn't change.

The biggest thing that has happened in my office – as Craig and I said today, the first day I was in my office I had people coming through the door saying: stop it. I said this morning also that there were probably 200 people who have come to my office specifically about that. It's probably more than any other issue except for domestic violence that have come through the door in my office. Even though people might have disagreed on which time zone they wanted to be in, they did not want the clock to change anymore.

1:30

I certainly listen to every presentation I get and every presentation that we have here, and we do have to make a decision because we do have a bill in front of us . . .

Mr. Tyndle: Of course.

Ms Fitzpatrick: . . . and we've been tasked with soliciting the information from presenters and then coming up with a recommendation that will go with the bill when it comes before the House again.

I want to thank you for coming and taking some time from your day to do that because every single comment counts. Thank you.

Mr. Tyndle: Thank you very much. It's been my absolute pleasure to talk to you today, folks.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Tyndle.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. David Martin.

Mr. Martin: Good afternoon. My name is David Martin. As with the previous speaker, I didn't really intend on speaking this afternoon, but I felt the issue was important enough for me to attend. I was also promised a tour of the sky palace after.

The Chair: I heard there's an extra bed.

David Martin

Mr. Martin: I farm in the Vegreville area, and I also ranch extensively in north-central Saskatchewan. I was involved extensively in Alberta's construction industry for 35 years as a superintendent and a construction manager primarily on heavy oil projects north of Edmonton. I previously made a written submission during the comment period on this topic. As well, I contacted my local MLA in Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. If traffic allows and the schedule here allows, I'm to meet her for coffee this evening to give her an update on the tone of the meeting. I'm not just another disgruntled Wildrose rural Albertan. I actually supported the government on most of its initiatives to date.

I am fundamentally opposed to Bill 203 as it now reads for several reasons. My number one concern has to do with the democratic aspect of this bill and how it's being presented. I am concerned that the initiator of the bill and perhaps the government itself is gathering public opinion on this important issue with a flawed template. It is my opinion that the government is not being forthright in its message to attract comments. The individual MLA and the message getting out to the media is that Albertans overwhelmingly want to do away with daylight saving time. This, in fact, is not what Bill 203 proposes. Bill 203 proposes to remain on Mountain Daylight Time permanently or Central Standard Time.

It's fraudulent to think you can simply move a time zone meridian to fit a flavour-of-the-day legislative bill. Time zones were established on a global survey for good reason, to evenly appropriate daylight hours.

My second concern on this evolves from me being a rural father and being involved in the construction industry, and it's been hit on here with specific times for what this bill is actually going to look like if it comes to fruition. In Vegreville on December 21 the sunrise is going to be at 9:30 in the morning. You're not going to have working light till quarter to 10. Peace River: it's going to be approximately 10 a.m. with working light at 10:15. High Level: I believe Mr. Gotfried said 10:37 would be actual sunrise. I've worked in all three of these locations on December 21. I know what it looked like on standard time.

Schoolchildren catching buses in the dark for three months of the year as opposed to the approximately six weeks that they have now – kids in my school bus riding, they're catching the bus at about 10 to 8 in the morning, so it'll be pitch black, and it'll probably be five degrees Celsius colder than it otherwise would have been. Yeah, they'll get off the bus in the daylight, but they get off the bus pretty well at dusk anyway on December 21, so you're adding that hazard with rural schoolchildren, who a lot of times have to cross the road in front of the school bus.

School bus drivers have to negotiate snowy, icy roads in the dark. Possibly the snowplow won't have been out yet because I don't know if the townies will adjust all their work, staff schedules ahead an hour to accommodate this for road clearing, so it's a bigger issue.

As far as the construction industry goes, most construction sites that I've been involved with start work at 7:30 in the morning, and that's so that concrete trucks and delivery trucks can beat the morning rush hour, and you get a head start on things. That means all these construction sites will be pitch black for two and a half hours at the start of a shift. On large sites, yeah, you'll be able to move in light towers and so on at a cost to mitigate that somewhat, but all these small residential and commercial strip mall type construction are not going to want to spend the money to illuminate these work areas, which are hazardous to begin with, so there are either going to be accidents or there is going to be significant additional cost with light towers, which, by the way, are sub tier 4 diesel engines.

The Chair: Sorry to interrupt, Mr. Martin. I just want to get consent from the committee to go over time over here as well.

Okay. Please proceed. Thanks.

Mr. Martin: I'm sorry.

The Chair: It's all right.

Mr. Martin: If an argument is raised that construction sites could start work an hour and a half later to accommodate this in the winter, well, then where does it stop? Are you going to have daycare let out an hour and a half later? Are you going to have hockey practice at night start an hour and a half later in the evening? I mean, to me it doesn't make sense.

My third concern is involving commercial and personal relationships, which our province has an abundance of in British Columbia. It's difficult enough maintaining those relationships with an hour difference. I mean, I cannot call my daughter in the morning in Vancouver because she's out the door with a kid to get to daycare and so on, so now it's going to be two hours later in the evening that we can have a relationship.

The other thing has been touched on with the airlines and what that means. It used to be that when I was stationed in Calgary and would fly out for engineering meetings in Vancouver, I could get

on a plane at 7 o'clock in Calgary and be in Vancouver for the start of the business day and then home again that evening. Well, now it's going to set everything back two hours, so it's certainly not going to be as convenient.

I know a lot of arguments have been made that Saskatchewan doesn't change their clocks, and they get along quite fine. Well, yeah, that's true, but they didn't eliminate a time zone. They are on Central Standard Time. What this bill is proposing is that Alberta take it upon itself to eliminate an entire time zone. I know of no other jurisdiction in North America that has done that. I could stand corrected.

Time zones were implemented for a reason, based on a global survey. The reason those meridians were established was to appropriate daylight hours proportionately to each side of the work-day. I think that to support this bill, then, you've got to say: okay; school is not going to start until 10 o'clock in the morning from November to April, and banks aren't going to open until 11 o'clock in the morning.

I know that for me with cattle, I can't start doing chores until the sun comes up. It takes me two hours to feed in the morning, so that means that I can't make a business appointment in town until noon at the earliest if I have to meet with an accountant or a bank or so on whereas before I could be in town at 10:30.

1:40

As has been brought up by several other speakers more eloquently than I have, I think this is a lot bigger issue than just people not wanting to move their clocks and their sleep habits being tweaked a couple of times a year. I think daylight saving time was implemented in World War I so that people could go home and tend their wartime gardens because all the food was being shipped overseas, and that's morphed into soccer games and sidewalk bistros and drinks on the patio, which is fine. Enjoy our daylight hours to the fullest in July and August, but when the sun starts getting low in November, it's time to start divvying up those daylight hours. This bill as it stands now is going to be counter to that.

Thank you for your time.

The Chair: Excellent. I'll open it up.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you very much for this presentation and for your time today. You've given me some pause for thought. I was in the residential construction industry for a number of years, and one of my concerns has been about safety for workers. We've talked about the students again. I started thinking about some of the trades and some of the activities that might be affected, and I was thinking of roofers and framers and then also in the construction industry excavators, who often need to have a visual reference, particularly in terms of if they're near utility lines of one sort or another, which can be very dangerous in terms of digging and hand-digging and excavating around gas lines and things like that. Those could be things that could be affected. The smart supervisors are probably going to choose to delay doing some of those activities for an hour, so there are some productivity issues here, I think, as well as safety issues that need to be addressed.

I just wanted to thank you for bringing those forward to us. Again, we're finding out that there are many considerations here as we dig a little bit deeper into the economics of it and actually the practices that are quite typical in the construction industry, whether that's road construction, whether that's residential or commercial construction, that may – again, they can be mitigated by lighting, but not everybody can afford that nor is going to do that for sites that are constantly moving. Thank you for bringing those forward to us.

I was wondering if you had any other comments from your own experience in the construction industry of some specific things that you think might be activities that would be limited or affected by having to wait until there is some daylight to perform them.

Mr. Martin: As I mentioned, during my time as a construction manager, with most of these big companies safety is not negotiable. We've got a two-headed animal here. The problem with this is that it's going to be dark at the worst time of the year, where conditions have the opportunity to change the most. In July the work site is probably the same when you go in the next morning as it was when you left the day before; maybe it's muddy or so on. But hazards can appear overnight that will cover up open excavations. A cord that was fully visible across the slab the night before: with three inches of snow you don't see it – it's a tripping hazard – or manholes and so on that were not covered properly, perhaps. I mean, it's not a question of if; it will happen. There will be accidents due to darkness and improperly lit construction sites if this is implemented.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you very much.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much for your presentation, Mr. Martin. Now, I just did a quick search, and I see that on December 21 in High Level there are six hours, 19 minutes, and four seconds of daylight. If you're in Edmonton, there are seven hours, 27 minutes, and 42 seconds; in Lethbridge, eight hours, six minutes, and two seconds. As you can see, from south to north the number of hours of daylight changes, but it's the same number of hours of daylight in that day. It doesn't matter whether the clocks say 8 o'clock or 7 o'clock or 10 o'clock; you still only have a certain number of hours of daylight.

If you work in construction and you work in construction in High Level or you work in construction in Lethbridge, you're going to have a different number of hours of daylight; however, that number of hours of daylight is consistent.

Mr. Martin: What are you proposing? Are you proposing to shift the whole workday to embed those six daylight hours?

