



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
6 p.m.

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The 29th Legislature
Third Session**

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Subcommittee

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6 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

Location: Edmonton

The Chair: Good evening, everyone. I want to welcome everyone to this public meeting of the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Bill 203, if passed, proposes that as of November 2018 the Daylight Saving Time Act will be repealed, and Alberta would remain on Alberta standard time.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

On April 3, 2017, the Legislative Assembly referred Bill 203 to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future for review. As part of the review the committee has heard from numerous stakeholders and over 13,000 Albertans through written submissions. On August 8, 2017, the committee established a subcommittee to hold four public meetings within Alberta to gather additional feedback for the bill. The subcommittee has been directed to hold meetings in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge and report back to the committee on what it hears. The committee has also heard oral presentations from a number of key stakeholders on Bill 203. A decision has also been made to accept additional written submissions until September 15, 2017.

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

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

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Rory Koopmans.

Rory Koopmans

Mr. Koopmans: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair and committee members. My name is Rory Koopmans. I'm from here in Edmonton. I understand that there was talk at one of the other meetings about a written proposal that I'd given. I'd looked into, backtracked into the history on Sir Sanford Fleming, the Scottish-Canadian who invented standard time. I guess it's partly due to the fact that if you had, say, 50 towns in one province, they could have 50 different times. The rails were constantly late, and everything was thrown off, and if people had to take carriages or go on foot, they could never get the right time or be properly in transportation mode and that. I know the world is basically, they say, 24 time zones. It's – what? – 22 time zones and then four half time zones of half-hours. Those four half time zones combine into two one-hour zones, including the one half-hour-ahead time zone in Newfoundland and Labrador.

My proposal, that you've had in writing – I guess I was the first out of the gate to even give a proposal with all your written submissions. I would like to know what the feasibility is for Albertans if we were to go a half-hour, split the difference. That would seem to satisfy the transportation companies and the government services companies and people who want to get to and from, so act as a counterbalance to Newfoundland and Labrador. Now, I think that maybe one other time zone would have to be another half-hour on the opposite side of the world to exactly counterbalance that, but it would seem to be a lot less disruptive to rail, airlines, traffic, hospitals, and places that have to work on deadlines. I don't know if the committee members favour that or if other people have spoken up on that besides you guys. Is that feasible?

Mr. Coolahan: I think we have heard it once before, have we not? I do remember reading your submission, actually.

Thank you for your presentation, first of all. Frankly, anything is possible at this point. We are debating the bill as is. That does not mean that there's not potential for some proposed amendments coming from this committee. So I think that that's one thing to take into consideration. I don't know if it spooks people to have a half-an-hour consideration, but it certainly does sort of mitigate, I guess, some of the fears of the time change to one way or another.

Mr. Koopmans: It works out well for Newfoundland and Labrador because of the shipping facilities and the marine docks and things like that that are still operational. You know, they're only a half-hour ahead of the rest of Atlantic Canada, so they don't feel too out of place. The national news is only a half-hour later: 10 o'clock, 10:30 in Newfoundland, or whatever. It's just easier for them, and they're used to that system. I think they had it from when they were – what? – in the British Commonwealth, before even being Canadian.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. You know, why not add something else, make it even more complicated?

Mr. Koopmans: Fair enough. Thank you.

The Chair: Can I ask a clarifying question? You're speaking about the half-hour if I'm correct?

Mr. Koopmans: Yeah.

The Chair: Right now it's 6:06. So from what you're proposing with the half-hour, it would be 5:36, right?

Mr. Koopmans: Sure, if it was daylight, and if we decided to go to Saskatchewan-Manitoba time, then it would be, I guess, 6:36.

The Chair: Okay. Then with the proposed half-hour, what you're proposing, too, is that we don't do a time change, that we'd roll back a half-hour right now?

Mr. Koopmans: Yeah. I was actually thinking initially, when I drafted it up, of just going back and forth a half-hour, but now I'm thinking: leave it all at the same time but only a half-hour, like, in between the two other provinces.

The Chair: Oh. Okay. Sorry. I misunderstood. So what you're proposing, if I'm correct, is that, like, the last weekend of October, when we change our time, instead of us falling back an hour, we'd fall back half an hour.

Mr. Koopmans: Yeah. So we'd still have a fall back and a spring ahead but just not as much.

The Chair: Oh. Okay. Sorry. I misunderstood.

Mr. Koopmans: Newfoundland and Labrador switch back and forth a half-hour, right?

The Chair: And then, obviously, spring forward in March.

Mr. Koopmans: Yeah. I think that – what is it? – Russia and China and then somewhere in Europe, I think just east of England and that, off Greenwich Mean Time or something – there are three other half time zones, right? That's how I just read a time map. There are – what? – 26 time zones, but it's 22 time zones and then four half time zones, and then the four halves combine into, like, two hours, so that gives you a 24-hour day. But there are actually 26 different time zones in the world. That's how I read it. I don't know if I'm correct on that, but that would be the only way currently. Again, the only dilemma with this is that you would have to maybe put another one on the opposite side of the world, a half-hour difference, to counterbalance Alberta being out.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Rory, for your presentation, but I do have to make one correction. The island of Newfoundland is a half an hour out; Labrador is on Atlantic Time.

Mr. Koopmans: Yeah. I remember that.

Mr. Coolahan: Oh. That's right, yeah. They said that on the news when they had the discussion. Okay. All right.

The Chair: Excellent.

Any other questions?

Thank you very much, Mr. Koopmans.

Mr. Koopmans: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Warren Steckelberg.

Mr. Steckelberg: I need to speak against this proposed bill.

The Chair: Mr. Steckelberg, just for the record and for those tuning in, if you can say your full name for the record, please.

Mr. Steckelberg: Oh. Okay. I thought you'd said it. Warren Steckelberg.

The Chair: Please proceed.

Warren Steckelberg

Mr. Steckelberg: I need to speak against it. It doesn't seem to be well thought out.

One thing is that the survey isn't very credible. I wonder what would have happened if that survey and this whole endeavour had taken place in the depths of winter, when everyone was getting up in the dark. I've talked to people who think that doing daylight saving time year-round will actually lengthen the day in the winter rather than bring even more darkness into the morning.

6:10

Another part of it is that it seems a bit disingenuous. I have friends who are all in favour of this, who thought that this was such a wonderful move because they are so irritated with twice a year having to switch their time. You know, one of our MLAs was speaking about how it takes him three weeks to recover. Well, I'm not sure about Mr. Dang, but these friends of mine who say that it's such an inconvenience and such a disturbance and such an annoyance will, without any other thought, spend time in Saskatchewan, a week or more, or in British Columbia, and there they are making a one-hour switch twice in a week, and they don't fall apart. In fact, they will gladly go much further afield and won't say: oh, no, I'm certainly not going to go to Toronto or to New Orleans for a meeting because it'll ruin a whole month of my life. This whole move lacks veracity, and it seems to be, to be frank, pandering.

I've lived in Canada all my adult life – I'm an immigrant here – and I was so happy that finally I could vote for a social democratic party. I lived in Saskatchewan and could also enjoy supporting an NDP government, but this bill seems to be forsaking the very essence and heart of social democracy, which is not to follow people's emotions, their preferences, their irritations as though, you know, we're brushing off mosquitoes. The heart of social democracy is to care about people's needs.

