



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 Calgary

Thursday, September 14, 2017
9:01 a.m.

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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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9:01 a.m.

Thursday, September 14, 2017

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

Location: Calgary

The Chair: Good morning, everyone, and welcome. I would like to call this public meeting of the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future to order. I would like to recognize that we are meeting here on traditional Treaty 7 territory.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Panda: Good morning. Prasad Panda, MLA, Calgary-Foothills.

The Chair: For the record I would note that Mr. Panda is substituting for Mr. van Dijken.

Before we turn to the business at hand, a few operational items. Please ensure all 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 the first presenter, I would like to make a few comments about Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, that the committee has been tasked with reviewing. Bill 203 proposes that, if passed, as of November 2018 the Daylight Saving Time Act would be repealed and Alberta would remain on Alberta standard time. Alberta standard time is defined as 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 this subcommittee to hold public meetings in four locations in Alberta to gather additional feedback on the bill. The subcommittee has been directed to hold meetings in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge and report back to the committee on what it hears. The committee has also heard oral presentations from a number of key stakeholders on Bill 203. A decision has 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 the subcommittee, please provide them to the committee clerk. The committee clerk will keep track of presentation times and will signal when you have one minute remaining in your presentation and when your presentation time has expired.

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

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Kevin Wolfe.

Mr. Wolfe: Good morning. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present. I'm an individual citizen not representing . . .

The Chair: Sorry, Mr. Wolfe. Just for the sake of people at home, please introduce yourself for the record as well.

Mr. Wolfe: Sorry. I'm Kevin Wolfe.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you.

Kevin Wolfe

Mr. Wolfe: Okay. I'm an individual citizen not representing any specific group other than the parents and grandparents of this province.

First off, I'd like to say that I'm not supportive of Bill 203. I do support daylight savings time in the spring and summer for health reasons. The late evenings provide more time for activities and keep Albertans active and fit. However, I do believe that it is important that we switch back to Mountain Standard Time for the winter months.

I have two primary concerns if we don't switch our clocks back. The first concern is that it will affect many businesses that conduct business outside of Alberta both nationally and globally. You will receive and you have received many comments from affected groups, and I will leave it to them to present their concerns. Why would we make Alberta more difficult to do business with at this time?

My second concern is safety for our children. By continuing daylight savings time in the winter, we will rob from our children the ability to walk or ride safely each morning to school in daylight. I'll provide you in the first two pages with the bell times for our public schools in Calgary. On average, the starting time for an elementary school on this list is 8:28 a.m. Sunrise for November 1 this year is 8:28 a.m., which, of course, gets progressively later and later until December 22. It would be February 25 before the sunrise is again at 8:28 if we don't switch our clocks. This would result in our children going to school in the dark for four of their 10 months each school year. For 40 per cent of their school year they will be walking to school or arriving at school in darkness. Let's remember that this is the time that school starts, not the time they must leave the house.

I've also attached a map for a centrally located school here in Calgary showing the walk zone for kindergarten to grade 6 students. This is generally a zone with a maximum distance of 2.4 kilometres. I walked from 57th Avenue to the school last weekend, and it took me 10 minutes. I think it would take a dawdling grade 2 student 15 to 20 minutes to walk. This means that they must leave the home at 8 a.m., and many will cross one to two busy streets in rush hour. Having our young children walk to school in darkness only reduces their safety and greatly increases the chances of accidents.

We have taken great steps to encourage children to walk to local community schools, trying to keep busing at a minimum. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars building community elementary schools. Why would we now make it more dangerous for our children to get to these schools? As a result, I would expect many will be driven instead, further increasing our carbon footprint while decreasing our children's activity levels and greatly increasing the automotive traffic around these schools. For many students that are bused, it will also mean increased chances of accidents as a result of reduced visibility around bus stops and at schools.

We have seen the statistics that accidents increase the week after we change the clocks, mostly in the spring. However, what are the statistics and where are the studies on accident levels with children walking or being bused to school in darkness? This was not addressed in the presentation of the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals, whom you met with. Students will not be seeing the sun for well over an hour and a half since they left home for school if Bill 203 is passed. What are the statistics and where are the studies on how well schoolchildren learn while it is still dark outside? I have noted a study for your review that concludes that natural light improves learning. There have been studies completed that children learn better when they get fresh air and exercise. This must be considered as well. Why are we trading a few days of body adjustment for four months of increased danger in getting our children to school?

As well, windows and natural sunlight in a classroom are important, particularly for elementary school age children. Sunlight helps them wake up and starts their brains and gets them ready to learn. This will not be the case if we remain on daylight savings time year-round. Why couldn't we have the school boards put in a system-wide professional day on the Monday after we move the clocks in March to help with the transition rather than adding one to spring break or the May long weekend? Let's think of other ways we can help our families adjust the week after we shift.

The solution is not starting school later. This reduces the problem in November and February but not in December and January. As well, it would create a whole host of other issues, including parents now requiring before school daycare or having to start work later and causing the need for after school care. This would lead to many unintended consequences.