Ms Fitzpatrick: No. What I'm saying is that I've lived in the north, and construction happens whether it's dark or it's light. I've worked in Lethbridge, and it doesn't matter whether it's dark or light; construction is on. I'm just asking. I'm trying to understand when you talk about dark and accidents happening. Different occupations, different times of construction, different farming goes on in different places. You have a number of hours of daylight, and that's what operates. We had a dairy farmer who talked in Grande Prairie the other day, and he said that his cows need to be milked at a certain time. He said that if the time changes, he's changing his time, which upsets the cows, so your production is changed. However, if he got up earlier or got up later, whatever time it is the cows are supposed to be milked, then he wouldn't lose production. But if he changes the time with the clocks, then the cows were affected.

All I'm saying is that there is a certain number of hours that you're going to have daylight wherever you are in the country. In fact, every day that number of hours is different throughout the entire year, but we still operate. We still function whether it's dark or whether it's daylight. That's all I'm saying.

Mr. Martin: Yeah. In an office environment you do. You won't drive by any one of these residential construction sites in December right now, the way it is, and see a light tower set up illuminating a subfloor waiting to be framed. If this legislation goes through, you'll have to or those people will be in conflict with the OH and S Act. Either that or they're going to have to not start work till 10 in

the morning. That's what I'm saying. It would take a fundamental shift. The banks will have to stay open later. Hockey practice is going to have to start later. That's what it means.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. I guess what I'm saying to you is that I've lived in the north, I've lived in Edmonton, I've lived in the south, and it doesn't matter where I live; in the wintertime construction happens at the same time every day. It may mean that they've got lights on. I've seen construction companies start up at 6 or 6:30 in the morning, and they've got lights on because it's dark, whether it's one hour of dark or two hours of dark. They're working for 12 hours, so it's dark when they start, and it's dark when they finish.

I guess I'm trying to get my head wrapped around what you have said, and it doesn't totally jibe with what I've seen.

Mr. Martin: Let me explain it this way. It's light on December 21 in Edmonton – basically, you've got good working light to read a tape measure, pound a nail – at probably quarter to 9 in the morning, and you've probably lost that ability by 4:30 in the afternoon. Construction starts at 7:30 in the morning. That's when most guys have to be on-site.

The way it is right now, for an hour and a quarter in the morning they don't have the illumination they need to do their job as far as fine work and so on. What you're proposing is adding another hour on that. Typically now when guys show up at work, yeah, we have our safety meeting. That takes 15, 20 minutes. You go to the tool crib. You get tooled up. You get to your site. By the time you get there you've got light to do your job on December 21.

If this is implemented, you've got another hour of downtime when you either have to illuminate the site by artificial means or accept the loss of productivity or accept the possibility of having a time-lost accident. It's either that or you say: "Okay, guys; don't show up till 9:30 this morning. From November to April we're not going to start work till 9:30, and we're going to work till 6 o'clock tonight." I can assure you what's going to happen to your crew.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Mr. Martin, for your presentation.

Mr. Martin: Thank you.

1:50

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Martin, with all due respect to bankers, my experience in the construction industry is that you don't work bankers' hours. Typically, as you said, worksites start at 7:30 in the morning for various reasons: get an early start on the day, beat some of the rush-hour traffic that is working in offices, and things like that. If I understand you correctly, I mean, you're concerned about that being affected, those early start times which actually mean that you have a very productive day.

The other thing you said is something a bit more personal, which is: yes, we can adjust to that, but that means you're going to have people working until after 5 or until 6 o'clock in the evening so that they don't lose that productive work hour. Therefore, they are going to get home to their families, which I think is why all of us work, at the end of the day, so that we can be there for our families to be involved in our kids' activities and sports – is that one of your concerns, that we're going to affect the family lives, the personal lives of those individuals?

Mr. Martin: Very much so. Very much so. I think that will be the fallout of this for the smaller construction world, the subindustrial world, that they're going to start later to get the most benefit of that daylight hour that's being shifted on them, and it's going to set everything back. Like I said, hockey practice has to start later,

supper is going to have to be served an hour later, and you probably don't have time to read your kid a bedtime story.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you very much, Mr. Martin.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Chair. Mr. Martin, thank you so much for your time and presentation. Just a quick question. You've made it clear that you're opposed to Bill 203 as it is worded. Are you okay if we stopped changing the time and went the other way?

Mr. Martin: As I said in my written submission, I would support changing to Mountain Standard Time. What I do have the heartache with is going to Central Standard Time.

Mr. Coolahan: To central. But you're okay not changing the clocks and going the other direction. Okay.

Mr. Martin: Yeah. I think the MLA that initiated the bill is saying that Saskatchewan gets along just fine with it. Well, yeah, but they stayed on standard time. I would support remaining on Mountain Standard Time.

Mr. Coolahan: I know we've been chatting a lot here, so I'm trying to remember what you said earlier on. I think you said that with Saskatchewan they did so because they were sort of an entity on their own anyway. They didn't change anything else. We're looking right now at the prospect of many, many jurisdictions in the United States looking to change, and they may do it unilaterally, too. I'm not sure if they're concerned about that at all.

Mr. Martin: You say that jurisdictions are looking at going on daylight saving time year-round?

Mr. Coolahan: Many, many jurisdictions are looking at doing away with changing the clocks. That's the bottom line.

Mr. Martin: That's totally different, though, than what this bill proposes. I do have a problem with that.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. I understand. In order to not change the clocks, we have to make that decision to go one way or the other. I know what you're saying. You don't want to go Central Time. You'd rather go the other way, the Mountain Time.

Mr. Martin: I believe that in the polls I'm seeing in the media, there's a majority support to go that route, to not change the clocks, but it's being bandied about that there's overwhelming support for this bill as it reads. I talked to three of my neighbours this morning. They are all university educated, and they really didn't have a grasp of what this bill meant. If you just read the headlines that we're doing away with daylight saving time, great. But if you start reading the fine print, which I did in July, I said: hold on minute; what's this going to look like? When I told my neighbours that this morning, all of them were opposed to it. They say: either leave it like it is or go on standard time.

Mr. Coolahan: Actually, I do agree with you. I mean, I think, as we've said, this has elicited a lot of response because people are passionate, and I think a lot of people just necessarily think about "I don't like changing the clocks" or "I don't mind it." It's one way or another. But there are other considerations.

One thing I wanted to clarify, too, is that you were talking about the government pushing it in this direction. That's not the case. I just want to clarify again, as I did with an earlier presenter, that this is a private member's bill.

Mr. Martin: But does the government not have to approve of the bill for it to get legs under it?

Mr. Coolahan: It wouldn't be the government, no. It would likely go through your caucus to see if you could get support in there, but it would not go through the government. In the chair's opening remarks, as he said, during second reading in the Legislature it was unanimously voted on that it would come to committee. Then it was further unanimously voted on in an all-party committee that we would have a subcommittee to do these meetings and to find out more information. Any private member's bill, when you get that, you gauge your ideas. As I was saying earlier, too, your ideas often just come in your door – right? – for a private member's bill, and this was one that Mr. Dang thought was getting a lot of traction or at least he heard about a lot, so that's why he brought it forward. I just wanted to clarify that.

Two more quick things. Would you support status quo, then, keeping the time changing as we do now?

Mr. Martin: I think the issue is important enough that it should go to a referendum.

Mr. Coolahan: That was my second question.

Mr. Martin: If that's the way that we want to go, then it should go to a referendum.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay.

Mr. Martin: I think it's important enough. I think it's just as important as imposing a sales tax.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Do you not have concerns on a referendum, though, as you just said that you don't think people necessarily understand the issues? Does that concern you?

Mr. Martin: Well, I think it's your folks' job to make sure that that bill is getting articulated, and I don't think it has been well articulated now. Every headline you read – and I just read one today on my mobile app on Global coming down here – is that debate to end daylight saving time is happening today here. That's not what the debate is about. The debate is about keeping daylight saving time ad infinitum.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, with all due respect, that's actually the media. With all due respect, that is the media saying that.

Mr. Martin: But even when you look up on the website, you look up CBC's comments on it, well, they quote Member Dang, and he says how much support he gets. He's got 82 per cent of people that come into his office that want to end daylight saving time. Well, if 82 per cent want to end daylight saving time, why are you proposing to stay on it year-round?

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. The semantics of the wording, I agree, is a bit confusing. I agree.

Ms Fitzpatrick: May I say something?

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Go ahead.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken is actually up next.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Oh, sorry.

The Chair: Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Good. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Martin, for coming forward. You know, a lot of concern is brought forward with regard to changing of the clocks, and people get a little bit that they're not in favour of changing the clock twice a year, but I haven't heard it clearly from you if the status quo, the way we're doing the system right now, where we allow for an extra hour of daylight in the evening hours for summer but then turn our clocks back for winter, is preferable to you or where we no longer change the clocks, but then you would prefer Mountain Standard Time. Which is more preferable?

Mr. Martin: Preferably, to me, I like it light at 11 o'clock at night in July. I enjoy that hour. I know my mother came out from Ontario, and it just drove her nuts that it was 11 o'clock at night. She couldn't get used to it. I personally like that. But with that being said, we have an operation in central Saskatchewan, and just through moving through those meridians, when it's getting dark in Edmonton at 11, it's actually getting dark at 10 o'clock in Saskatchewan even though they haven't changed the clocks because they're on standard time, right? It doesn't bother me that much, but you do notice it.

Personally, in a referendum I would vote to go on daylight saving time and then revert back to standard time as we are.

Mr. Gottfried: My question is similar again: the status quo. Really, what we're voting on here is that we have a bill in front of us that says to move to this Alberta standard time, which is permanent daylight savings time, or not. The "or not" would then put us back to the status quo, which is that we have Mountain Standard Time during the winter months and move to daylight savings time. We've heard, you know, obviously, people's preferences from both sides. You've raised some great issues, I think, with respect to safety of the challenges of Bill 203 as it stands.