Some people, I'm sure, have talked about certain ones in regard to business, to sports, but there's another area that doesn't seem to get much play, and that is that there are, I am sure, many thousands – I wish there were figures on this – who suffer in winter from this so-called seasonal affective disorder, and I'm one of them. There are many people that aren't probably aware of defining it as suffering, yet everyone is affected. We talk about the dead of night and deep darkness and gloom. Even people who are quite jovial all year-round will find a dark, rainy day in summer depressing. Well, for those of us who have so-called SAD, this is something that isn't just an irritation. It's not an inconvenience. It's a matter of health. It's a matter of fighting an uphill battle against depression and then, of course, of effectiveness in any other tasks and duties that you have.

I don't personally know – it's hard enough to cope now – how I will. That's why I wonder: if we had this kind of investigation and a good survey in January, what would be the result? You must know that right after the new year there is a spike in suicides. People have said before that that's because of postholiday syndrome or whatever. I'd like to see what happens in Australia and New Zealand. I bet they don't have a spike after holidays are over. It's summertime, and they go to the beach. It's the darkness, and it's the darkness in the mornings, to get up in the gloom and have to face the day. Now it'll be one more hour of gloom. In fact, it'll be, if I remember my chart right – correct me if I'm wrong – nearly 10 o'clock before you can see a single ray of sun.

The Chair: Just one second, Mr. Steckelberg. I just want to get consent from the committee to exceed the five minutes.

Yep. Go ahead. I just had to check.

Mr. Steckelberg: That's quite all right.

If you also take a look at the time zones, already we have the same kind of morning, the same time of sunrise as Regina. We're going to give ourselves, well, an hour more of darkness than Regina has and not much help in the afternoon either. That's why I appeal to you. Don't focus on feelings, pander for a few votes as though that's going to matter when the election comes. People have far weightier things to think about then. Follow the spirit of social democracy, and focus on what really helps people who need it.

Thanks.

The Chair: Sorry, Mr. Steckelberg. MLA Coolahan has a question.

Mr. Steckelberg: Oh, sorry.

The Chair: That's all right.

Mr. Steckelberg: Okay. Please.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you so much, Mr. Steckelberg, for your presentation. I really appreciate it. A couple of things. You had some concerns around the survey. Your words were: not credible. Can you just elaborate on that a bit?

Mr. Steckelberg: Oh, my word. Thank you. It wasn't a proper survey. Ask Gallup or somebody else, you know, professional people to make a broad survey rather than something that actually attracts people – I don't know – for whom this is an irritation. Again, that's why I said that if this had been done in January, when people's focus was on how dark the mornings are . . .

Mr. Coolahan: I think that's an interesting point, actually. I think that does have some credibility.

What I was going to say, too, just in response to what you called pandering: I would take exception to that. I take exception to that because this isn't a government bill. We must understand that a private member's bill is brought forward usually in a way that the private member hears from their constituents. This was a big topic before this even was introduced, so Mr. Dang would have heard from several constituents. Ms Fitzpatrick has said that she's heard from several. It's a consistent issue in all of our offices, it seems, that people bring this up, so I would suggest that Mr. Dang is bringing this forward in good faith, that he's hearing from a lot of people.

Now we're here. You know, it got to second reading, it was determined that it should go to a committee, the committee then determined it should go to a subcommittee, and here we are. I think we're doing our due diligence to make sure we get it right or to dismiss the bill or to propose some amendments to the bill.

Mr. Steckelberg: That's good to hear. Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: I had another point. I can't remember what it was now. I wanted to ask you one more question, actually. If the bill were amended in such a way that it said that we stop changing our clocks but we went to Mountain Time, would you find that agreeable?

Mr. Steckelberg: Very agreeable, yes. I'd vote for that.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you so much.

Mr. Steckelberg: Not at all. Thank you.

The Chair: MLA Fitzpatrick.

Oh, we have some more questions, Mr. Steckelberg.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Mr. Steckelberg, one moment.

Mr. Steckelberg: Oh, sure.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Again, thank you very much for your presentation. Certainly, I had not thought about SAD in terms of changing the time. But you also talked about addressing people's needs. As Mr. Coolahan said, the day I moved into my office, I had people come to my office and say: stop changing the clock. They did for a number of different reasons. In fact, we had a presentation in Grande Prairie on Friday from someone who had medical concerns. That person asked that we stop changing the clock because there were medications required that had to be taken at a certain time every day. She had said that when the clock changed, her body reacted quite strongly to having to change that time when she was taking her drugs. She said it happened both in the spring and the fall, and she said she had a psychological reaction to it as well. It took her a long time to get back to feeling kind of normal again.

6:20

Many of the people who have come into my office talked about similar things. I didn't bring the bill forward, but I have to say that when I heard that it was coming forward, I was quite pleased because so many of my constituents had come to me. Every time the clock changes, I have more people coming to me, not the same ones over and over again but more people who come in and say: please stop changing it.

Certainly the question always becomes: do we go Central Time; do we go Mountain Time? In fact, as Mr. Koopmans mentioned, do we decide on half an hour? All those things have to be discussed by the committee, and we need people like you and Mr. Koopmans to bring those discussions to the table. I truly appreciate that, but I certainly feel like I am addressing the needs of my constituents by being part of this committee and by listening to what people have to say so that we can come up with a very informed recommendation when we make the recommendations.

Thank you.

Mr. Steckelberg: I appreciate that. I hope you can deal with both sets, then, of people and their needs, and staying on Mountain Standard Time would certainly do that.

Thank you.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth: Lorretta Thir.

Lorretta Thir

Mrs. Thir: My name is Lorretta Thir. I've written my thing out so that I don't forget things. To start out, I was at the town hall meeting that was held here with Thomas Dang and the MLA from the Vegreville area. All of these issues were brought up at that meeting, and the medication issue was also brought up, where people at that meeting said: well, we take medication at the same time every day, and we still do after the time change; it's just the time on the clock that's one hour different. They get used to that within three or four days, and they're just taking it at the different time but at the same time. There were a lot of these issues that were brought up then.

Out of about the 35 that were there, there were only five that wanted to keep the clocks the same. The rest of them preferred to change, but if they had to have it at one time, they'd prefer the daylight saving time, the majority of them there. None of those issues have ever been heard from since.

Going to what I've got written here, my first concern is that this important issue is being done on a private member's bill. Ten thousand plus in Alberta out of the 4 million have said they want this on the survey. The survey was an electronic survey, and it was broad. If this were to happen, what would you prefer? Those kind of questions. It excluded a very large number of Albertans that were not active on the website. Naturally, the ones that did know about it and filled it out were the ones that were on the bandwagon from day one. Given the total people that filled it out, it hardly warrants a change for everyone.

Years ago it was voted in with a majority of all Albertans and should stay that way until Albertans have the opportunity to vote it out. The reason it was voted in was because people wanted the best daylight hours at the best times of the day. Thomas Dang said at the town hall meeting that it would cost \$5 million to put it on the election ballot, and that will never happen. If we Albertans aren't worth a voice on the ballot, our government should be saving our money with this private member's bill and using it for something that will benefit all.

Another concern of mine is the geography of our large and diverse province and country. When we get close to the mountains, there is a huge difference the way the evening darkness descends and the morning light ascends on us. It happens very fast and not at all close to the same time as it does 100 kilometres inland from the mountains.

We border on B.C., which could put us two hours ahead for part of the year, yet we are many miles away from Ontario and yet more away from Quebec, so in the winter, when Eastern Time goes back one hour, that would put us only one hour behind Eastern Time right up to P.E.I. for that part of the year. That's if we stay on Mountain Daylight Time year-round, as I'm led to believe that is the preferred time if a change has to take place according to the surveys.

The big question to me is: are we not messing with something that's going to be unrealistic when we are actually having to deal with it on a national level? What does Alberta do when Saskatchewan decides to adopt daylight saving time? I googled the question for kicks to find out that the issue is not over in Saskatchewan, and it could very well happen.