If we must make a change, then why would we do it independently from the rest of the continent? The concerns and complaints that have brought this bill forward are not unique to Alberta. They are not backed by scientific research and seem common across all jurisdictions that change the clock. We have not completed the required studies and consultations and do not have sufficient information to make such a radical change at this time.

9:10

What are the positions of the other provinces and states? Apparently, 24 other jurisdictions are considering the change, but where do they stand on the issue? This type of decision should only be made concurrently with other jurisdictions after complete consultation and analysis.

The Minister of Education has announced that we have just under 600,000 students, from kindergarten to grade 12, registered in the province this year. It is your responsibility to protect those that cannot protect themselves. If this bill is approved, you will expose our schoolchildren to excessive risk and will have failed to protect them.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Good morning, Mr. Wolfe. Thank you for your presentation. It was great. You said that you were here not representing anyone but, you know, the grandparents and parents of the province. Did you notice a change in your children and grandchildren when the clocks changed? Did they have more difficulty being alert, staying awake?

Mr. Wolfe: No. My kids are in their 20s now, thus the grandparent comment. I think that natural sunlight is more important to get them

up and get them going in the morning – I mean, teenagers sleep – that side of it. I think that their body clock adjusts to the sunlight.

The advantage of the hour after school in winter. Other than your cross-country skiing team, I mean, all the sports and activities are indoors: volleyball, basketball, gymnastics. So it's okay that it's darker after school.

Mr. Coolahan: I like your suggestion of a professional day perhaps following the change of the clocks. Have you ever broached that with your school board?

Mr. Wolfe: No. I'm not involved with the school boards. To be honest, I'm surprised they haven't presented to you. Maybe they have.

Mr. Coolahan: It's not a bad idea. We had somebody else suggest that in a different city.

Mr. Wolfe: Yeah. I'm just saying that we need to look for other ways to help families.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Great. Thank you, Mr. Wolfe. I'm very impressed with the diligence you've put into this. Being a bit of an anal Virgo myself, I'm very appreciative that you've taken the time to do such a robust and thorough analysis of the implications.

I've got a couple of questions for you. I mean, the average to-school time is 8:28. The return-from-school time: even with the change of not using daylight savings time and going back to Mountain Standard Time, from what I can see and from your analysis, would the children still be going home in daylight then?

Mr. Wolfe: Oh, absolutely. That's the way the system is now. There's enough time to get home in daylight when we switch our clocks to standard time.

Mr. Gotfried: Right. So by sticking with the current system, we would be facilitating daylight going to school for the majority, and also still the majority or all of the students would have the opportunity to return home . . .

Mr. Wolfe: In daylight.

Mr. Gotfried: . . . in daylight, which, to me, sounds like an opportunity for greater safety.

Your comments about the daylight effect on students are also interesting. We hear lots about the problem of adjusting to this hour of time change, but we also know that the basis of that is circadian rhythms. I spent about 20 years of my career travelling back and forth through 14-hour time changes, and it was always daylight that was the factor in adjusting. I just wondered about your comments about that with respect to students. Is it the clock or is it the daylight that has the most effect on people, from your perspective?

Mr. Wolfe: Oh, it's the daylight, I believe. Absolutely.

Mr. Gotfried: Okay. That's good.

You also mentioned, you know, obviously, the school boards. It's interesting. We had certainly invited some groups. I would have been interested to hear from some of the school safety patrols and other groups as well who will be dealing with the fact that they'll be putting those children out, who are sometimes a bit older than the younger ones, in safety patrol roles, school patrol roles at the crosswalks and whatnot. Do you have any concerns? I don't know

if any of your kids were ever in the safety patrol, but would you have concerns for those ones who are actually at the front lines and in care of many of the kids at the busy crosswalks?

Mr. Wolfe: Yeah. You know, again, I think of my own kids. The school crossing tends to be close to the school, where there are a number of people. My concern, to be honest with you, is the kids coming farther out from that walk zone. They're the ones crossing, probably, more major streets in darkness, which really concerns me as much as the activity around the school. So that's my bigger concern because they just can't cover all the crossing areas.

Mr. Gotfried: My kids are about the same age as yours. Do you find that kids always go on controlled walkways, or do they sometimes take shortcuts?

Mr. Wolfe: Yeah. Absolutely, they will find the quickest way to school.

Mr. Gotfried: Yes. I've got one right near my house. There's not even a crosswalk there, and that's where all the kids cross. It's not even a controlled or a marked crosswalk, and that's where the majority of the kids cross.

Mr. Wolfe: Particularly, I mean, junior high and above.

Mr. Gotfried: Yeah.

Mr. Wolfe: Obviously, elementary schools, I think, are a little bit more – they walk with their parents.

Mr. Gotfried: I very much share your concerns, Mr. Wolfe, so I really thank you for bringing that to my attention. Certainly, it's a comment and, I think, a consideration that many people have spoken to me about as well. I haven't seen it demonstrated quite so thoroughly. I think this information certainly helps us. I hope it's the kind of information that we can share with our colleagues and Albertans as we go forward so that everybody can make a decision as well informed. You've helped us to achieve that, so thank you.

Mr. Wolfe: Thank you.