Again, we talked about earlier in our submissions that somebody could amend that to say that that's going to be Mountain Standard Time. That's one of the possibilities that could come from this or even a recommendation from this committee. Ultimately, it will be this committee making recommendations. You were asking about the process. Those recommendations will be taken to the Legislature, and the Legislature will then vote on this Bill 203 as it stands or as amended. Then we'll have our answer, I guess, for Albertans on which way this will go. Or if there's another method, we'll make that decision, which you've also referenced as well.

2:00

Mr. Martin: And will you folks have the authority or the input to recommend an amendment to it?

The Chair: Any of our findings and the feedback that we get from members we can bring forward. If we're hearing a consensus from individuals who are presenting to us to bring an amendment forward, we'll definitely outline that within the report.

Mr. Martin: Thank you.

The Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick, do you have one follow-up?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Oh, I just have one more comment. The actual Bill 203 is an act to repeal the daylight savings act – all right? – and then it proposes to go to Central Time. That part, the part about Central Time, is the part where we could do an amendment to go to mountain standard or leave it as it is, but the actual bill that was presented was to repeal the former daylight savings act. I just wanted to clarify that for you.

Mr. Martin: Well, my recommendation would be that that would be an amendment that should be entertained.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you.

Mr. Martin: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Ruby Kassian.

Ms Kassian: I'm usually brighter when the sun is shining.

I'm going to read mine if you don't mind. I have copies here. I don't know. We were asked to bring copies, right? Who gets them?

The Chair: If you would like to provide that for Mr. Roth, he'll come up here for you as well. Before you proceed, make sure you state your full name for the record. The other thing, too, is that everything you say is recorded by *Hansard*, so we'll still have full transcripts of everything that you present to us today.

Ruby Kassian

Ms Kassian: My name is Ruby Kassian from Vegreville, Alberta, and I feel that it is important that I inform the subcommittee of Bill 203 of my findings regarding the repeal of daylight saving time. In 2014 with team assistance in May, June, and July we obtained over 3,000 signatures. This petition was tabled in the Alberta Legislature in March of 2015. It all got started because of the way I felt when I changed my clocks in the springtime, with disruptive feelings of when to eat, when to sleep, and sluggish mornings until I adjusted. I verbally suggested that I should do a petition when a person I hold in high esteem said that she would be the first to sign. The process began, my way to assist those who needed their opinions heard.

There were persons mainly younger than I who stated they were not bothered by time change and opted from signing, and others didn't sign because they said that nobody would listen anyway. There were visitors from British Columbia at the time of petitioning who dearly wanted to participate, showing this does not only affect the province of Alberta. Mothers with school-aged children and seniors were the loudest cry for: just stop changing clocks.

I have been following letters to the editor and realize the dilemma for a consensus. I am hoping that WestJet and NHL hockey with big bucks don't wind up ruling the roost in this matter. They, too, must have riders and fans who are affected when changing clocks twice a year. I would think that such companies would welcome a regulated no time change for easier scheduling. "I am really glad we do daylight saving time," said no one ever.

In closing, I wish to thank you for letting me have my say.

The Chair: Thank you, Ms Kassian. This is really exciting because we do hear of a few petitions that do come forward to us. It's always nice to put some faces to those names. Just as a quick question: are you affiliated with any organization that presented this, or was this on your own merit?

Ms Kassian: This is me.

The Chair: Wow. Excellent.

Ms Kassian: I'm with the people that helped me with the petition in the first place.

The Chair: Okay. I know of some organizations, whether they're social clubs, that have petitioned before.

Ms Kassian: No.

The Chair: I'll open it up for questions. Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you so much for your passionate presentation. It was wonderful.

Ms Kassian: Well, if it can't be – I just was thinking. And I feel for other people that it's affecting their way of living, but it's affecting a lot of people the way I spoke of, their way of living. There's another way, just a half an hour, to please everybody.

Mr. Coolahan: I just have some questions for you. Your petition was read out in the Legislature in 2015?

Ms Kassian: Yes. It was tabled in March of 2015. It was a different government at that time. There was another petition presented later, but not by me.

Mr. Coolahan: When you were collecting these signatures, how was the topic presented?

Ms Kassian: It is on the back.

Mr. Coolahan: Oh, is it? Okay.

Ms Kassian: It's on the back. Have you got it?

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Okay. In repealing the Daylight Saving Time Act, which is exactly what's being proposed in this bill, did you have discussions around which way we would land, on central or mountain?

Ms Kassian: Not really. I was just taking people's feelings as to how they felt about it, not saying, "well, we're going to do this" or "we're going to do that" or whatever. We just wanted to do something about daylight saving so we could stop changing our clocks.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. It's the clock change and the . . .

Ms Kassian: How it affected people for doing that. I've heard it said today for medication reasons and for the dairy farmers, and I've heard all this, you know? But we do have another side that it affects people. The sun comes up and the sun goes down. Like MLA Fitzpatrick said, you get that many hours of sunlight no matter what happens during the day.

Mr. Coolahan: At this point, knowing what we've heard about the pros and cons of going either way and landing on mountain or Central Time, do you think a follow-up petition would be very helpful? I wonder how that would work out.

Ms Kassian: I think the people – or maybe they haven't all spoken, but they're quite sure of what they are saying now. I don't know if another petition is – I don't want to do it. I ate too many pancakes. I went to all the pancake breakfasts there were.

Mr. Coolahan: See, we've landed in a place now where I think many people agree with you that we don't like changing the clocks. What we can't decide on is which way to go.

Ms Kassian: I realize that. I heard somebody say – maybe it was you – about other regions, other areas: the United States, maybe even B.C., maybe even anywhere. I did hear a *Cross Country Checkup* one Sunday afternoon – I've forgotten the date. I'm sorry. I haven't got it here with me. It was right across Canada, and there were so many people that were against changing clocks.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. It's a very . . .

Ms Kassian: It's not just us in Edmonton.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Certainly not. Everyone has an opinion on it. I like changing the clocks. I like getting that extra hour of sleep in the fall, and I like being rewarded in the spring with more daylight. It's all personal opinion at this point.

Ms Kassian: Right. So it doesn't bother you, but it does bother a lot of people to change.

Mr. Coolahan: Certainly, we've heard that.

Ms Kassian: I've heard from the school bus drivers. I've heard from young mothers. I've heard from just a lot of people on doing this. We worked, really, quite hard when we were, you know, trying to get all these signatures.

Mr. Coolahan: Oh, I'm sure you did. Well, thank you so much for your presentation and the petition.

Ms Kassian: Okay.

Mr. van Dijken: Yes. Thank you. Just a little bit of clarification. Thank you, Ms Kassian, for the work you've done to do the petition. Early on in your presentation you talked about people from other provinces being interested in signing because it doesn't just affect the people in Alberta but the daylight saving time in other provinces. One concern that we've heard from many people is the concern of being out of sync, then, with other parts of the country if we move in this direction and other parts of the country do not move in this direction.

The people in the other provinces, I suspect, were hoping to sign the petition so that daylight saving time, the system where we change our clocks twice a year, would not occur in their province also, kind of thing. Do you have an opinion based on meeting all these people? Was there any discussion with regard to ending it just in Alberta if the rest of the country stays with changing their clocks? Was there any discussion made at that time?

2:10

Ms Kassian: No. Because it went to the province, I could only talk for Alberta, and they were just, you know, giving me their suggestions or their feelings. Yeah.

Could I just ask you a question now because I'm thinking that when I told you, I said: well, maybe we should just do a half an hour and make everybody happy. What do they do in Newfoundland where there's a half an hour difference? What happens there?

Ms Fitzpatrick: I can speak to that. I was born in Newfoundland. We're ahead of everybody else. I mean, if you think about it, everything that happens in Canada happens in Newfoundland first.

Mr. Coolahan: I've heard that other people propose that'll split the difference.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Ms Fitzpatrick: I just have a couple. Ms Kassian, thank you very much for your comments. As you were speaking, I thought I could close my eyes and I'd be in my own office listening to people as they come through the door because I've certainly heard lots of people come in and say the same thing. Certainly, this whole bill is about much deeper thinking than just not changing the clock. I appreciate greatly that so many people want to stop changing the clock, but we do have to make a recommendation as a committee,

and we certainly are taking everybody's comments to heart to make a very balanced recommendation when we make that. So thank you very much for your presentation.

The Chair: Thank you, Ms Kassian.

Mr. Roth: Mr. Chair, Verner Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Afternoon. I'd like to thank the subcommittee on Bill 203 for allowing me to address them regarding the issue of Alberta standard time.

The Chair: Excellent. Mr. Thompson, if you can speak your full name for the record, too, please.

Verner Thompson

Mr. Thompson: My name is Verner Thompson. I live in Mannville, Alberta. I was an elementary schoolteacher for 35 years, and it was during my time in school that I came to the conclusion that when I retire, one of the things I would attempt to do would be to try to do something about daylight savings time. To that end, I sent a letter to the editors of a number of newspapers, urging people to call or write their MLAs to let their feelings be known about the twice yearly disruption to their circadian rhythms.

Ms Kassian read my letter. She had tabled a petition, as she just told you, and she arranged for us to be interviewed on the Vegreville radio station. That led me to formulate the petition that I later presented to my MLA, Dr. Richard Starke. The petition was tabled in the Legislature at the end of the 2016 fall session. I also set up a group on Facebook titled Daylight Savings Time Alberta 2016.