What happens to the southwest area in B.C. that we have no control over changing? There is a large amount of travel between the two provinces that is going to be chaotic across the southwestern part of B.C., not to mention trying to figure out which businesses and family members are one or two hours behind us in what time of the year and what zone they are in. There seem to be a lot of people that work and commute back and forth in that region. They live in small towns and go where the jobs are. There's Blairmore, Coleman, Hillcrest Mines, Corbin, Sparwood, Elkford, Fernie, and all the ski hills, Fort Steele, Skookumchuck, Canal Flats, Fairmont Hot Springs, Radium, Invermere, and that's not all.

The confusion and cost to businesses and hard-working Albertans is going to be enormous. Most of us in Alberta have more connections with B.C. than Saskatchewan, yet we are compared to Saskatchewan right through the survey. It seems the mountains just grew tremendously tall. Should our provincial government have the right without a vote to break away from the normal of the nation without a reason other than someone's house pet happens to be looking for their food at yesterday's time? I'm not being smart here. That was brought up at the town hall meeting from someone not wanting to change their clock, and you all know him.

There are many people in this province that have voiced their concerns about the amount of money being spent on this unimportant issue instead of other needs in the province. I am really tired of sending letters in with my concerns over this and never getting an answer to the concern I have, and sometimes not even

getting an acknowledgement that the letter was received. It seems to me that our MLAs have standard letters that keep telling us how so many people are in favour of this but not addressing the concerns of the ones that aren't in favour. I've heard this comment more than once: they're going to do what they want to do anyway, so why bother with a survey? That's why I feel so strongly about having this question on the election ballot.

The Chair: I'll open it up for any questions from committee members.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you very much for joining us today, Lorretta, and for your very forthright opinion on this. I'm saddened to hear that you're not getting responses to your communications on it. I suggest that you reach out to any of the MLAs that you have sent communications to and maybe just ask for a response at least or an acknowledgement of your communications. I think that you've been clear here that the minor inconvenience of changing the clocks is exactly that, a minor inconvenience, and also that some people don't want any change or adjustment in their lives. Unfortunately, the only thing that we can count on in this world is change, and sometimes we have to be adaptable. But, of course, everybody's opinion is valid and we have to listen to that.

I thank you for being very forthright. If I'm hearing you correctly, you are very much in favour of maintaining the status quo, of having the . . .

Mrs. Thir: I would think so, but I was one of them that said: well, if we have to change, I would like the daylight saving time. But, you know, like, whichever way it goes, we have to accept. It was brought up at the other meeting about: okay; where do we go on this?

Mr. Gotfried: You mentioned you were at a town hall. Do you recall when that was? I'm not familiar with that.

6:30

Mrs. Thir: It was right here in this room.

Mr. Gotfried: It was? Okay.

Mrs. Thir: I can't remember how far back that was. I left very, very angry, actually, because it was very, very biased on changing the system from what it was. I think I've written Thomas Dang about three letters, and on two of them I got a generic letter back, nothing addressing the issue. I wrote to Rachel Notley even, and I got a standard letter saying that it was being put forth for more, you know – it was put forth, anyway. Dave Eggen: he got a letter. I never heard from him. I even got desperate and wrote to – what's his name from the Wildrose? – Mr. Jean.

Mr. Gotfried: Brian Jean.

Mrs. Thir: Brian Jean. Yes. I even wrote him a letter, and I never heard a word from him.

So it's something that I feel I'm very, very passionate about because – oh, I know where I was going with this. The people that are so upset about the change one day a year think nothing of going to a party until 3 or 4 in the morning and that that's okay. Their cat or their dog or whatever can wait until they get up the next morning. Life is full of change now. You get caught in a traffic jam, and you're two hours behind getting home. Your supper is late. Everything changes day by day. But because they've got to actually do something that isn't what they thought of or they did, then it's not okay with them.

Mr. Gotfried: Well, I thank you for your persistence because I think it's important that you have been heard here by the sub-committee. Again, I regret that you have had lack of response from some of our colleagues. We will pass that information on where appropriate. Again, thank you for taking the time to be here with us and for being persistent, and know that your voice has been heard. I'd like to thank you.

Mrs. Thir: Thank you.

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

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Lawrence Crosthwaite.

Lawrence Crosthwaite

Mr. Crosthwaite: Good evening. Just a quick question: has anybody proposed the half-hour compromise?

The Chair: Yeah. Mr. Koopmans has.

Mr. Crosthwaite: So at the half-hour mark, at 1:30 in the morning, we fall back half an hour.

The Chair: Sorry. Just for the sake of people who are tuning in at home and for the record, if you can state your full name.

Mr. Crosthwaite: Sorry. My name is Lawrence Crosthwaite. I'm a resident of Edmonton.

The reason I came down here was just to see if anybody had actually proposed that. It seems to make the most sense. So at 1:30 in the morning this fall we fall back to 1, and then we're done. We'd just leave it alone. Or you wait till the spring, and you spring forward at 1:30 in the morning to 2, and then you're done. You just leave it alone. End of story. That should take care of it. It's not perfect for everybody, but it's a compromise. That's what everything is about these days, compromise. Right?

That's all I really wanted to say.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you.

Mr. Crosthwaite: Thank you for your time.

The Chair: We've been able to get through all of our scheduled presenters, but one of the things that we've made a process of doing as we move through these meetings – a lot of times individuals have feedback or information they want to provide or want to provide something in consultation for the process – is that I'll now open it up to anyone in the audience who would like to provide us with some feedback or information in regard to Bill 203. If there are any individuals, if you would like to come forward. Also, just make sure you introduce yourself for the record as well.

Sheri Denis

Ms Denis: My name is Sheri Denis. I just have a couple of comments. We have eight months of the year already in daylight saving, which will be Mountain Standard Time. It used to be a short time. Every year it changes, and I always have to look at the calendar to see what's going on and when it's changing. It's only four months: half of November, December, January, February, and half of March. Really, we're only talking about four months that it would be different, this two-hour crisis that people are worried about.

I find that the main problem is two things. One is traffic. There are all these car accidents in the spring, and there are fewer in the

fall. My theory about that is that it's not really the time change; it's that people have not set their alarms on Sunday. They're not going to church, so they don't realize they're an hour late. They've changed every clock in the house except for the alarm for Monday morning, and then they're late. You've got all the people who've changed their clocks and all the people who are late, so you have big traffic jams and lots of problems. In the fall why is it better? Well, people are early because they haven't put their clock back.

The other problem, I think, is seasonal affective disorder, which is people who suffer from the dark. Everybody seems to have a better time in the summer. Alberta is great because we've got light till 11 o'clock. Everybody works till 6, and you actually get to have a summer, the two short months that you have for summer here. I think it's really good in Alberta especially. I grew up in Ontario. The sun went down at 8:30, but we had summer. It lasted for three months. We had fall, and we had spring. We had different coats for them and never a coat in the summer. We only had three months of winter. We have six months of winter here. It's awful. I love it. I've been here for – I don't know – 45 years or something. I like the summers.

I'm in the medical profession, so I see a lot of seasonal affective disorder, and it's amazing how it crashes in November. It's not just the day. It's not just changing your clock. I think it's how it affects people. It's only four months that we would be changing it. I didn't push for it, but when I saw it, I thought: oh, if we're going to not change the clocks, please, please, could we keep the long summer days? If we did change it to Mountain Time all year long, which I'm really against, we would have the sun up at – I don't know – 4. The birds would start singing at 3:30. No, please don't do that. If you're going to not have it as daylight saving all year, which is your standard, which is two hours from B.C. – we'd be the same as Saskatchewan all year long – then please change it, and we'll deal with the traffic and all that. Please don't make it dark.