The only other thing I'd add, I mean, is that I did say that if the rest of the continent moves, obviously, I think we should move. Then we do have an issue. Before, remember, we were on standard time, so it was not an issue. What's being proposed here is daylight savings time, which is totally new, you know, for that time zone, so we've never had to deal with that. If the rest of the continent shifts, we have . . .

Mr. Gotfried: Alberta standard time, which is the same as CST, Central Standard Time year-round, so you're right. If we were to just eliminate daylight savings time and go to Mountain Standard Time, we wouldn't have that issue. However, as we've heard from many people, there'd be a big complaint on those long summer nights.

Mr. Wolfe: And I'm supportive of daylight savings time, absolutely. I do realize that if the whole continent shifts, we do have some serious discussions we're going to have around this.

Mr. Gotfried: But for the time being status quo is actually you'd really like this to stay.

Mr. Wolfe: Correct.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you very much.

The Chair: Ms Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Good morning, Mr. Wolfe, and thank you very much for your presentation. Certainly, the things you talked about are things that I have thought about and asked questions about during our consultation. I lived in the north for a number of years, and my kids went to school in the dark, and they came home in the dark. It didn't stop them from being outside and playing after school in the dark.

If you look at our province, if you go from north to south, in High Level they have six hours, 19 minutes, and four seconds of daylight. The number of hours of daylight isn't going to change on the 21st of December. That's what it is. But the time does change every single day in terms of the sunrise and sunset.

I believe you said that your kids are in their 20s. When they were in school, did they walk to school, like, when they were in elementary school?

Mr. Wolfe: Yes, they did.

Ms Fitzpatrick: How far did they walk?

Mr. Wolfe: Six blocks.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Six blocks. Did you have any concerns about them walking to school?

Mr. Wolfe: Yes. We had traffic concerns. At that time they were making some traffic changes in our neighbourhood. We didn't have any issues, obviously, with the clock, so no.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. Did you have conversations with your kids about what those challenges were and how to deal with them?

Mr. Wolfe: Absolutely.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. Okay. As I said, there are kids in this province who are going to school in the dark with the time as it is right now.

Mr. Wolfe: No matter what happens. Yes. I appreciate that.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. The other thing that I certainly have thought about in terms of kids going to school was: are there issues other than traffic? Somebody did express some concerns about safety at one of the other consultation meetings. Do you have any other concerns? In terms of safety is it specifically crossing busy intersections?

Mr. Wolfe: No. No, not at all. I think visibility, you know, the kids getting on and off the bus at wherever they're getting on. I think that's an important aspect. I think you're going to increase the traffic around the schools greatly, so I think that will become a bigger problem. Now when they can walk, it's reduced traffic, and I think that's an important side of it. If people are going to be taking their kids – and I think the number of kids getting driven will increase. If it's dark, the traffic around the schools will increase greatly, and that just adds to the confusion and the issues.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. But that's your assumption, that traffic will increase if they're going to school in the dark.

Mr. Wolfe: Absolutely. That's why I think we need more studies, because it is my assumption. Correct. Yeah.

9:20

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. All right.

Mr. Wolfe: You might compare, as you talked about, a school in High Level with the same walking distance as a school in Lethbridge, I mean, if we wanted to do some studies and see what the percentage of, you know, driving is, taking that into consideration. That might be a good way to test that hypothesis.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, I have to say that I visit all the schools in my riding, and there's always lots of traffic, whether it's daylight or it's not. But all of the school zones are limited to lower speed limits. To me, the safety concern is addressed with lower speed limits and people knowing that they're driving in a school zone. I certainly appreciate your concerns. For me, because I knew my kids went to school in the dark and came home, we had lots of discussion about crossing the street. They all had reflectors on their winter clothes, as did all the other kids.

Mr. Wolfe: Yeah. I can assure you that in the south that's not as common.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, it isn't, but certainly I see kids in Lethbridge that have reflectors.

Mr. Wolfe: I think it's more common now.

Ms Fitzpatrick: They're going to school, and it's still daylight. Okay. Thank you very much. Those are all my questions.

The Chair: Excellent. Any additional questions?

Excellent. Thank you very much, Mr. Wolfe, for your thorough presentation as well.

Mr. Wolfe: Great. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jennifer Carscallen.

Mrs. Carscallen: Hi there.

The Chair: Good morning.

Mrs. Carscallen: Good morning. I have some handouts here that I was told to bring.

The Chair: Before you proceed, introduce yourself for the record and for the sake of those listening at home.

Jennifer Carscallen

Mrs. Carscallen: My name is Jennifer Carscallen. I'm a resident of Calgary and a concerned citizen and a mother of a school-age child. I certainly don't have as polished of a presentation as my predecessor, but I did bring this handout just to kind of help illustrate and discuss, you know, some of the points with regard to sunrise and sunset that concern me with the proposed Bill 203.