Time is an arbitrary concept. I taught in the Arctic in Spence Bay, now known as Taloyoak, which is on about the same longitude as Churchill, Manitoba, and should have been on Central Time. But because all our commerce was via Edmonton-Cambridge Bay, we operated on mountain time. Clocks don't mean a lot when the sun is shining for 24 hours a day and it doesn't rise at all in the winter.

Some of the positive arguments for daylight saving time are: one more hour of sunlight at the end of the day, a minimal saving in energy costs, no disruption in time links with our largest trading partners to the south, sports enthusiasts have an extra hour to pursue their outdoor recreational activities.

The negative arguments have little to do with the fact of daylight saving time but with the change from standard to savings and back. Some would be disrupted circadian rhythms; more traffic accidents immediately following the change; irritability, drowsiness, and difficulty concentrating immediately following the change; an increase in the number of heart attacks and related ailments after the switch. Schoolchildren are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of losing an hour of sleep when the clock changes, and vice versa. Ask any teacher.

In 2017 we will be on Mountain Standard Time for 127 days and on Mountain Daylight Time for 238 days. Why do we bother to go through the effort, stress, and expense of changing the clocks for that limited length of time? Let's make Alberta great and adopt Bill 203, establishing Alberta standard time year-round.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you so much for your presentation, Mr. Thompson. Just at the end of your presentation you said: why do we go through the expense? What expense are you referring to?

Mr. Thompson: The fact that somebody has to change the clocks, that somebody has to change schedules. All the things that have to be changed when we change the clocks: it's got a cost. It doesn't happen just like that.

Mr. Coolahan: It does on my phone.

The Chair: Someone had to program that, though.

Mr. Coolahan: That's true. That's true.
Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you.

The Chair: All of our scheduled members have presented for this afternoon. Similar to this morning, because we do have some additional time left in our agenda, I'll allow for any other audience members who haven't registered and who wish to provide any feedback or comments to present as well if they should so choose.

Ilana Knisely

Ms Knisely: This is way more formal than I thought this would be. My name is Ilana Knisely. I live in Edmonton. I have a question, I guess, to the subcommittee. I've heard people say that it costs too much, that there are more accidents, that there are more illnesses, more heart attacks. I don't know if there are any more baby births during time change, but is there any evidence for all these things?

Mr. Coolahan: We were talking about empirical evidence this morning, and most of it is around what we're talking about. The heart attacks and more accidents seem to be the most concrete empirical evidence. The rest of it is anecdotal, really, about how people feel during the day, how kids feel, how they act during school, as Mr. Thompson said and as my wife attests to.

Ms Knisely: Is that empirical evidence significantly higher in terms of the population compared to other similar parts of the world?

Mr. Coolahan: I believe that everywhere that changes the clocks has very similar data.

Ms Knisely: So is it slightly higher or significantly higher?

Mr. Coolahan: I don't know off the top of my head. I'm sorry.

Ms Knisely: Is it kind of like driving without a seat belt? Higher?

Mr. Coolahan: Do we have some of that evidence on the website?

The Chair: Only what was presented to us through the committee process. I know – and this is from my own fact-findings – that typically some of this data is provided by third parties. I think some of the medical associations may have provided some data based on that. Some of it is, obviously, as the process begins, sort of verbatim conversations that we're having. This information is referenced and sometimes provided to us after the fact.

Ms Knisely: Maybe I'll google that.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much for joining us today. I think that if my recollection is correct, we have had some evidence brought forth to us, some anecdotal information

brought forward to us, but unless the other members of the subcommittee here correct me, I don't think that we've had what I would say is hard empirical evidence, where we've verified the veracity of that information brought forward. I think we all read information. There are posted studies from various organizations. Can we tell you that that information has not come from a biased source? No, I don't think we can.

Yes, I think we're all trying to seek more information – you can google it, but don't trust everything you read on Google – but other than having some presentations from some stakeholders, we have not reached out or verified in an Alberta context some of the assertions that have been made around the incidence of accidents. We've had some anecdotal information from the insurance industry not verified by police reports, et cetera. I think we hear variously about heart attacks and things like that.

2:20

But I would have to say, from my perspective here, that unless, again, somebody on the committee has further evidence, most of the information we've got has been really much more anecdotal or unverified in nature, so it would be very difficult for us to say to you: we have hard and fast evidence that we're going to share from this committee. Again, if we have that, I hope we will share it, but if we don't, I would hope that we would leave that somewhat as hearsay or anecdotal information.

Ms Knisely: Well, I think this issue is kind of bigger than – I'm not discarding the information that is presented and how people feel about the issue. I know that with anything that's personal, people have very strong feelings about it, and I respect them all, but I think that, from a legislative perspective, this is bigger than how people feel. I think that there are health considerations, safety considerations, economic considerations. We're not kind of a stand-alone island in Canada or in the world, and when you make your recommendation, I would suggest that it would be important to assess critically the impact on all of those aspects and see what's best for the people of Alberta.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you. I think that what you're saying is exactly the way we're feeling. Every Albertan may have an opinion on this, and every opinion is valid, but we also want ourselves to have some of the empirical evidence so that we can share that with Albertans as we're making our decisions and also share some of the implications – economically, strategically – with Albertans as they're forming their opinions. It may come to a point where every Albertan has their say in this. That could be one of the outcomes that comes out of this legislation, and if it gets to that, we want that to be a well-informed decision. All the evidence that we receive in this committee, I think, is of utmost importance and for us, then, to follow that up with empirical evidence that we can share with Albertans. If that gets to a point where we need to share that on a website so people can form their own opinions, I think we're all supportive of everyone, us as legislators and Albertans, if it gets to that point, making well-informed decisions.

Thank you for your time and for your comments.

Mr. Coolahan: Just briefly, there are several Canadian studies that do support the insurance company claims around more accidents as well as heart attacks. I don't know. It may have been tabled in the Legislature when this bill was introduced – I'm not entirely sure – but those studies are easy to find.

Ms Knisely: Okay. I'll look for them.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you very much.
Please go ahead.

Ann Campbell

Ms Campbell: My name is Ann Campbell. I'm not prepared to speak, but since given the opportunity, I guess I'll say a few words. I've not done any statistical looking up, et cetera, et cetera. The only thing I would like to see is what has made me wonder since the beginning. I know we have this act in Alberta. I guess that as a Canadian I'm wondering if this isn't somehow a federal matter – I don't know about all of the different legislation and, you know, what provinces do – so that we all get on the same page.

I worked in Alberta as a teleworker for five years after moving from my office of 11 years in Ottawa. Of course, we knew the difference. You know, Saskatchewan was on this time, and B.C. was on this time. I came to Alberta, and I was working with my colleagues in Ontario and New Brunswick. Yeah, it was difficult. All of a sudden we get so that we are going on Central Time. The U.S. below us, for example – and I think that was raised – isn't on that time and so on and so forth. As I say, my only point, and I'm going to stop here, is that I wish everybody was changing and doing something the same – I know Saskatchewan has already been different – rather than that we just go off and that we're going to do our own thing. That's all I want to say.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

All right. We'll utilize this opportunity – we have some presenters scheduled for 2:45 – and we'll take a brief 20-minute break. Then we'll reconvene at a quarter to 3.

[The subcommittee adjourned from 2:25 p.m. to 2:47 p.m.]

The Chair: All right. Good afternoon, everyone. We'll call the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future back to order, and I'll seek Mr. Roth to provide us with the first presenter.

Mr. Roth: Chair, Margaret Burdenie.

Mrs. Burdenie: Okay if I sit?

The Chair: Absolutely. Please do. If you can just state your name for the record as well.

Margaret Burdenie

Mrs. Burdenie: Yes. Hello. My name is Margaret Burdenie, and I live in Sherwood Park, Alberta. I came to speak against Mr. Dang's Bill 203, which would put Alberta on permanent Mountain Daylight Time. I believe that a good many Albertans are confused about what Bill 203 would do to Alberta's time, and I believe that a good many others are ignoring the issue altogether. Maybe I am confused. Please correct me if I'm wrong. Would permanent Mountain Daylight Time equal Central Standard Time? I have read Bill 203, and from my understanding Bill 203 states that Alberta should be on permanent Mountain Daylight Time, so Bill 203 would not reverse Alberta's daylight saving time referendum of 1971; instead, it would eliminate Alberta's Mountain Standard Time in winter. This is an entirely different issue.

I have not been able to find any state or province or even a country that stays on permanent daylight time. Mr. Dang has even coined a new term for permanent Mountain Daylight Time. I'm not sure that this is even legal. Can Alberta really go rogue with standard time?

Most Albertans have about seven and a half hours of daylight on the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, less in northern Alberta. In 2017 the winter solstice is on December 21. On that day Edmonton will have sunrise at 8:48 a.m. Mountain Standard Time, and dawn will be at 8:05 a.m. Mountain Standard Time. Edmonton will have sunset at 4:16 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Dusk will be at 4:59 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.

In more detail I have sunrise and sunset times for Calgary and Edmonton as well as Provost, Alberta, in the east and Grande Prairie, Alberta, in the west. I won't read out all the times, but from Provost to Grande Prairie there is enough daylight to allow children to walk to and from school safely on those darkest winter days. In eastern Alberta, Provost will have dawn at 7:47 a.m. Mountain Standard Time and dusk at 4:51 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. In western Alberta, Grande Prairie will have dawn at 8:34 a.m. Mountain Standard Time and dusk at 5:13 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.

If Mr. Dang's Bill 203 is passed, then on the shortest day, the winter solstice, next year Edmonton will have dawn at 9:05 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time and dusk at 5:59 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time. And, of course, the rest of Alberta will experience the dark mornings, too.