The other thing, too, is that I think we'll see some mood disorders in the summer, where people – well, it's only an hour, but it'll crash earlier, into September. The one year that it was really warm and people were outside, I was seeing a lot of people in September with their seasonal affective disorder, and the reason is that they were all outside in the dusk. It was beautiful outside, and people were outside with their kids, and they were gardening, but they weren't even having artificial light. It may sound trivial, but it actually is a real problem for a lot of people. A lot of people aren't diagnosed with that, but I think we all get a little crabby in the winter. You know, part of it's being locked in the house, but part of it, I think, is the dark.

For children leaving school, it's dark at 4. I think it's a safety issue as well in the winter. If you're going to do that, I can see advantages that it's lighter. People say: "It's dark in the morning. It's terrible." It's dark anyway, so who cares in the winter? It's an hour later. I think it's more important to have light at the end of the day, when people are getting off work and having a life, than it is when they're motivated to get up and go in the dark to school and go in the dark to work.

Anyway, just my opinion. Those are my points.

The Chair: Excellent. I'm going to open it up for some questions.
Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Good. Thank you, Sheri, for your time and coming forward. I'm hearing two different things here, and I just need some clarification. When we deal with SAD, it appears to me – and I'm no professional on this – that the majority of the issue is the amount of daylight that we have in the winter. We've heard from a number of presenters with the concern that extra darkness in

the morning makes it even more difficult. Have you seen different examples of that?

Ms Denis: Well, it has to do with the time you go to work. For a good two months it's dark anyway when you go to work, so you're not seeing light in the morning and you're inside.

6:40

Mr. van Dijken: Okay. So your opinion is that it's not going to affect those individuals negatively to be on daylight saving time year-round, where it'll be darker in the morning during the winter hours. If we were to stay with the status quo, changing our clocks twice a year the way we do now, is that acceptable to you? You said a couple of times: well, if we have to change the time . . .

Ms Denis: No, no. I thought it was a great idea. I've been complaining to my family. It's, like: "Oh, my gosh. It's for four months only. Why don't we just keep the whole thing?" So when it came out, I thought: this is a wonderful idea, yeah.

But if you're going to change it to one time all year – that's the key – please, please, please do not leave us with the winter time all year long, because that has a disadvantage, I feel, for the summer months. If that's the decision, then my vote would be to keep changing it so that at least we'd get the daylight saving. I said it wrong, but that's my gist.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I think my question was answered already, but, just succinctly, you support Bill 203 as is, then? Okay. Thank you.

Ms Denis: All done with me?

The Chair: Yeah. Thank you very much.

Ms Denis: Thank you.

The Chair: I just got a note that there's an additional registrant.
Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Alexandria Fisher.

The Chair: Good evening. If you could state your name for the record.

Ms Fisher: Alexandria Fisher.

The Chair: Excellent. Please proceed.

Alexandria Fisher

Ms Fisher: Thank you. I really appreciate you holding these consultations in order for people to give their input. It's been amazing to see the amount of support and feedback this bill has gotten. I'm actually speaking in the opposite direction of the previous speaker. I support the elimination of daylight saving time, but I think we should be on Mountain Standard Time as opposed to Mountain Daylight Time.

I've been hearing some of the arguments both ways, and I think a lot of them are well established, so I'm not going to go over the basic arguments again. I'm just going to bring up the case of Russia's experience.

In 2011 Russia instituted daylight time, which was supported by the majority of their population, so no more time changes. Two years later the support for the time change had sunk dramatically

because there were all these expectations that weren't met. People thought that longer daylight hours would be beneficial. They weren't. In addition, there were health problems and road accidents. There is research around that, but I think it's more of a correlation than a causation.

In 2014 they went back to non daylight time, so they added the daylight hour back to the beginning of the day. They don't have any time change, and from my research there haven't been a lot of problems going on.

I bring up this example especially because Russia is generally of a similar latitude to Alberta. Also, anecdotally, from some of my friends, which is what motivated me to speak, in the summer months it really impacts people who have some sleeping disorders – putting garbage bags over windows to try to block out the light makes working your normal hours hard – which is why I support moving to Mountain Standard Time as opposed to Mountain Daylight Time.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you, Ms Fisher.

Mr. Coolahan, you had a question?

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thanks, Ms Fisher, for your presentation. It's very interesting with the Russia experiment, I guess. Did it go to referendum? Did they vote on it?

Ms Fisher: No. There were consultations.

Mr. Coolahan: Consultations. Okay. And then it was passed in the Legislature.

I guess you may not know, but do you think it was that people understood the complications or the potential negative impacts when they put forward suggestions to do away with it?

Ms Fisher: I think people liked the idea but didn't understand the reality of less daylight in the morning and more at night. When you hear the arguments about patios, people tend to think of the beneficial aspects as opposed to any potential negative drawbacks. I think that when we're doing an analysis of the scenario, we're often looking at the most optimistic scenarios that support the conclusions we want.

Mr. Coolahan: Right. Of course. We think what we want to think, and we hear what we want to hear, right? You know, certainly, we've heard both sides. I mean, we've heard a lot on the other side in terms of minor sports, golf, a lot of these things that are sustained by a lengthy summer period, for sure.

Ms Fisher: I think there are going to be economic advantages and disadvantages and quality of life advantages and disadvantages to either time zone. I think about which has the possibility to mitigate the most risks. When looking at it from that lens, I see Mountain Standard Time as the best option.

Mr. Coolahan: Thanks for your input.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Excellent. Thank you so much, Ms Fisher.

Ms Fisher: You're welcome. Thank you for the time.

The Chair: I will open it up for any members within the audience who may wish to provide us with some feedback or have some consultation. Please proceed. Before you begin, if you can introduce yourself for the record.

Trevor Allan

Mr. Allan: My name is Trevor Allan. I'm of the opinion that I don't really care if it's mountain standard or mountain daylight; just stop the change. We've had daylight savings for – what? – 45 years. Back then how many clocks did people have in their houses? How much did they have to change? Now it's got to the point where I have to get my owner's manual out. I don't know how the heck to change the darn clock on the vehicle. I'm asking my wife: what time is it? The days of the VCR blinking are over, but, you know, you get my point.

I also have an issue with the name, Alberta standard time. If we remain with either Mountain Standard Time or Mountain Daylight Time, everyone will know what time it is. The problem is with other provinces. When they say, "What time is Alberta standard time?" they won't know. The language is important.

Yeah. Those are my thoughts. Just stop the change.

The Chair: Excellent.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Allan. "Stop the change." Now, is it for a reason other than your many clocks? Do you not feel as well at the change, take time to recover?

Mr. Allan: No. I don't think it takes much time to recover. I travel, same as a lot of people. It doesn't take much time to recover. It's just the constant changing it twice a year. You go to meet someone – this past March I got together with a group of friends, and one guy who is very punctual was an hour late. I mean, 45 years we've been doing this, and people still forget. I think a lot of people are tired of it.

Mr. Coolahan: Anecdotally amongst your friends and family, how do they see this?

Mr. Allan: A lot of people agree. It's tiring. You see other areas in the world where they're starting to revert. They're either going on daylight full time or standard full time. I think it's a world-wide trend. People are starting to just get tired of it. It's like the old Indian saying. You cut off one end of the blanket and attach it to the other, and you get a longer blanket. But it's not really true.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you. We've heard that a few times.

The Chair: Any other questions? Excellent.

Anyone else in the audience who's wishing to provide us with some feedback?

With that, knowing that we may have a few people straggle in after 7 o'clock, we'll recess for about 20 minutes and then resume at 10 after 7.