I'm going to start out by saying that I don't believe the public has been totally properly informed about Bill 203 because when you actually bring it up and talk to people about it – sorry; I thought I only had five minutes, so I kept it really succinct – they're, like: "Yeah. I hate changing the clocks. Abolish it." I actually don't disagree with that. I wouldn't mind staying on the same time all year-round. It is a bit of a disruption. But most people aren't aware that the actual intention of this bill is to stay on daylight savings year-round, not abolish daylight savings. It's worded as, "Let's get rid of daylight savings," when really it's: let's adopt it year-round. The minute you start telling people what the implications of that are, all of a sudden their opinions start changing, and that's been

my experience talking with quite a lot of other, you know, people about this topic.

What I did is actually laid out a table here that shows our two major centres, where most of our population in the province resides. To try to keep it succinct, I just kept it to Calgary and Edmonton. If we had adopted Bill 203 already this year, these would have been the sunrises and sunsets this year. I took the winter and the summer solstices, which would be the two extremes in the calendar. You can see what they were currently at, and then the proposed is what Bill 203 would have turned the sunrises and sunsets into. I've highlighted in red what I consider concerning issues. I also have taken it a step further and said: well, what if we actually do abolish daylight savings? If we stay on Mountain Standard Time year-round, what would that look like? It gives you the three kinds of options right there laid out.

I guess my first issue with Bill 203 is what was previously discussed, which is this late sunrise in the winter. If we were already on Alberta standard time, on December 21 of this year the sun would not be rising until 9:48 in the morning in Edmonton and at 9:37 a.m. in Calgary. My main issue with that is that I would much rather have the sunset a little earlier than have it not come up until 10 a.m., and the reason for that is that my daughter walks to school. She's got about a six-block walk to school. It's through a nice neighbourhood, it's fairly quiet, but there's no way I would send her to school by herself predawn to walk to school.

I also am really concerned because it coincides with rush hour, so we've got rush-hour traffic happening in the dark along with a bunch of kids walking to school in the dark. I understand Ms Fitzpatrick's argument, but frankly the majority of Albertans live in the two major centres, and it's just not the same mentality when it comes to people watching out and crossing the street in the cities, I don't think, compared to, like, more rural areas and the more far north areas. I think more rural areas are a little bit more safety conscious around kids walking and reflective gear and things like that, whereas the cities tend to be a little bit more laissez-faire with that kind of stuff. I don't think I would put my kid in a safety jacket or a reflective jacket to walk six blocks to school; I would just drive her. Yeah.

That's my one concern, obviously, the children coming to and from school.

Also, just having rush hour. I feel that, you know, we're going to be up for more traffic accidents happening when rush hour is happening, again, predawn.

I put in here: impacts to farming operations. I don't know a lot about agriculture, but it seems to me like there might be some issues with dairy farmers and farming operations, where things need to get going right in the morning. I feel that it could cause them a lot more energy and lighting concerns to be able to do their operations when the sun's not coming up until almost 10 o'clock.

And then I'm going to flip over to kind of the time change stuff. That is my other main concern. Right now we're one hour off British Columbia; we're one hour off Saskatchewan. It kind of makes sense because we're also on the same time zone as the rest of North America as far as Mountain Standard Time goes. I don't know why we would shift to be closer to Saskatchewan versus B.C. I don't say that as any slight against Saskatchewan; it's just that B.C. is our major centre. Vancouver is our nearest major port and nearest major city outside of Alberta. It's also where a lot of shipping, traffic, broadcasting, all of that comes from, the Vancouver side. So that two-hour time shift seems to me to be problematic. If anything, I would go the other way, where we'd be closer in time to them.

Also, as you know, there's a lot of vacation travel between Calgary and B.C. in the Kootenays area and cottagers and people

going back and forth. If you've ever been to Cranbrook or Invermere, you'll find that there are more Calgarians there than there are B.C. people. So that's going to be problematic, too, to be off time from them in those winter months by two hours.

At the end of the day, if the idea is to abolish this time change, if that's the problem, then, you know, I would suggest that it'd be more preferable to go to just Mountain Standard Time and stay on Mountain Standard Time. We don't have to create a whole new time zone. You know, frankly, don't we make fun of Newfoundland for having their own time zone? That was a bit of a joke.

I actually laid out what it would look like. I know a lot of people like having the sun stay up quite late in the summer. I get that. But I actually don't think it would be that obscene to have it go down at 8:48 or – oh, sorry. What is it here? In the summer it would go down at 9 instead of 10-ish if we stayed on Mountain Standard Time. You know, we have a lot of, like, dark skies celebrations and fireworks celebrations. I have an eight-year-old, and she still can't stay up till then because they have to happen at midnight or 11 o'clock at night for it to be dark enough for her to even gaze at the stars or enjoy the fireworks. You know, a lot of the world's sun goes down at 7 or 8, and it's actually quite lovely in the summer months to have a little bit of dark sky. I don't see the harm with the sun going down at 9.

There is a bit of an issue with the sun coming up at 4 o'clock in the morning, though, so I've highlighted that. I guess if you're a golfer, that's a great thing. But I can see why we have adopted this daylight savings, because it does kind of buffer those two things.

In conclusion to my argument, I don't think that Bill 203 is the preferable choice out of those three choices for the arguments that I've outlined. I would suggest that we would just either stay currently on mountain standard, switching to Mountain Daylight Time, or adopt Mountain Standard Time entirely if the intention is to get rid of the time change.