My main point that I came to speak to is that it would be unsafe for children walking to school in the dark. The elementary school behind our house begins at 8:30 a.m., and our grandchildren, who attend school in Sherwood Park, all begin their school day at around 8:30 a.m., so they head out the door for school just after 8 a.m. I believe that this is the norm for many of Alberta's schools. Would people in Grande Prairie, Alberta, feel safe with their children walking to school on a morning when dawn doesn't come until 9:34 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time? Will children have to carry flashlights to school? Will traffic safety become more of an issue with children going to school in the dark?

I have asked numerous friends what they think of Bill 203. Some aren't sure at first what I'm talking about. Then they will say things like: "Oh. Is that that bill about getting rid of daylight saving time?" When I ask them to explain what they think it says, many are really not sure. I think there is a lot of confusion about the meaning of Bill 203.

Letters to the editor in the *Journal* show that many people are confused about it. I have cut out numerous examples, which I will submit to you. Those who write about the online survey point out that it was a flawed survey. Many think that Bill 203 will eliminate Alberta's long summer evenings. I certainly agree with Dan Petryk of Calgary, the person who wrote the letter to the editor entitled *Daylight Time Survey Was Flawed*. Like Mr. Petryk, I tried to complete that online survey, too. I agree with him that the survey was so simplistic that I, too, refused to finish it.

Articles like Emma Grancy's article in the *Edmonton Journal* entitled *Survey Shows Albertans Want Daylight Time Dead* completely confused the issue in my mind since Mr. Dang's Bill 203 is meant to do the opposite, keep Mountain Daylight Time in place all year-round.

In summary, I love Alberta's long summer evenings, so I like Mountain Daylight Time. I also want Alberta to continue to switch back to Mountain Standard Time in winter simply because it keeps children safer walking to school on those darkest days of the year. It keeps Alberta in sync with most other provinces for the timing of sporting events, airline flights, et cetera. To me, standard time is the only sensible choice during the darkest month. If I was back in my elementary school classroom, I would use a map and a flashlight or laser pointer to demonstrate how the sun moves from east to west across Canada, and by doing this, I would show why standard time zones are used throughout the world.

2:55

Someone invented daylight saving time, and I am thankful because I have always loved it, but it simply makes no sense to me to use permanent daylight saving time during those darkest days of winter. We have never had any difficulty changing our clocks twice a year. It takes about five minutes. That little five-minute job is a very small price to pay in order to keep our children safely walking to school in the mornings in daylight. I am a retired teacher. If I was still teaching, I would have been very concerned about my students walking to school on those darkest days with permanent Mountain Daylight Time. When I was a mother with young children, I would have been very concerned about my children walking to school on those darkest days with permanent Mountain Daylight Time. Now I am a grandma, and I am very concerned about my grandchildren walking to school on those darkest days with permanent Mountain Daylight Time.

Dawn will come to Yorkton in eastern Saskatchewan at 8:12 a.m. Central Standard Time on December 21, 2018. That is normal with standard time. But dawn coming to Grande Prairie in western Alberta at 9:34 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time that day makes no sense at all. Alberta is one time zone west of Saskatchewan, and therefore Grande Prairie should have dawn at 8:34 a.m. Mountain Standard Time on the darkest day of winter. I believe in the importance of standard time zones in winter, just like every other province and state and country.

So I vote no to Bill 203.

The Chair: Great. Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you so much for your presentation, Mrs. Burdenie. Just from hearing you, I think you have a very good grasp of the bill, actually.

Mrs. Burdenie: Well, it took me some time. At first I thought it meant to do away with the long hours in the summer, you know, the daylight. But once I read the act, I realized I, too, had it backwards. Yeah. I have got all these different editorials that I've marked up because some people have it right one way but backwards the other way. So I will submit this to Mr. – I'm sorry. I've forgotten your name. You can hopefully have a copy or have a look at it, but I've put my comments on it.

Mr. Coolahan: Excellent.

One thing I wanted to ask you. We've heard a lot from parents and educators, and a lot of what they say supports the idea of not keeping the status quo in terms of changing the clock as a result of how it impacts children. You didn't have that experience as an educator?

Mrs. Burdenie: About changing our clocks in spring and fall?

Mr. Coolahan: How it had an impact on the students, how they were groggy for a week or disruptive for a week.

Mrs. Burdenie: Well, I can remember being a child in B.C. with daylight time, spring and fall, and it never bothered me. I was a kid in school at that time, and I've always loved summertime, you know, the daylight saving time. Yeah. So, no, I can't. I don't think it's an issue.

Mr. Coolahan: I'm also curious. You were talking about other countries and other jurisdictions. We've noted in our sort of research that some countries have actually moved away from at least changing the clock. But you're right. I'm not sure which way they went. Australia is an example, China as well.

Mrs. Burdenie: I didn't look into Australia and China. I know that Arizona stays on standard time all year. Yeah. But I'm sorry. I didn't get as far as . . .

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. So they stayed on standard. I actually should look into that because I'm not sure which way they went.

Mrs. Burdenie: Actually, I have a map of the U.S. zones in here that I've included in my little report to hand in. Yeah. I didn't get as far as China. I know that Germany does and all those European countries. I know how Greenwich Mean Time goes through London, but I didn't know, you know, every zone. You'd have to ask somebody more expert than me on that. I'm sorry.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you so much for your presentation. I appreciate it.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Great. Thank you, Mrs. Burdenie, for your time today. It seems like you've been extremely thorough in your review of this, and we really . . .

Mrs. Burdenie: I felt like I've written a term paper.

Mr. Gotfried: Yeah. Your schoolteacher days are coming up. Just remain here at the table for a few minutes. I have a couple of questions or comments.

You said that typically your clock changing takes you about five minutes in the spring and fall. Is that sort of normal?

Mrs. Burdenie: Yes.

Mr. Gotfried: So it doesn't seem like a lot of time.

Mrs. Burdenie: Not if it saves one child's life in the dark on the roads.

Mr. Gotfried: Yes.

Mrs. Burdenie: In fact, two letters to the editor today were about issues with child safety. One was about putting speed bumps in front of schools, and one was about the crosswalks in front of the schools. How are those parents going to react if their kids are walking in the dark?

Mr. Gotfried: Now, I've got a question for you. As a parent myself and yourself, I guess the solution I would have – I don't know if it necessarily addresses the issue of circadian rhythms. I think most parents probably in the time change, when there might be a potential for an hour less sleep, might consider putting their children to bed an hour earlier. I don't know if that's a very innovative sort of thought. I wonder what you think about that as a parent yourself.

Mrs. Burdenie: Well, I know that it's gradual. You know, it's not immediate. But we've all experienced the same thing going to B.C. on holidays or further afield. My gosh, we lived for a year in the Philippines. We had to take our two-year-old child over the International Date Line and adjust him to quite a different time frame, and that took a while. But, yeah, I think we can adjust very easily.

Mr. Gotfried: Just one other. I spent 20 years flying to Hong Kong about eight times a year, a 14-hour time change, so I know what jet lag is. You mentioned also about Grande Prairie, about the time of the sun. You mentioned dawn. I had done some research. The sunrise, if we were to go to this permanent daylight saving time, Alberta standard time, would actually be at 10:20 in the morning,

the sunrise time. You mentioned dawn. So you're just saying that where there's a first appearance of light . . .

Mrs. Burdenie: Yeah. I mean, I've got times for – I might even have that in here. I didn't read it out. I didn't want to bore you. Let me just see what I've got here. Grande Prairie. Yeah. I mean, I've got sunrise at 9:20, so it would flip to 10:20. Is that what you said?

Mr. Gotfried: Yes, that's correct.

Mrs. Burdenie: So those times are here. I just didn't read them all out.

Mr. Gotfried: Great. You've done some incredible research, and we thank you for that, and I hope we have access to that.

Mrs. Burdenie: Yeah. I will pass it in.

The Chair: Excellent.

Mrs. Burdenie: Any other questions?

The Chair: I think you were pretty thorough. Thank you for all the work you've put into this as well. It's probably one of the most thorough we've seen.

Mrs. Burdenie: Well, like I say, I had it backwards at first. I had to really dig to get it the right way around.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Certainly. Well, you did a good job.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much, Mrs. Burdenie.

Mrs. Burdenie: You're welcome.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Lucy Nay.

Mrs. Nay: Hello.

The Chair: Good afternoon.

Lucy Nay

Mrs. Nay: I'm Lucy Nay. I live in Leduc, Alberta. I work in a school. I've worked in a school for over 20 years. Prior to that I've worked in a variety of capacities with children and families. Like our previous speaker, I do agree that there is a lot of confusion about the bill, what it really means.

3:05

I also happen to think the survey is flawed. I was taught in my university days that good social research would include things like unbiased questions, random sampling, so on and so forth, so it probably is not a valid survey. However, we can leave that aside.

I wanted to just go back and emphasize something we all know. Daylight saving time has been a great boon for children, youth, and families. I walk along the pathways in Leduc on a daily basis, usually in the early evening, sometimes late in the evening, and I regularly see lots of people of all ages – just this Sunday around 8, 8:15 there were toddlers, young people, families, grandparents, everybody – out enjoying themselves. I've often wondered why this has to change. Why can't we just continue on and do what we've been doing?

I happen to believe that Alberta standard time would offer increased activities for families and children to continue to be active into the evening. Certainly, in our school – like many other schools

we have an after school care program – it would allow, especially in those darker months, our kids to be able to continue to go outside and play in the playground, get that outdoor activity. There is certainly a growing body of research that is coming out shedding light on the importance of activity outdoors for children. So I'm really pleased that the government is considering this. I believe that Alberta standard time would help increase opportunities for children to access outdoor activity.