[The subcommittee adjourned from 6:50 p.m. to 7:16 p.m.]

The Chair: All right. We'll call this meeting back to order. We have a couple more registrants who've come in after 7 o'clock here. Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Lionel L'Heureux.

The Chair: Good evening, sir. If you can state your full name for the record, please.

Lionel L'Heureux

Mr. L'Heureux: Lionel L'Heureux. I'm a resident of Edmonton. I've been here 25 years. I grew up in Edmonton. I spent two years

in the Arctic, where I experienced 24-hour sunshine and 24-hour night. Then I lived down in southern Alberta for 13 years; you know, plenty of sunshine in Medicine Hat. I didn't seem to ever be short of it.

What I'm here to say is that I find daylight saving time to be, you know, almost an abomination – the confusion of changing time, the effect on biorhythms – and there is a safety aspect of daylight saving time that people don't seem to consider, that it depends on which way you're driving at what time of the day. We already have two periods, in spring and fall, where we're driving into oncoming sunshine. That makes it hard to see where you're going. Then we do it twice, because now we change the time and back up an hour or change the time and advance an hour. So it creates four periods of unsafe activity on roads that are really bad because people can't see. They're trying to see, and the sun is in their eyes.

I find, you know, that if we went back to a single time zone like, well, Central Standard Time, which is fine, that would satisfy those that are fearmongering that kids are going to be shortchanged and that all of the sports in the world will fall down and quit functioning properly because they lose an hour of sunshine, which is really kind of a bogus mentality when you consider it.

Now, wintertime: if it means you're going to get up an hour later, great; you won't be getting up in the dark so often. But every winter we come back from work in the dark, regardless if we're in daylight saving time, because we bop the clock back an hour. So you get up in the dark, and you come home in the dark.

I find that their arguments, especially big business – and I flew a lot, working for Nav Canada for 36 years. Airlines change their schedules at the crux of daylight saving time changes regardless. Their argument that, "Oh, it's going to cause these big problems" I think is total BS because they change their schedules according to the time zones anyway. They back up in the fall, and they bounce forward in the spring, so where is this going to create this big problem with big business? I don't get it. And you know what? I'm tired of sports and big business relegating my life and my lifestyle. I'm all for maintaining one time period all year round. Central Standard Time would be fine.

You know, that's about all I have to say. I don't buy into these other arguments of doom and gloom and that kids are going to be shortchanged. If you put some logic behind it, it's just not true.

I'm hoping that you guys will follow through with this. If 72 per cent of the people in this province, on that survey, voted to stop daylight saving time and maintain one time period for the whole year, one time zone, maybe they're right, you know. Why should the minority dictate to the majority opinion? That's what democracy is all about.

That's kind of about all I have to say about this subject. Thank you very much for listening to me.

The Chair: All right, Mr. L'Heureux. I think we have a couple of questions from panel members.

Mr. L'Heureux: Okay. Go ahead.

The Chair: MLA Fitzpatrick.

Mr. L'Heureux: I've got a bit of a hearing issue, so you might have to speak up.

Ms Fitzpatrick: So do I, but I'll speak into the mike so you can hear me.

Mr. L'Heureux: Okay.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I really appreciated what you said about: with the time changing twice a year, there are four times, depending on which way you're driving.

Mr. L'Heureux: Yeah, and it's quite serious. I drive on 137th Avenue, which is an east-west thoroughfare with six lanes. In the evenings, when the sun is shining in your face from the west, you know, that's really bad, and in the mornings, when it's coming up from the east, again it's very bad. It makes it rather difficult to see and be safe when you're turning, crossing lanes of traffic, especially if you haven't gotten around to cleaning your windshields all that great from the winter yet, and a lot of people don't. You can see them trying to strain and look under their sun visors if they don't have their heads down texting.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. The reason I'm speaking about that is that in Lethbridge we've got two major thoroughfares that go from east to west or west to east. The west side of Lethbridge is on the west hill, and you have to come down Whoop-Up Drive or you have to come down highway 3 to come to the main part of the city. Everyone I've talked to in Lethbridge who drives back and forth at all has said that if the time didn't change twice a year, that would be difficult, but if it's only twice a year – sorry. If you knew exactly when it was going to be, then you could take that time and change your time 15 minutes so that you're not having it in your eyes. However, when you change the times twice a year, then what happens is that it happens four times.

Mr. L'Heureux: And people don't change their routines that easily.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. Certainly, in Lethbridge there is a huge uptick in terms of accidents and very serious accidents. In fact, we had a car drive into a tractor that was on the one hill because they came up and couldn't see. Again, it was right after time had changed.

Mr. L'Heureux: You see, I drove from where I lived in Medicine Hat down highway 1 and then got down onto highway 3 to drive out to the airport 365 days of the year, virtually, and experienced it from both ends of the spectrum. First I'm on the Trans-Canada going against traffic, and now I'm on the number 3 facing the wrong direction as well. So, yeah, I perfectly understand what you're saying. It's a serious problem. People don't seem to understand or realize what's the cause of it: daylight saving time.

Ms Fitzpatrick: That item hadn't been brought up, so I just wanted to say thank you for talking about that.

Mr. L'Heureux: It's one of my major concerns. I'm afraid I'm going to get hit someday by somebody who can't see and get rear-ended on the way to work, you know.
Anybody else?

The Chair: Excellent. Mr. Gotfried, actually.

Mr. Gotfried: Yes. Thank you, Mr. L'Heureux, for joining us today and for your thoughts and insights. You mentioned about really wanting to sort of hear what Albertans have to say and the minority versus majority and whatnot. Would you be comfortable if it went to a referendum and Albertans, full brush, full democracy, were able to decide this?

Mr. L'Heureux: Provided, I think, that the correct press was given to this situation. There's been a lot of fake news and editorials and articles in the *Journal* lately because of their anti fixed time zone thing. I'm finding a lot of negative comments in the papers lately

about the daylight saving time change, so there really should be some article or document from the Alberta government stating that we are going to maintain our summer hours. A lot of people think we're not going to: "Oh, we're going to lose our summertime sunshine. It's so great." I'm thinking: well, you people really aren't paying attention to the issue here, because we're not going to if we adopt Saskatchewan time. And guess what? Saskatchewan has gotten along fine ever since, you know, the dawn of time with a fixed time zone. The businesses don't stop working, the airlines still fly, and everybody still watches hockey. So I don't buy it. I'm sorry.

Mr. Gotfried: So you'd be comfortable with a referendum as long as there is robust information available to people?

Mr. L'Heureux: Yeah, as long as the way the question is voiced in the referendum voting ballot – if you give a reverse indication in your thing, people will get fooled and check it the wrong way. It has to be clear.

7:25

Mr. Gotfried: I think you're right. I think that if we're going to go to Albertans, it would have to be extremely clear what they were voting for.

Mr. L'Heureux: Yeah. I've seen it happen in this city under civic elections, you know, questions put on a ballot that were misleading and caused people to select the wrong answer because they misunderstood the question.

Mr. Gotfried: I just wanted to understand if you were comfortable with that as a possible option. It's not necessarily where this may or may not go.

Mr. L'Heureux: Yeah. I'm happy with turning it to the vote. I think enough people spoke on Mr. Dang's website and said that, you know, they're in favour of ditching this program. It's not a great thing.

Mr. Gotfried: But they could be the minority.

Mr. L'Heureux: No, I don't think they would be.

Mr. Gotfried: No?

Mr. L'Heureux: No. I don't think so.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you.

Mr. L'Heureux: All right.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Mr. L'Heureux, thank you so much for your feedback as well.

Mr. L'Heureux: Thank you for letting me talk.