9:30

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you, Mrs. Carscallen. Before I open it up to questions, I'll note on your comment about the safety vest that I couldn't even convince my seven-year-old to wear his coat yesterday. I could only envision trying to convince someone to wear that.

I'll open it up for questions. Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your presentation, Mrs. Carscallen. It was great. Just as a bit of background, the reason that Mr. Dang wrote this bill the way he did, which is to move to Central Standard Time, had to do with his consultation. In his assessment, more people wanted those long evenings. I also believe that the golf industry is certainly opposed to going any other way because, as they told us in a presentation, most of their business happens after work, not before work. That's one of the reasons.

You've obviously done a lot of work on this and had a lot of thought about this. What I'm curious about: anecdotally, when you're speaking with your neighbours and your friends, what do they think?

Mrs. Carscallen: Anecdotally? Nobody likes that time change. Everybody is a bit annoyed by that hour shift twice a year.

Mr. Coolahan: That seems to be the one constant: I don't like changing the clock.

Mrs. Carscallen: Like I said before, when you bring it up, people are, like: "Oh, yeah, I'm totally for it. I'm totally for it." "Well, do you understand that if we stay on daylight saving all year round, the summers will be the same as the summers are now with the sunrises

and the sunsets but that it's going to affect us in the winters?" They're, like: "Yeah, yeah, I get an extra hour of sunlight in the winter." "Yeah, but then the sun doesn't come up until 10 o'clock in the morning." You know, for most people, actually everybody I've talked to, when you give them the choice of the extra hour between 4 and 5 in the afternoon and the extra hour between 9 and 10 in the morning, it's a no-brainer. Everyone wants that morning time and for all the safety reasons that I've laid out.

You asked the question: if we stay with the current, are the kids still coming home in daylight? Yes, the sun is not setting until 4:16 or 4:31 in Calgary, so they get to go to school at dawn, and they get to come home in sunlight. I would suggest that that's more important.

Mr. Coolahan: I do appreciate your point about some misunderstanding about what the bill is about. We have come across that in all of our committees here. You're right. They're very passionate about turning the clocks or stopping the changing of the clocks, but many people don't understand that we have to land on one or the other.

Mrs. Carscallen: Yeah.

Mr. Coolahan: This is part of getting that information out there, so I appreciate you bringing that forward.

Mrs. Carscallen: Yeah. I think that when you lay it out on the table for them, it really kind of clarifies things and makes it clear. It's a bit of a brain twist sometimes.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thanks for that. That's great. Thank you so much.

Mr. Gottfried: Thank you, Mrs. Carscallen, for coming. You seem to have some very thorough presentations between Mr. Wolfe and yourself. I've got a similar chart to yours, so we are much on the same thought lines. It's interesting, too, in some of the charting I did that the latest the sun will rise in January actually goes to, like, 9:40 in the morning, a few minutes later even, interestingly. I don't know. I'm not an astrologist or astronomer, but it actually gets a bit later.

For further illustration, in some of the work I did, Fort McMurray will be 10 a.m., and Grande Prairie will be 10:20. For High Level it would be 10:37 in the morning. To Mr. Wolfe's point earlier, if those circadian rhythms and the daylight hours do affect our children, there are some considerations other than even morning safety for those populations that are further north.

We've talked a lot about safety versus preferences, people not wanting to give up the daylight hours in the evening. Just as a point of interest, the golf community didn't say that they wanted to support Bill 203. What they told us was that they would prefer either to go to Bill 203 or that the status quo would not affect them whatsoever because the clocks change in November and March. Last time I checked, most golf courses in Alberta weren't open. They told us it would have no effect on them to stay with the status quo.

You also noted about the traffic in the cities. I think that one of the issues, as you pointed out, is that the traffic in our cities is different than that in some of the smaller towns and rural areas. It doesn't mean that it's any more safe for a young child to walk on the roads of the rural areas and smaller towns, but what it means is that traffic issues are probably less. So that's a comment there.

Mrs. Carscallen: In rural areas there's a much greater proportion of bused children compared to children that walk to school.

Mr. Gotfried: Good point.

Mrs. Carscallen: I guess that was kind of what I meant to say. You know, unless you're in a very small town with a small radius, a lot of the kids are being bused from the rural areas as well whereas certainly in the inner cities and stuff there's a lot of walking in traffic.

Mr. Gotfried: And I suspect that the typical rural street, even a main street, isn't as busy as Elbow Drive, for example, as was one of the examples given by Mr. Wolfe.

My question to you, then. You're obviously against Bill 203, and if we were to go to one time zone, you're saying that you'd rather just stay with Mountain Standard Time. Would the status quo be a reasonable option for you as well?

Mrs. Carscallen: Yeah. I'd be fine with the status quo as well. I mean, frankly, the one-hour time shift isn't really that big of a hurdle to get over. If you travel once or twice a year and switch a time zone, you have to do that, too, right?

Mr. Gotfried: I myself am a fireworks lover and go to Globalfest every year, and of course we have to wait until dusk arrives at just after 9:30, which changes, oddly, over the 10-day period of that event. Then, of course, I guess we could enjoy the aurora borealis a little bit more as families if the sun were to set earlier.