Now, as far as walking to school safely, certainly in our community – I can't speak for people throughout Alberta – very few children actually walk to school. Most parents drive their children, take the bus, or they get there by some other means. There are daycare buses, all sorts of things. Perhaps another survey, a well-done survey, would need to be done to address that issue of safety. In our community I don't know how much of an issue that would be.

I would like to address the question of time change itself. We do see children struggle with that, yes, for about a week. I happen to work in a reading remediation program, so I need focus and concentration with my children. I often lose many of them. These are kids for whom every learning opportunity is very, very important, and to be able to have them stay focused and not lose them those times of the year would be something that I would value and I think something that would benefit children.

That's, I guess, all I'm here to speak about.

The Chair: Excellent. I'll open it up for questions.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Lucy, for your presentation. As I said earlier today, I did teach in school for a few years, and I noticed the same kinds of things in terms of the focus for about a week after the change, whether it was spring or fall. Can you give us any other examples of how – like you said, in the remediation program they needed focus. Were there other things around school that you noticed with the kids not being focused?

Mrs. Nay: It has been a few years. I was in a regular classroom. I was teaching a junior kindergarten, pre-K program. With those children I can't say that I really noticed anything at that age, so I can't really address the classroom experience. I can't because I'm working one on one with children. Certainly, I would say that if I'm seeing a loss of focus one on one – it's actually easier to get a child's attention when you are working one on one than it is in a classroom full of lots of distractions. It's something that I haven't asked the other teachers, but it wouldn't surprise me if they would notice the same kind of thing.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. The reason I asked is because one of the things that I had noticed was that in the whole classroom it was much harder to get the whole group back together. Normally when they'd come back after recess, it took a minute or two to settle down. It took way longer than that to get them settled and back into things again. Again, it was about a week.

Mrs. Nay: That's a loss of valuable time.

Ms Fitzpatrick: That's right. Yeah.

Okay. Again, thank you for your presentation.

Mrs. Nay: You're welcome.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Keith Thomson.

Mr. Thomson: Hi there. Keith Thomson from Edmonton.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you. Good afternoon.

Keith Thomson

Mr. Thomson: I'm going to speak against this bill. I'm terrified that the decision has already been made and this is just to prove people's buy-in, but I'll give you the benefit of the doubt.

First, I do have an issue with the deceptive terminology being used. There is no such thing as full-year Mountain Daylight Time. All-year observance, by definition, is standard time. What Bill 203 actually proposes is changing time zones one zone toward geographical east and observing Central Standard Time as observed in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Trying to call it Alberta standard time is just giving spin and creating a new name, not a new time zone.

The idea of eliminating daylight saving is exciting. No one likes changing clocks twice a year. Eliminating the hazards and distractions of this biannual time change is understandably enticing. But you must be aware of and beware of the consequences of adopting Central Standard Time. The excitement of no more time changes will pass, but the consequences of switching time zones will remain. We must not lose sight of the fact that there is no hour to gain. The extra evening daylight comes at the high cost of morning daylight.

It has been proposed that this bill is good for families, but that could not be further from the truth. This bill will rob our children of an hour of daylight needed for natural alertness and safe travel. It has been argued that increased evening daylight may increase health via increased evening activity. There has been a startling lack of examination of the health costs of increased morning darkness. Bill 203 will put children in harm's way and compromise education. Longer darkness on winter mornings than we currently experience would become a reality.

This means riskier interaction between children and traffic. Children will be making their way to school in the dark for an even greater window of the year. Visibility will be an issue. Collisions and, consequently, fatalities resulting from vehicle-pedestrian collisions will occur. This will be further exacerbated by lower alertness. Drivers and children alike will lack the sun's natural cues for wakefulness. Less-alert and less-visible children crossing roads driven by less-alert drivers with less visibility is significantly less safe.

And what about education? The effect of rising and starting the day in darkness is trying enough on our adult brains. How much more so for children, especially teen children who need more sleep already? Once our children have navigated their way to school, we will expect them to focus on their lessons, despite no natural light well into their scheduled school day. This is not a fair expectation, nor is it a realistic one. Not only will we deny them waking cues in the winter; we will continue to deny them sleeping cues by keeping our extended evening in the warmer months. Their bodies will be fighting against natural cues for most of the year.

There are serious consequences to choosing Central Standard Time as Bill 203 proposes. If adopting daylight saving time in the first place was a mistake, then attempting to make it permanent is a total mistake. If ending the biannual time change is still desired – and it is desirable – it could still be pursued in the future with a new bill that would allow us to remain in Alberta's time zone and observe Mountain Standard Time.

I could say that I would prefer if the sun set earlier in the summer, providing some relief from the heat, making it easier to sleep. Someone may prefer it to get dark one hour earlier because they enjoy fireworks so much and will be able to stay up to see them. Conversely, maybe you prefer late summer evenings for socializing

or fitting in one more round of golf. I know that, myself, I would prefer more morning light for walking our dog before work. But, as I expressed, there is significantly more at stake than what people prefer. If the interest in what benefits families is sincere, then I urge you to abandon this bill and come back with one that takes into account the needs of children and what would benefit them the most. This is a decision that must be met with responsibility. Preferences are not substantial enough to weigh into that decision.

3:15

The Chair: Thank you very much, Mr. Thomson.

I'll open it up for questions from the subcommittee.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Thomson, for your time and your presentation today. I think it's something we've been struggling with, your comments about preferences and inconvenience and things like that. Again, everybody's opinion is equally valid on this issue, but we, again, have had the opportunity through our presenters today and some of our other stakeholders that have presented to learn more about the implications of any such decision. I think that as legislators or even as Albertans it's very appropriate that we make well-informed decisions.

I thank you for your presentation and your comments as well and some of the implications that we need to take into account other than preferences and inconvenience, which are, again, valid but need to be balanced with some of the implications economically, safetywise, and other things.

Thank you for your time today.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Thomson. We've heard many times about the different aspects of staying on daylight saving time and about the concerns with safety for children. You've highlighted it to the point where you've mentioned to think of the children first. I take that very seriously, and the very fact that we move a time zone, which will present difficulties in the summer, as we see right now with getting children to sleep, will also present safety issues in the winter. I think you've very eloquently stated your position and highlighted very much so that we have to have the children as a priority in this decision-making.

Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Thomson, for your presentation. I really appreciate it. I'm curious about something you said about the cost of morning darkness. Can you elaborate on that a bit?

Mr. Thomson: Well, just exactly as expressed before. While we get it further in the evening, much with current daylight, you get less light in the morning, so it's the 10:20 a.m. sunrise, that was talked about before.

Mr. Coolahan: So are you talking about a monetary cost, or are you talking about potential danger?

Mr. Thomson: The loss of life, injuries, that cost.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. You said that you were opposed to the bill as it stands. Would you be opposed to a recommendation coming if we went to Mountain Time all year long?

Mr. Thomson: That would make significantly more sense. That would eliminate the problems with time changes that have been expressed by Maria Fitzpatrick regarding the confusion in the week following in the classrooms. That would be resolved, and a lot of other discomforts would certainly be eliminated if you went to

Mountain Standard Time, and it wouldn't have that same cost to children in the winter.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Yeah. I think a lot of the catalyst for this bill coming forward was dealing with children's reaction to changing the time. So you're saying yes as long as we change the time and keep the daylight in the winter?

Mr. Thomson: Yeah, without sacrificing their well-being.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I got you. Okay. Thank you so much.

The Chair: Thank you very much.
Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jim Lovatt.

Jim Lovatt

Mr. Lovatt: My name is Jim Lovatt. I've lived in Edmonton all my 67 years. I remember 1972, when we changed to daylight saving and enjoyed it a lot. I'm here to speak against Bill 203 as it stands. My wife and I both live in Edmonton. When I say "we," I'm talking about my wife and my two children. We live through dark winter, and the opportunity to have an extra hour of daylight in the summer greatly improves our mental well-being and quality of life.

Our focus is on the 238 extra hours of evening daylight – that's almost 10 days – we receive rather than on the two days at the beginning and the end. It's kind of immaterial when you look at the whole picture. We use the extra hour to enjoy healthy outdoor activities like golf, soccer, biking, walking the dog. No artificial lights: we don't need extra lighting for the soccer field, baseball diamonds, or the driving range.

Why would we want to align ourselves with Saskatchewan? Why wouldn't we align ourselves with North American and world markets?

We have been changing our clocks for 45 years. I have it down pat. Every spring-ahead we change our batteries in our two smoke alarms and our CO₂ detector, so we have a way of monitoring those things.

The summertime is holiday time, more time for families. We spend more time on the road. We need the extra hour of daylight. My aging eyes and my trouble with night vision will only get worse. The extra hour of daylight gives me the flexibility, the opportunity to move around that I probably won't have later. We will all suffer from night-vision problems – nobody is immune – and it becomes more and more critical with our greying population.

I thank you.

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

Mr. van Dijken: Just for some clarity, you're against Bill 203 as it's proposed?

Mr. Lovatt: Correct.

Mr. van Dijken: Would you prefer to continue the status quo, where we change the clocks twice a year?

Mr. Lovatt: Yes, like the rest of our world.

Mr. van Dijken: Okay. So stay in sync?