Mr. Roth: Jan Kirkham.

Jan Kirkham

Mr. Kirkham: For the record my name is Jan Kirkham. I work in education here in the city. I was lucky to hear the end of the newscast tonight. They said that you guys were here till 9. I thought I'd missed my window, but I got in.

Since I heard about the proposed bill, I've heard a lot of people say that that would be a good idea. I was one of those. But then I started to notice that people were confused. It seemed to be pretty straightforward. We would be getting rid of daylight saving time,

which meant, to me, that we would be reverting to Mountain Standard Time.

I thought I would take some time just to explain my understanding of Mountain Standard Time. Maybe that'll help someone here who hasn't really understood either. Mountain Standard Time would mean that we would be keeping the hours we have in the winter. We would be an hour later than B.C., who are on Pacific Standard Time in the winter, and we would be an hour earlier than Saskatchewan, which is on Central Standard Time. In the summer we would now be sharing a time with those in B.C. because they would be moving to daylight saving time, and we would remain an hour behind those in Saskatchewan, who are still on Central Standard Time.

All the people who are saying that it'll affect the airlines because of this two-hour difference with Vancouver . . .

The Chair: Mr. Kirkham.

Mr. Kirkham: Yes?

The Chair: Just as a point of clarification, what is proposed in the legislation is Mountain Daylight Time, which would parallel what Saskatchewan is doing.

Mr. Kirkham: Yes. I'm just getting to what my understanding of Mountain Standard Time was.

The Chair: Okay. I just wanted to make sure, because I thought you were thinking it was one thing, and your thing was geared to it. Sorry. My apologies.

Mr. Kirkham: Sorry about that.

The reason I was doing that was because, to me, it was straightforward. We would actually be benefiting from this. Those who were talking, the hockey crowd, were talking about games in the east, that, say, a 5 o'clock game in the east would mean we would be playing at 8, but because we were on summer time, we would be actually having to wait another hour. You know, we would be watching games at 9 o'clock at night. That's when I started to think: something is wrong here. We're not talking about ditching daylight saving time; we're talking about something else.

I raised some points with people in the news media, and they would e-mail me back and say: this is interesting. You know, they were unsure what they were talking about. So I actually looked at the bill, and that's when I discovered this Alberta standard time. That's when I understood there was mass confusion. I've talked to friends, I've talked to family, and they think the same as I was thinking, that we were going to be losing daylight saving time, which means reverting to Mountain Standard Time, not creating some fictitious new time that was going to be uniquely Alberta's, which meant we were going to be two hours different than Vancouver in the winter and on the same time as Saskatchewan.

I'm thinking: why? If it's the time change that's the problem, why are we worried about creating something new when the solution is to simply not spring forward? Then we don't have to fall back in the fall, right? We don't have the time change problem, and we don't now have this two-hour gap.

I had to get down here because it's something simple that I think people are voting on, but they're voting on the idea of: "It's daylight saving time. I don't like the change. Let's get rid of it." What a lot of people don't realize is that they're voting on Alberta standard time. As people, I think, have raised before me, the clarity of the bill has not been really presented well to the public. You know, if you dig into the articles and stuff, they might mention this new time,

but most people are unaware that there's actually a unique time zone.

I would take any questions from you on what I would suggest. One thing I would suggest is that we put the information out to the public on exactly how the clocks will be changing and let the people decide whether or not they're comfortable with this new time zone. Explain what it's going to do to that hour of daylight in the evening and the winter, because I heard someone tonight speaking, and it's incorrect. If we kept our daylight time in the winter, 7 o'clock is going to be darker, right? It's not going to be lighter at 7 in the morning; it's going to be darker because we're moving the clock forward. We're not bringing the sun anywhere different in the sky. We're changing our clock ahead or leaving it ahead. We're not moving it back, so we're actually going to be losing an hour of daylight in the morning.

In the summer I don't think we need to worry about that gained hour in the evening. I mean, it's light until 11 o'clock, and it's light at 5 in the morning. I don't think there's a huge problem with that. I just think that people are unaware of what they're actually getting with this bill because the main words that come out are: let's ditch daylight saving time. But that's not what we're doing; we're not ditching anything. It should be saying: let's create a new time zone, uniquely Albertan. Then people will say: what is this new time zone? Then maybe people will start to understand it.

I'm open to if you have any questions for clarification.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Thank you for your presentation. I agree with much of what you've been saying about sort of the public's understanding of the bill, I guess.

Would it be easier, then – and I'm not entirely sure why the bill was named what it's named. I mean, it's not a big bill, as you've seen. There are maybe a hundred words in the entire bill. It does express that it would mean reverting to UTC-6. Maybe that's the confusion right there because it's calling it Alberta standard time, which is actually Central Time, right? So maybe that's the confusion. I'm not sure. My guess on using "Alberta standard time" was sort of the longitudinal way it runs down North America through Colorado and whatnot – it would distinguish us from that. Maybe he just wanted to have us sound unique. I'm not certain what that was.

My point is: would the bill offer more clarity if it was titled something like the Repeal of Daylight Saving Time Act and it actually said that we would be moving in line with Saskatchewan?

Mr. Kirkham: Well, I would ask: if that's what the intent was, why would we not be calling our time Central Standard Time? If we're moving to Central Standard Time, why call it Alberta standard time if it's going to be the same as Central Time, right? Why, also, when presenting this bill, would we be saying that we're reverting to anything when we're creating a new time zone? We're not reverting. We're already on Mountain Standard Time with the exception of when we spring forward to an artificial time zone, which is daylight time. Then we revert to our Mountain Standard Time in the fall. So we're not reverting to anything. We're creating a new time zone, and people don't know that.

A gentleman who spoke before me said: why not be on Central Time? Well, because we're farther west than Saskatchewan. We are up against the Rocky Mountains. That's why there's a time zone here. That's why we're on Mountain Time, not on Central Time, because we are farther west. The sun will be at a different point in the sky than it is when it's over Saskatchewan. That's why they're

an hour ahead of us. That's why the time zones were created in the first place.

7:35

Mr. Coolahan: So you're not in agreement with the bill as it's presented in terms of moving to Central Time, or staying on Central Time, I should say?

Mr. Kirkham: If the bill is presented to the people, if there is a vote to the people or even to those who are voting on it in the Legislature – if it's presented as we're going to adopt Central Standard Time because we feel that then we're not, you know, doing the time changes twice a year, then everyone will say: "Okay. What are we looking at?" They can look at the times that are in Saskatchewan and then say: "Okay. Is this going to affect things like games? Is it going to affect things like making connections on the west coast?" If we tell them that it's either that or we're just going to go to Mountain Standard Time – for me, I don't understand why that wasn't proposed in the first place, right?

It seems like there was an agenda to create something uniquely Albertan here, not to deal with the issue of changing our clocks. If we wanted to be simple and not change the clocks, we would have Mountain Standard Time year-round because we're a mountain province, and the states below us – Colorado, Montana, those against the Rocky Mountains – are on Mountain Standard Time. We would be the same time as B.C. in the summer. That's where most people make their airline connections, with the west coast. We would be sharing that time, which would be good for connections, right? We wouldn't be having to get up two hours earlier to fly to Vancouver because they're not going to change their flights. We would now be able to save an hour. We would be watching hockey games – this is huge here – an hour earlier in the evening in the spring.

Mr. Coolahan: So I think you answered my question. You would prefer, rather than as presented in the bill to go to Central Time, to stay on Mountain Standard Time.