Mrs. Carscallen: Certainly, we've never been to Globalfest because I can't keep my kid up that late to watch the fireworks.

Mr. Gotfried: See? There would be a benefit.

Mrs. Carscallen: Yeah. I also forgot to mention it, but it is really quite hard as a parent to put young kids to bed when the sun is still up in the summer. That's the issue for the vast majority of the summer, too. Our sun sets quite late here. I know we're in a northern latitude.

Mr. Gotfried: As a parent of three children I know that. It's really easy to get them to bed in the wintertime and not so easy in the summertime. So there's a fringe benefit there, maybe, for parents although those hours tend to be spent in backyards and outdoors.

I just want to thank you for your presentation today. It's really, I think, illuminating for us that we're hearing from parents and concerned individuals about safety being an issue. If we all have to go out and buy high-reflective jackets for our kids, I would suggest that maybe those are good stocks to buy now if, in fact, that were to transpire. Thank you for taking the time to join us today and for your insights.

Mrs. Carscallen: Thank you.

The Chair: MLA Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you very much for your presentation. The reason that we're here is to listen to what Albertans have to say. As the bill stands, it proposes to go to Central Time. When our committee finishes the consultation, we'll put a report forward, and it goes back to the Legislature for further debate. This consultation that we've done informs that debate.

There were almost 14,000 people who provided responses initially to this. In fact, Mr. Dang, I think, had 26,000 people who had responded to him initially. When I was first elected, the first day that I was in my office, a number of people came through the door, and they said: stop changing the clocks. I didn't realize it was

such an issue until people started to come and say that to me. So we certainly have to take that into consideration and then make a decision about where things are going to go.

I really appreciate your input. Certainly, you felt that I was arguing one side or the other. I'm just expressing my experience. I lived in Yellowknife for almost eight years, and my kids walked to school all the time. When my younger daughter was in kindergarten, I actually walked her to school even though it was just a couple of blocks. I know that things are a bit different in the bigger cities; I know that traffic is heavier. I did check with my colleague, who is from Calgary, who shared with me that, in fact, school zones and some neighbourhood speed limits have been reduced and have been for a long time. Certainly, I would hope that anybody who's driving in a school zone when kids are likely to be going to school should be even probably slower than the posted speed limit.

Again, I want to thank you for your presentation. It helps to inform us in terms of where things can go. Thank you.

9:40

Mrs. Carscallen: Absolutely. I wasn't trying to be argumentative either. I do understand. My mother lives in Rankin Inlet, so, you know, I understand the north. It's kind of a different ball game up there altogether.

Mr. Panda: Thank you for taking the time to come and talk to us. You and the previous speaker, Mr. Wolfe, both educated us on this, you know. Sometimes it's not the number of people who submitted to Mr. Dang; it's about how informed they were about it. Sometimes they just said, "Okay; get rid of it because this change is irritating," but they didn't have the benefit of having the full information. Without realizing the impacts of it, we just can't make laws. People like you and Mr. Wolfe have taken that responsibility seriously as a civic responsibility and are stepping forward to educate people. So don't get discouraged by the number of submissions against your argument.

Thank you for taking the time.

Mrs. Carscallen: Great. Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Any other questions?

Seeing none, thank you so much, Mrs. Carscallen.

All right. We have currently gone through the members who are scheduled for the first block here. The next block starts at 10:45. I'll utilize this as an opportunity to recess until that time, and then we will reconvene at 10:45.

[The subcommittee adjourned from 9:42 a.m. to 10:29 a.m.]

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

For the sake of those who are joining us now, if we can introduce ourselves for the record. I'll start with myself. My name is Graham Sucha. I'm the chair of the subcommittee and also the MLA for the constituency of Calgary-Shaw. I'll start with the member on my right.

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

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

Mr. Panda: Good morning. Prasad Panda, MLA, Calgary-Foothills.

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

The Chair: Excellent.

Just a reminder to presenters that you'll have five minutes to make your presentations. If you have any supplementary materials that you wish to present to the subcommittee, if you haven't already done so, present them to the committee clerk. The committee clerk will keep track of presentation times and will signal when you have one minute remaining in your presentation and when your presentation expires.

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

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jason Sokolosky.

Jason Sokolosky

Mr. Sokolosky: Hi. My name is Jason Sokolosky. I'm a long-time resident of Calgary. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to present today.

To be clear, my position is that I would like to see the province reject the Alberta standard time proposal as outlined in Bill 203. I'm a strong supporter of DST and do not want change. The current system allows for reasonable winter daylight hours and extends the summer hours. My two main arguments against AST are how it will impact residents living within Alberta and how AST will impact the transport of goods, services, and people across Alberta's borders.

To address the first point, the impact on the residents of Alberta will mean dark winters. The table in the presentation shows some sunrise and sunset times for Alberta. I've chosen December 1 as a typical winter day and, of course, December 21 as the shortest day. In Calgary the sun will not rise until a quarter after 9 on a typical day and on the shortest day will not rise until almost 9:40. In Edmonton the situation will be worse, where we won't see a sunrise until almost 9:30 and then on the shortest day a quarter to 10.