Mr. Lovatt: I think we need to stay in sync with British Columbia and Ontario and the rest of the world that changes their clocks at the same time we change ours. We synced ours with the United States 10 years ago, when we expanded our daylight saving, if you

recall, in order to take into effect energy savings, and we did it willingly. Now we're in sync with the rest of North America. Changing it just puts us or puts our economy one step further back in terms of the kinds of complications that we have to deal with in dealing with anybody outside our own borders.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Lovatt, for your presentation. To be fair, why would we do this? I think the catalyst, too, for the bill being proposed – and, personally, I don't mind changing the clocks. I have no issue with it, but many, many people do. I don't know if you heard earlier, but there was a petition that was tabled in I think it was March 2015, 3,000 signatures, to stop changing the clock. Whether the ramifications were really thought through on that or not is a whole different ball game, but, you know, people really don't like doing it.

Mr. Lovatt: But you say that you don't.

Mr. Coolahan: I don't, but as I've probably said ad nauseam at this point, I can't get consensus in my own house. My wife hates it . . .

Mr. Lovatt: So you and I agree.

Mr. Coolahan: . . . but I don't mind it.

Mr. Lovatt: At least we agree.

Mr. Coolahan: But there's just such a huge faction out there that really does not like it.

Mr. Lovatt: Well, define huge, now. Come on.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, who we've heard from . . .

Mr. Lovatt: Well, you and I agree.

Do you agree? And do you agree? Okay. Now you're talking about huge numbers. We have three out of five so far, and I've only polled three.

Mr. Coolahan: Let me give you some numbers, then.

Mr. Gotfried: You've polled 60 per cent now.

Mr. Coolahan: No. We have to be fair. I'm trying to explain why this bill is on the table and why we're here discussing it.

Mr. Lovatt: Well, I understand why it's on the table.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay.

Mr. Lovatt: I think it's very divisive, by the way . . .

Mr. Coolahan: It can be.

Mr. Lovatt: . . . and because I want to keep the status quo, that makes me anti-agriculture.

3:25

Mr. Coolahan: I don't think so.

Mr. Lovatt: Well, okay. Then why are we changing?

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. So here we go. As I said earlier as well, when a private member puts forth a bill, a lot of times those ideas walk into your office. Many people came into Mr. Dang's office and said: I don't like changing my clock.

Mr. Lovatt: Okay.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Ms Fitzpatrick said the same thing. She had a lot at her office.

So he presented this private member's bill. You know, what ended up happening, of course, was that in the Legislature during second reading it was unanimously voted on to bring it to committee. I think it's too much and it's disruptive and maybe not understood to just have made a decision in the Legislature, right? It's such a personal issue for so many people, and as we're finding out, it's potentially a big business impact as well. Then there was a further vote during the Economic Future Committee to send it to a subcommittee to reach out to Albertans to hear what they want to say.

I'm trying to get to your question of why we are even discussing this, I guess, right? That's why. That's why I'm trying to explain that. People are interested in it. A private member's bill was brought forward, so we have to do our due diligence.

You were status quo, though, right? You would just like to keep changing the clocks?

Mr. Lovatt: Yeah. I think the advantages in the wintertime, as Mr. Thomson pointed out, are ones we should keep, the earlier morning daylight hours. I think that advantage we should keep as well as our alignment with North American markets and not the potential for misunderstandings that time changes can cause.

Mr. Coolahan: I agree.

Mr. Lovatt: Air traffic, you know, railway traffic: things like that require timely execution.

Mr. Coolahan: What I was getting at, too: how much is how much? I think somebody had said that the nearly 14,000 submissions we had on this, which is significant, only represent a very small percentage of the population – that's very true – .3 per cent of the population, somebody said, but, I mean, it's still significant, and of that, it was nearly 75 per cent that said: stop changing the clocks.

Mr. Lovatt: No, no. Seventy-five per cent said that they don't like to change the clock. I read the survey.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. That's what I said.

Mr. Lovatt: No. You said that 75 per cent don't want to change the clocks. They said that they don't like to change the clocks. That doesn't mean that they won't. They don't like to.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. All right.

Mr. Lovatt: I think there's a big difference, okay? That's the spin Mr. Thomson talked about.

Mr. Coolahan: I don't really think so. I think we're talking about the same thing, actually.

Anyway, it's significant enough that, you know, that's why we're here, right? We're researching it, we're hearing from Albertans, and we're hearing things, I think, that didn't come out during second reading of the bill either. Yeah, it's been very helpful.

Mr. Lovatt: That's why I'm here.

Mr. Coolahan: That's why you're here. That's precisely it.

The job has not been made any easier by any presentation, because they're all very valid arguments. We have to come up with a recommendation as a subcommittee to make sure that it's done correctly.

Just quickly, there are jurisdictions that don't change their clocks, several, actually, around the world.

Mr. Lovatt: Yes. I know. I have a map, actually. They're Russia, Saudi Arabia . . .

Mr. Coolahan: China.

Mr. Lovatt: Yeah, and North Africa.

Mr. Coolahan: Australia.

Mr. Lovatt: Yeah.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Lovatt: Thank you. I don't envy your task, by the way. It's a bit like a city council debating a cat bylaw. You know, like, everybody has got very, very vociferous opinions.

Mr. Coolahan: That's true.

The Chair: Yeah. I'm hopeful that backyard chickens don't make it to this committee either.

Excellent. We are through with the scheduled presenters. I wasn't sure if there was anyone in the audience who had a desire to present who hasn't presented already. It looks like everyone has.

Oh, for sure. Please join us.

Bill Burdenie

Mr. Burdenie: Hello. I'm Bill Burdenie. I'm the driver for the presenter. I promised myself I was just going to listen. Three thousand out of 4 million is a significant number? I'm sorry. The survey that was done that came out with a number that was less than 1 per cent is a significant number? Unfortunately, I went through school in engineering, and I did take some statistics. I think the subcommittee should maybe have a bit of an education in statistics. As an engineer I do the numbers, so those are the two numbers that really stuck out for me. In Margaret's presentation that she gave you folks, you'll see some of the letters to the editor that don't really understand numbers.

That's really all I have to say, but I could try to answer questions.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Burdenie. I understand, and I was talking about that earlier. The 3,000 number – I think you're mixing this up a bit – was for the petition that was tabled in March 2015.

Mr. Burdenie: No, I understand that. It's still 3,000.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. The more important number is the 14,000 people that submitted on this bill.

Mr. Burdenie: That's still less than 1 per cent.

Mr. Coolahan: It's still a record. It's a record submission. Now, I don't think it's enough to dismiss. That's why we're here. We're here to talk about it, Mr. Burdenie. We're not saying that it's a done deal. That's why we're talking about it. It's very significant. If 14,000 people take the time to write in on that, don't you think we should investigate it? I think so.

Mr. Burdenie: Well, you can investigate it. I think you should learn statistics as well, though.

Mr. Coolahan: Are you saying that because it's a very small portion, .3, we should ignore it? I don't think that's fair.

Mr. Burdenie: I don't think you should ignore it. I think you should put it in the proper perspective.

Mr. Coolahan: And I have with the percentage. I think it's significant enough. Again, I will say that it has elicited more response than anything else, so I think it's significant that we should be here talking about it, which is what we're doing.

Mr. Burdenie: Is there any consideration for a referendum?

Mr. Coolahan: There is. Absolutely. It has come up. I mean, in my personal opinion, I don't think it's a good idea. It could be done. It's rather costly. We landed on a number of \$22 million for a referendum.

Mr. Burdenie: Well, personally, through discussing this whole issue with a bunch of my friends, I've put up with quite a few rants. They're probably redneck Albertans. However, through that, my conclusion was that this whole issue is rather silly. You talk about \$22 million for a referendum. I'm not sure how much this sub-committee will spend.

Mr. Coolahan: Significantly less.

Mr. Burdenie: I know that it'll be less than \$22 million. It's still money that I'm paying out. I sort of wonder whether or not private members' bills couldn't be focused on more important things. Now, there are a lot of homeless people in Alberta. I'm embarrassed by the number of homeless people in Alberta. So when this issue came up and Mr. Dang's private member's bill came up, personally I thought that maybe this is a junior high project.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, that's not fair. I explained to you how private members' bills are developed. I mean, all right. That's enough.

3:35

The Chair: As clarity as well to just the private members' bills there are a lot of limitations in relation to what private members' bills can have. Specifically, they cannot cost money or deal with anything involving revenue. That's basically one of the biggest catalysts, so it does put some limitation to what you can bring forward as a private member's bill as well.

Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Burdenie, for joining us today. Your comments are well taken, I think, particularly in the context of the name of our committee, which is Alberta's Economic Future, so your ranking of the hierarchy of this issue is not lost on some of us. I can certainly say that.

The number we were dealing with earlier was 13,562 respondents, which is .3 per cent, as you pointed out, so although this is an unprecedented, you know, outpouring of responses, I think .3 per cent we would recognize as just representative of those that showed some interest on this topic for that limited period of time, and it was a bit of a pull and a push, maybe, that the respondents were interested at that time. I think more Albertans probably are hearing about it because of our process here.

One of my colleagues also mentioned that they'd had a couple of hundred people come into their office, and I can tell you that if I had a couple of hundred people come into my office on a particular issue, I would stand up and take notice as well. But I looked at the numbers of my constituency, which is roughly about 45,000 people, and that would be .4 per cent of that, to your point on statistics. It's

an indication that there's interest amongst the population on an issue, but by no means can we draw any conclusions from such small numbers in terms of the representation of the will of the population.