Mr. Kirkham: Well, the reason I'm saying that is because that's the way it has been peddled to the people. They said, "We are getting rid of daylight saving time." People I talk to say, "That sounds like a great idea." Then you say to them: "It's going to be called Alberta standard time. It's going to be the same as Central Time." And they're going, "What?" Then they start to see. That's why people are confused. That's why people are now complaining about these things, because they're slowly learning about the times and what's going to be. You know, it's not going to make anything easier north and south whether we call it MST or AST or CST. It doesn't matter what we call it. We're never going to be really in line with the south unless we maintain daylight time, right?

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to ask any questions?
Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kirkham: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Gloria Adams.

Gloria Adams

Ms Adams: Hi there, everybody. Sorry; I brought some homework, okay? Like the good man was talking about, I have . . .

The Chair: Sorry, Ms Adams. If I may, two things. First, if you can introduce yourself for the record. Second, you just need to speak into the microphone so that *Hansard* can hear you and the people tuning in at home.

Ms Adams: I'd like to present you this, okay?

The Chair: Okay. Excellent.

Ms Adams: Apparently, it has come to my mind that if you look on that map, I may be half Canadian, so-called, and half American, but, hey, we share one beautiful, beautiful, beautiful large piece of land, bigger than – what? – Russia. So in order for us to be ticking time bombs or machines like the oil rigs out there and the oil workers and the hockey players and the football players and everything – we share one big, huge mass of land between Canada, the United States, and Mexico, right?

How many time zones do we share? We share Pacific – that was in fourth grade geography lessons – mountain, central, eastern, and Atlantic. Wow. That's better than I can recall. So why would we waste so much time talking about time change, beautiful MLAs? I believe this is just a waste of – excuse me – bloody time talking about this time change. Why are we not squashing it, putting it in file 13?

Like, we have other, bigger things to talk about right now. What is that, MLAs? We have over 200,000 people here in Alberta that are without a job. If you guys up there sitting so pretty want your job come the next election, we're going to scrap this right now. We're going to abolish it right now. We're going to throw it in the garbage or in that pool in front of you.

And, hey, we have better things to talk about besides time change because we've just wasted so much time. I'm an oil field worker that worked at Springer, a manufacturer in Leduc, Alberta. I had a wonderful job. Guess what? Four and a half years ago I was laid off. We had eight workers in our shop. Guess what? Eight workers turned into automatically four. They went down to skeleton staff. I, however, don't have a job because of that. However, I need you, government, to make me a job.

The Chair: I apologize for cutting you off, Ms Adams, and I empathize with the challenges that you're facing. I'm sure that down the line we'll have individuals who can discuss this with you. The mandate of the committee is to discuss the Alberta Standard Time Act, Bill 203 . . .

Ms Adams: I understand. I understand.

The Chair: . . . so I need to pull you back to the conversation at hand.

Ms Adams: But precisely it is a waste of time talking about time. Do you understand? You guys all want your jobs – right? – come next election. Then please tear it up. You're looking at somebody that is unemployed and wants a nice Christmas dinner. That's constructive time.

I want a job. I want to be able to celebrate within this amount of time. I'd like to have a job before Christmas to be thankful, so that I can buy my nephews a beautiful piece of time, a watch maybe for Christmas so that they can tell time – you know? – and celebrate time with the family constructively. I can't celebrate. You know what I feel like doing when it becomes Christmastime? I feel like precisely . . .

The Chair: Ms Adams, I apologize for interrupting. The time allotted has expired for presentations.

Ms Adams: Sorry about that, guys, but it's a waste of time. Please. You're not going to get elected talking about this. Everybody in this room can record this because, hey, we've got other things bigger and better to talk about. You want elections? I can promise you that I am not going to elect you guys because – you know what? – you're not moving forward from this piece of ideology and you're acting very incompetent in front of all of your electors and constituencies. Thanks. Bye.

7:45

The Chair: Thank you, Ms Adams, for your presentation.

Mr. Roth: Would you like your map back?

Ms Adams: No. You'd better study it, because – you know what? – it's a beautiful thing that the United States and Canada share a bunch of time, really.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a comment.

The Chair: Yeah. Absolutely. Go ahead, Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Ms Adams, for your comments. I think that you shared some raw emotions, which I think is a good thing for us to hear. I have to say that I've heard similar things from some of my constituents reminding me that there are much more important things like unemployment and the economy and fiscal prudence and other things that we need to pay attention to and, certainly, questioning me about the time that's being spent on this and in some cases the money that's being spent on this.

We are doing this as a responsibility to the committee that we serve on and the subcommittee that we are now serving on and to the Legislative Assembly. Some of us have our own personal opinions on this as well as we undertake our duties to Albertans to exercise diligence as we try and seek the input of Albertans and reflect the desires of Albertans, and I hope that this committee will get to that point at some point in time.

I know that this presenter has left, but I just wanted to have it on the record that those raw emotions are not that unique in Alberta and that we are hearing those concerns from Albertans saying: "Why are you wasting time? Why are you spending time on this when I'm not so worried about what time it is? I'm worried more about what I'm doing with my time." I wanted to say that in reflection for myself and, I think, to give credence to the comments made by this presenter as well.

Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to add a few comments here, you know, I've certainly heard that people don't think this is a topic worthy of spending time and money on. However, it is the nature of a private member's bill. There have been several private members' bills that have been sent to committee, and this just so happens to be one which elicited a record number of responses. As such, I think we owe the public and we owe Mr. Dang, who presented the bill, the due diligence of carrying out these meetings.

Quite frankly, Mr. Gotfried, not one person on the committee voted against doing this. Not one person in the Legislature voted against doing this. Let's remember that, too.

Thank you.

The Chair: With that being said, Mr. Roth, are there any others? Excellent.

Similar to the same brevity that we had with the morning meetings as well, I would allow for any people who have joined us in the audience who may not have had the opportunity to present but who might have any information to come forward and present on Bill 203.

Mr. Koopmans: Just a quick observation. I was noticing that we have three Calgary MLAs on a subcommittee of five. Were you guys appointed? Did you volunteer? I'm an Edmontonian and am just noticing that. We notice this a lot.

Mr. Coolahan: I'd like to know how I got on this, too.

The Chair: As part of the context, there was a motion that was passed in the previous committee to strike a subcommittee. I'm the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, so likely due to the proxy of that, the member who moved the motion forward appointed me in the motion as the chair. Also, Mr. van Dijken, as deputy chair of the committee, was also appointed to that. It allowed the Conservative caucus to appoint one member and then the ND caucus to appoint two. I'm sitting on the subcommittee as an impartial chair, just as I do with my committee obligations, almost an extension of the Speaker. Mr. van Dijken sits as a UCP member as well.

I can't speak for Mr. Gotfried's appointment by his caucus because that was a decision internally, similar to the ND caucus. I know from what I've heard from members there that it was more who had the interest in being involved in it. I can also say that it was with some financial prudence, because we have meetings in southern Alberta and in Calgary, and all the abroad MLAs have residences up here in Edmonton. I know that for some members that might also have been viewed as a way to be a bit more prudent with finances because the costs would be a bit cheaper for accommodation and travel.

With that being said, this subcommittee that was struck does not have any decision-making capabilities. It can only report back to the committee as a whole what it has observed. The one thing I'll reassure you about that divide – you know, I'm a Calgarian, born and raised, and I understand the conflicts between Calgary and Edmonton – is that the committee as a whole, all members, including ones who are from northern Alberta, like Athabasca and Edmonton and Red Deer, are going to make the ultimate decision.

Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Yeah. Just to follow up on that, I substituted one of our members who lives in Grande Prairie for the Grande Prairie session as well to save costs but also because of his affinity to the community there. Also, we'll have another member, who lives closer to Lethbridge, who, again, will substitute for me. I'll do the Edmonton and Calgary ones, and I know that other members will have substituted other individuals that may have greater affinity to the local. Apologies if we don't have any Edmonton representation here per se, but rest assured that the message will get back to them. They obviously have transcripts and the opportunity to listen in, and some of them may be doing that as well. I think we like to ensure that we're representing all Albertans here. So our geographical, you know, point of election should not be the issue here, I don't think.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thanks.

Mr. L'Heureux: Yeah. I just wanted to clarify. Yes, he's correct. I made a mistake in my time zone math in what I was saying about the mornings in the wintertime. Not to sound wishy-washy, but if I remember right, in Mr. Dang's survey you were given a choice to

choose whether to maintain summer hours or maintain winter hours. Now, I chose to maintain summer hours, which is fine, but either way I would like a fixed time all year round regardless of whether it's Mountain Standard Time. Yeah, it would probably prevent a two-hour gap between B.C. and Alberta – so be it – but as long as I don't have to face the time shift, spring ahead, fall behind, that's all I'm looking for here, you know, something that is consistent and constant and doesn't jump around spring and fall. It was worse when they pushed the fall fall-behind back another month or so to accommodate American states, I believe, that decided to extend their summer hours into the fall even more so.

I'm just for mountain standard or central standard, and the reason why I chose central standard was to make these sports people happier about their so-called loss of the fantastic summer hours. I never see anybody out in the school fields anyway. I live right next to two school fields, and past 7, 8 o'clock they're empty regardless. There's nobody out there, whether it's organized sports or not. There's nobody there. You're just growing more grass. You know what I'm saying? That's the way it is for me. I'd be happy to have Mountain Standard Time. That would suit me just fine.

Thank you.

Mr. Koopmans: I just wanted to clarify. I feel quite heartbroken for that lady out of a job, but she was making an ideological point that she's not going to elect a left-wing government in. But this all started when the centre right or right wing and the remaining Progressive Conservative MLA, Dr. Richard Starke, DVM, started this, and then Thomas Dang took up the cause. So this is not just a left-wing issue. It's a right-wing issue politically. I also go: no tactical advantage for either side, left or right. Everybody is fair game. So the argument from that poor lady that it's a left-wing idea and a left-wing set-up and that Thomas Dang put it in motion: he only put it in motion because Dr. Starke brought it up in public and in the House as an idea. So it's a Conservative or, I guess, old Progressive Conservative and also a New Democratic idea. It's left and right, everybody, in fairness for all sides. I would just like to point that out so that the audience has that on record.

Thank you.

7:55

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. As I said earlier, there is nothing to be gained by approaching this in a partisan manner whatsoever. Absolutely not. This subcommittee has to and is mandated to work on consensus building, and we have to find the best solution. There's just nothing to be gained at all by pushing an agenda. So we're here to talk about what the bill is and how to best articulate to Albertans what it's about and here to listen mainly to how they feel about the bill.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you. I appreciate Member Coolahan's comments as well. Quite frankly, I think she was mad at all of us, so I think it behooves all of us to listen to what she has to say as well.

You know, some Albertans have an opinion that this is not the best use of our time, but again we have our responsibilities and obligations to the subcommittee and the committee and the Legislature. I'd like to think, you know, that very often we disagree. We try not to be disagreeable, and I think I'm actually very proud of the subcommittee and how we've been able to interact thus far and hope that we can carry that forward for the next two sessions and bring very sober and forthright and objective recommendations back to our committee.

Thank you.

Mrs. Thir: There were just a couple of things that I had heard that I thought maybe carried a bit of value.

The Chair: Yeah. I know for Mr. Koopmans I didn't make note of this, but just for our *Hansard* staff who are transcribing this, it's important every time that someone comes up that we introduce ourselves again.

Mrs. Thir: Okay. My name is Lorretta Thir. I'm from Edmonton. It was regarding the driving east-west issue on the highway. You were mentioning about the east-west highways. The sunlight is going to come up and go down anyway. You're going to get the same issues. It's just going to be an hour different. So there are still drivers on those roads that are going to be suffering that sun issue. It's not going to matter if it's standard time or daylight saving time. There are still drivers going to have to suffer that sun issue. That was something that seemed to be not taken into consideration when it was talked about.

The other thing that I noticed: the confusion on the time change. When I was at the town hall meeting, they had a billboard in the corner there. Repealing the Daylight Saving Time Act is what it was called then, and I think that is what led to the confusion right away, because we were really confused at that meeting. I question the ability to choose a time by a majority, the way they said we could, when they were actually taking away our daylight savings time. They said, "No, we're not." I said, "But that's what it says right there." Like, it was very, very confusing.

I'm not really getting why they would want to make Alberta standard time. If we're going to go to Mountain Standard Time or daylight time, shouldn't it be a time that's already there that we're going to be with? Maybe people would understand that a little bit better.

The Chair: Thank you.

Ms Denis: My name is Sheri Denis. I came to listen, but I do have some comments. I hadn't thought about the fact that, yes, the sun is in our eyes in the fall and in the spring, but it was a very good point that we get to do it twice because we just get past that and then we do it again, so I think that is a safety issue.

We are already doing eight months of daylight savings time, so all we're talking about is four months of the year that we're changing.

I have friends in Phoenix. The airlines seem to know what to do with the time schedules even though Phoenix is an anomaly for the whole U.S. other than Hawaii, which is quite separate.

Maybe there aren't kids in the fields playing, but I know that all the people that go camping really like to have a little more fun, especially since they sleep in and they can have a nice day and then the family comes out and enjoys the time.

One gentleman was talking to me in the break about the actual time in the spring and the fall, so he made me look it up. So I just thought I'd comment that on March 11, before the time changes, the sun comes up at 6:58. The next day it would be 6:55; however, we change the time, and it's 7:55. So suddenly we are – depending on what time you go to work, you might be driving in the dark, but by March 23 it's coming up at 7:30. So it's not long, and you get light again in the mornings. So if we kept – like, that is what we're doing already. Sorry.

On June 21 the sun – this is for Calgary, which is way south of us – comes up at 5:21; this is with going ahead. If we kept winter time, it would come up at 4:21. People talk about sleep disturbance. It's not so much the light, which you can buy blackout blinds for, but it's those birds. They start half an hour before dawn, so that would be 4 a.m. Those birds would be waking everybody up.

On November 4 the sun comes up at 8:34. This is on daylight savings. So it's already dark, and then it switches on November 5 to fall back. If you get to work later, it's great, but if you get to work when I get to work, at 7:36, it's when the sun comes up. I'm already at work or halfway there, and the sun is in my eyes. By the 19th it's coming up at 8. So I don't really feel you really lose that much by those four months. On December 21 the sun comes up at 8:37. This is normal time. The kids are already in school. Everybody's at work. So kind of again: what does it matter?

I think that when you look at the actual numbers – and it's only four months of the year you're changing. Like I said, once it was presented, I thought: "Well, that's a great idea. Why are we changing it back with the safety issue in the spring?" The sun twice in your eyes is a significant factor, I think.

Anyway, just my comments. You guys will decide what you will. The people will decide what they will, but I just thought I'd put that out there.

The Chair: Thank you, Ms Denis.

Ms Denis: Okay.

The Chair: Excellent. Well, seeing there are no new presenters and most people in the room have provided us with quite a bit of new information for us to digest, I'm going to take this opportunity to call the meeting. I want to thank everyone who has come to our meeting today and made their presentations. The next meetings will be in Calgary in two days, on September 14, this Thursday.

Would a member of the subcommittee move a motion to adjourn?

Ms Fitzpatrick: I do.

The Chair: All in favour, say aye. The meeting stands adjourned.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 8:03 p.m.]