The implication of this, as I see it, is that sun rising will not naturally prompt people to start their day. Children will go to school in the dark, which is dangerous, and many people will travel to work in darkness. The coldest part of the day, which is typically before sunrise, will occur as people travel to work and school, which is not advantageous. Both Russia from 2011 to 2014 and the U.K. from 1968 to 1971 tried year-round summer hours. Both abandoned them as the dark winters proved unpopular.

My other argument against AST is how it could potentially impact trade and transport across Alberta's borders. My view is that it would make it more complicated. When the United States changed their DST schedule in 2007, Alberta promptly did the same. This made it easier for trade and travel to happen between Alberta and the United States as a synchronized change of time is important.

The map below that I've included shows what North America would look like with Alberta having AST in the winter. As you can see on the map, I've shown that the green region is the time zone that Alberta will be in and the blue to the left is Pacific Time. Whenever someone crosses the border between Alberta and Pacific Standard Time, there will be a two-hour difference and a one-hour difference going north and south. So every time people go into the Pacific Time zone, I think it will be a big hit, and it will potentially make trade and travel much more complicated.

Currently, with a one-hour consistent difference, it is easy for trade and travel to occur between Alberta and major cities in the Pacific Time zone such as Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas. If Alberta adopts AST, there will be a significant two-hour difference in the winter, which

changes to a one-hour difference in the summer, confusing people and complicating trade. California alone has 39 million people and a GDP of \$2.2 trillion, larger than Canada. It makes economic sense to keep Alberta within an easy reach of these important international cities to enable trade and investment. Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, and Idaho share both our western values and our Mountain Time zone. If Alberta were to adopt AST, we would be effectively isolated from these states.

Of extreme importance to travel is the city of Denver, sister city to Calgary, in the same time zone as Alberta. Denver International Airport is a hub for many airlines. Having Denver within the same time zone as Alberta makes travel easier throughout all of North America.

10:35

We should also consider our western neighbour, British Columbia. In 2005 exports between the provinces totalled \$22 billion. Increasing our time difference to two hours would hamper trade. Alberta and B.C. residents routinely travel between the two provinces to visit family and friends and for recreation such as skiing, skidooning, golfing, visiting wineries, and camping. A two-hour winter difference would complicate this travel.

Lastly, I wanted to point out that Amazon's HQ2 RFP is a timely opportunity worth considering as the city of Calgary, a strong contender, is drafting their response. Having Amazon's headquarters in Calgary would be a great opportunity for both the city and the province, with capital investment in the \$5 billion range and compensation to employees in the \$25 billion range. Winning this would go a long way to diversifying our economy.

Logistics is called out as a key factor in the RFP, which regards easy access to Seattle, New York, San Francisco, and Washington as important. Creating our own unique time zone complicates travel to these cities and dramatically complicates logistics.

In summary, AST would make Alberta a dark place, isolating us from business opportunities. Please do not enact it.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Mr. Sokolosky, for your presentation. Can I ask what your profession is?

Mr. Sokolosky: I'm an engineer.

Mr. Coolahan: Engineer. We've heard many of these things in travelling to Grande Prairie and Edmonton and even prior in the larger committee, what you said. Definitely we'll take heed of all of it. As an engineer do you see any benefit to being closer to central Canada in time, the Toronto area?

Mr. Sokolosky: I work for a large local cable company, and I see that most of our interaction is with the western part, B.C. in particular. I think it makes more sense for Alberta to be aligned with our western counterparts than it does to try to be, you know, closer to Toronto or Ontario.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. In summary, then, are you in favour of the status quo, keeping the time change?

Mr. Sokolosky: Yes. Sorry if that wasn't clear. I'm in favour of the status quo. I think that the current system of DST we have does a reasonable job of addressing how we're going to have daylight and when we're going to have it in winter hours and also gives us an extended summer hour time as well.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Certainly.

You know, many jurisdictions are considering stopping changing the clocks. I think what we've learned a lot through these hearings, too, is that unilateral change seems to be the issue. I mean, if we could all sort of come together and decide, if B.C. wanted to do so – the Northwest Territories and many of the states are looking at changing, certainly, so it seems to be a common theme going around that unilateral change, doing it in isolation is actually the issue.

Thank you so much for your presentation.

Mr. Sokolosky: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Sokolosky. I really appreciate your diligence and the information you provided here. You've identified the sort of challenges with having a two-hour time difference from the western provinces and states, which I think is key, as you mentioned, with the size of some of those markets. We've heard from some of our other presenters, WestJet particularly, about the challenges for them in terms of the hubbing opportunities and, really, the potential of us losing our Calgary hub to Vancouver, quite frankly. If that becomes the best business decision, I guess we would expect them to make that.

One of the other things I was looking at are some of the advantages even of travelling east with the two-hour time difference. If you go from Alberta to Toronto or Montreal, let's say, you kind of buy yourself a couple of hours of time, a little bit, in terms of having that two-hour time difference in terms of departure and arrival times. Even better, when you're coming back, you take that three-hour and 40 minute or four-hour flight and get yourself two hours back. So a businessperson can leave Toronto at, say, 7 a.m. and still arrive in Calgary at 9 a.m. to do business, which I think is very important for interaction. Had you had any consideration about the time zones going to the east as opposed to going west as well?