I'm hopeful that through presentations and holding us to account from individuals such as yourself, through the information we get from businesses such as WestJet and the airports and sports teams and some of the input we get from individuals to look at these things from different perspectives brings this into perspective for us as a committee, for the Legislature as a group of people who are accountable to Albertans. If ultimately it goes to a point where we have to go back to Albertans, if that is the decision or recommendation of the committee or the Legislature, then we have to face that.

I think that the numbers we've heard – I'm not sure. I thought that the stand-alone referendum was going to cost us about \$6 million, and a referendum attached to a general election would be about \$2 million. I might be slightly incorrect on that. But if the economic impact is \$10 million a year and we decide that we want to give Albertans the voice and everybody's opinion counts, whether they're well informed or not, I guess the job is up to us and stakeholders to well inform.

I'd like your opinion. Obviously, you are not interested in us moving forward with this Bill 203, but I'd like to get your perspective on let's just say, for sake of argument, that it was a \$2 million cost for us to take this to referendum versus potential economic impact. Do you think that that's responsible in its own right to do something like that and to give Albertans that voice? Then the decision is made democratically, not always well informed but democratically.

Mr. Burdenie: Yes. I think that going to a referendum would be a more democratic way of doing it. Mr. Thomson's worry and concern stirred me up a little bit when he indicated that possibly the decision has already been made. I don't think that's the case. However, I'd rather spend \$2 million on a democratic process than on what I'm seeing so far.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you. I really appreciate your time coming out. Again, every Albertan's voice and opinion is valid here. Some are going to be more outspoken than others, and we really appreciate you taking the time to do so. You came as the driver; you've now come as an outspoken Albertan, and we always appreciate that.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Mr. Burdenie, I'm not sure what you're saying. I don't want to argue with you. I mean, all you've seen so far is Albertans telling us how they feel. Is that not an appropriate forum? Like, we may get to a point where the recommendation is that we should have a referendum, right?

Mr. Burdenie: What will be the criteria for you making that decision?

Mr. Coolahan: Well, we have to figure that out. I mean, we have two more public hearings to do, and we will sit down as a subcommittee and then make a recommendation to the entire committee.

Mr. Burdenie: See, my concern around the low percentages that we talked about, or I talked about, and the full room here today: you're getting a little more input, but I would suggest it's very, very little input. You're going to go away and you're going to have to come up with a recommendation. I don't see your recommendation being based on a significant sample size.

Mr. Coolahan: I think I got lost here. Where do you stand on this? Are you opposed to the bill?

Mr. Burdenie: Oh, I'm opposed to the bill.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Are you opposed because it's going to Central Time or you'd like to see it go the other way or do you just want to keep it status quo?

Mr. Burdenie: Status quo is fine with me.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Now, statistically, if you had 75 per cent of people – you sound like a stats man. If you did that, if you had a bigger survey, what type of survey would you – like, I'm familiar with surveys. When we gauge polls and elections and things like that, we use a much smaller sample size. So 14,000: if you were to use that in a polling survey, that's a big number. You usually land up in a plus/minus 4 per cent or so.

Mr. Burdenie: Mr. Coolahan, how did the polls do on the Brexit? How did the polls do on the U.S. election? Yes. That's where polls frustrate me.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah.

Mr. Burdenie: I'd have to live with a referendum.

Mr. Coolahan: So did Brexit.

Mr. Burdenie: Fair enough. My goodness. That's a good point.

Further to that, the referendum may not go the way I would like it to go. I understand that. However, I feel that that would be a more legitimate democratic process.

Mr. Coolahan: Good. Thanks for your time today.

Mr. Burdenie: Okay.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you again, Mr. Chair. I'm going to give you some interesting statistics because you said you're a statistics guy. We've heard today that we started out with a survey that was at 82 per cent in favour. Then we went to further results through our consultation, which was 75 per cent in favour. Then we heard from Global TV that they're at 50 per cent in favour. Then you polled the committee and we ended up at 40 per cent in favour. I've just done the numbers on the presenters today. We've had 12 of 18 not in favour. We're now down to 33 and a third per cent in favour.

You know, you're having a lot of influence on us here today in the statistics. You're a statistics kind of guy, so I'm just going to tell you that there is movement here. These are no longer, to your point, indicative of the will of Albertans, but they are statistics that we are having a look at and we're taking into account as we're moving forward.

Thank you.

Mr. Burdenie: Thank you for sharing that.

Mr. Gotfried: Bit of a numbers guy, too.

Mr. Burdenie: Is that it?

The Chair: Yeah. Thank you so much.

All right. Well, I want to thank everyone who has joined us here this afternoon. We will take a recess until 6 p.m., when we have our evening session as well.

Mr. Martin: I have one question.

The Chair: Yeah.

Mr. Martin: I'm not familiar with how the process works, but I noticed . . .

Ms Fitzpatrick: You need to come to the mike.

Mr. Martin: David Martin from Vegreville. I presented earlier and have just been sitting in.

I noticed that the opposition has been strangely silent on this whole matter. I know in federal politics, when things go to committee and subcommittee, members of the opposition are included in the panel, in the committee. I don't see anybody – oh, you are. You are.

3:45

The Chair: I'll give some clarification on the makeup of the subcommittee. Mr. Gotfried and Mr. van Dijken are part of the United Conservative Party. Ms Fitzpatrick and Mr. Coolahan are part of the New Democrat caucus. I sit in the Legislative Assembly as a member of the New Democratic caucus; however, because I am the chair of the committee, I have to act as a neutral voice, in essence the extension of the Speaker during committee obligations.

Mr. Coolahan: If I may, too, I see this panel as completely nonpartisan. This is about the bill.

Mr. Martin: But at some point if this gets legs under it, you're each going to go to your own specific party and make recommendations based on what you've heard in the last two or three months, I'm sure. Will it all be the same message, and will that party carry that message if it goes to a vote?

Mr. Coolahan: Well, I think the way it's going to work here, and the way it should work, is that this subcommittee is going to come to a conclusion and it will be presented to the Legislature.

The Chair: If I may provide that clarification, the subcommittee is right now in the process of gathering information. It will report back its finding from the four places that we visit, including this one today, to the committee as a whole, which is made up of 15 members between the New Democrat caucus and the United Conservative caucus. Then they will submit a report to the Legislative Assembly. In that process all members of the Assembly will view the report and then make their conclusions in the Assembly of whether or not to move forward with this bill.

The other thing to note, too, is that procedurally . . .

Mr. Martin: I'm sorry. Does it automatically get a third reading?

The Chair: It's still in second reading. After we've tabled the report, we return to the Legislative Assembly, and we're still in the second reading process.

Mr. Martin: Okay. So it hasn't passed second reading.

The Chair: No. It hasn't passed second reading. Anything could happen. If the will of the Legislative Assembly is to move amendments to the bill, it would have to pass second reading first, and then it would go to Committee of the Whole. That is where amendments can be brought forth and then, obviously, pass Committee of the Whole if there are amendments and then third reading. It could still be defeated in third reading.

The other thing to note, too, is that if the House prorogues, which happens every time there's a throne speech, it'll automatically kill this bill, so the bill would die on the Order Paper.

Mr. Martin: That's what happened to Dr. Starke's bill, then?

The Chair: Dr. Starke's bill?

Mr. Martin: Richard Starke put forth a private member's bill, didn't he? He tabled that petition. He didn't get a . . .

The Chair: Oh, no. That was . . .

Mr. Martin: Was there a fallout of a bill on that?

Mr. Coolahan: That was a change in government, I believe.

The Chair: Any Member of the Legislative Assembly can table a petition, but it doesn't introduce any bill. It kind of aligned with when MLA Dang was proposing to bring forward his private member's bill. I think it was only a matter of a few months apart from each other. Anyone can table a petition, but it doesn't necessarily equal a bill being brought forward.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you again, Mr. Martin, for sticking around and hearing some more of the presenters today. I think, in clarification, that as a subcommittee here we're seeking as much input from Albertans as we possibly can. We will take that information and our findings back to the committee, who will then make a recommendation back to the Legislature by October 4, I think is the date, Mr. Chair.

You know, we hope that as we come to this process as Albertans, we can come to a consensus on what that report will include and what it will contain and what will be taken to the Legislature. However, there's a democratic process in that committee, as well, and majority will rule and move that report forward to the Legislature, at which point if there are any differences in opinion, there's an opportunity for what we call a minority report. We would have an opportunity to do that if there were any differences.

I hope and I think we all hope in this committee and the subcommittee that we'll actually come to similar conclusions and that

the report that we put forward to the Legislature will be a cohesive one where there is unanimity. But that's not always the case. There are other options and opportunities for us to speak out on behalf of Albertans in the way that we see fit in representing our constituents and as part of an opposition caucus. But our first goal, actually, is to work together collaboratively and with the information we have at hand to provide the best recommendations to the Legislature.

Mr. Martin: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah.

The Chair: And I think . . . oh, sorry, Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: That's fine. I would just like to add, too – and I hope I can speak for everyone on this subcommittee – that particularly for a bill of this nature there's nothing to gain from a partisan approach to it. Zero.

Mr. Martin: Other than the fact that if you implement it based on your preliminary results, guess who's going to burn.

Mr. Coolahan: But there's nothing to gain from a partisan approach to it, absolutely nothing. I think this needs consensus building on this more than anything else, and I think I do speak for everyone on this subcommittee.

The Chair: The other thing that speaks volumes in relation to it and credit to the members of the subcommittee, who are working really diligently, is the fact that you couldn't tell which party we were a part of. It kind of reflects the narrative that the members are really taking in relation to this work.

Mr. Martin: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

All right. With that, we'll adjourn until 6 tonight for our evening meeting as well. We'll hope to see you guys there.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 3:51 p.m.]