Mr. Sokolosky: Yeah. I had considered that. I think a lot of our business opportunities are more westerly as opposed to easterly.

The other thing about the current proposal is that I think part of the objection to it is just that we would be sort of doing something very unique to everybody else, so if we could somehow maybe have a consistent two-hour difference between us and Toronto year-round, then I think that would be worth considering. But for half of the year having a two-hour difference or, you know, having one difference, and the other half of the year having a different difference I think would complicate things, and I don't think it would actually serve our best interests.

Mr. Gotfried: So, again, you're saying that, obviously, you're not in support of Bill 203 and you're quite satisfied with the status quo at this point in time, given that the majority of North America does not change. Is that correct?

Mr. Sokolosky: That's right. Yeah.

Mr. Gotfried: Okay. Great.

Thank you for your time today.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Thank you so much for your presentation.

Mr. Sokolosky: Thank you for your time.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jeremy Freeborn.

Jeremy Freeborn

Mr. Freeborn: Hello, everyone. My name is Jeremy Freeborn. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

After significant thought I am very concerned about one key feature of Bill 203, and that is moving Alberta to the Central Time zone for four months of the year. My current profession is freelance sportswriter. I deal with the Edmonton Oilers, Calgary Flames, and the Los Angeles Kings in the National Hockey League. Staying up to date with each of the teams I cover is a requirement of my job. With Bill 203 coming into place, I will be up an hour later watching sports on a regular basis and, in many cases when a game is on the west coast, up until at least midnight.

One organization that has already expressed their concern with the bill is the Edmonton Oilers. With the Oilers and Flames being in the Pacific division, they travel frequently to the west coast. If the 2017-18 regular season was in effect for 2018-19, the Oilers and Flames would have 11 games each starting at 9 p.m. or later from November to March. There would also be additional games at night from the NHL, NBA, and NFL that would end an hour later than normal.

Edmonton Oilers senior vice-president of corporate communications and government relations Tim Shipton sent me an e-mail yesterday expressing the Oilers' concern with the bill. He believes Bill 203 will hurt the Oilers' and Flames'

television broadcast numbers and home attendance – two very important business lines for the organization. This also makes it harder to grow the game as young fans have less access to Oilers and Flames hockey games starting at such a late time.

All in all, not a good change for the game of hockey in Alberta.

One reason why people support Bill 203 is because it inconveniences them for a couple of days a year. It takes people some time to get their body back into sync after the time change. However, for me it will be an inconvenience on a regular basis for four months of the year and not just two days of the year.

While reading one message board from the *Edmonton Journal* in the summer, one person expressed their concern about the late night Oilers games. Another contributor responded back saying: why not PVR the games? The person responded saying that watching a taped hockey game is like watching a taped forecast of the Weather Network. The bottom line is that watching these games live is extremely important not just for the hard-core hockey fan but sportswriters like me.

10:45

With Bill 203 in place, it will make the lives of many Albertans much more difficult. Other Albertans who have issues with Bill 203 are those in the air industry, parents who have children walking to school because there will be darker mornings, and those in Alberta who deal directly with businesses in British Columbia and on the west coast of the United States.

The rivalry between the Oilers and the Flames is huge on the ice, and we all know that. With Bill 203, there's an opportunity here for Oilers and Flames fans to unite as one, and that is to block Bill 203.

I thank you all so very much for the opportunity.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan, you have a question?

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Freeborn, for your presentation. It was great. I really admire your profession. Lucky guy.

We have heard from the Oilers group previously, and they shared a lot of what you're saying. I don't think they mentioned this, but is there concern about TV ad revenue? Have you heard anything?

Mr. Freeborn: Actually, yes, there is. I did receive that. Television broadcast numbers and home attendance: those are the two things that they are concerned about.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. The broadcast numbers impact advertising. Absolutely.

Mr. Freeborn: Yes, they do.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Have you heard, as a sports writer, directly from players? Would it put our beloved Flames and Oilers at a disadvantage?

Mr. Freeborn: You know what? I think it technically would. I think there's a possibility it would. It's just because of the travel to the west coast teams. Don't forget that Calgary and Edmonton are in the same division, the Pacific division, so having extra travel to those organizations would be very, very difficult, in my opinion, anyway.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Okay. I think that's all. Thank you for your presentation.

Mr. Freeborn: Okay.

The Chair: MLA Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. There was one thing you had talked about, and that was the inconvenience for two days.

Mr. Freeborn: Yeah.

Ms Fitzpatrick: We had a presenter at one of the other consultations who is medically challenged. That person takes medication, and it has to be taken at the same time every day. She expressed how difficult it was for her when the time changed, both in the spring and in the fall, because it would take her body such a long time to adjust to change in the medication. She said that it had an incredibly negative, powerful effect on her, both physically and psychologically, when she went through that. I want to tell you that I appreciate what you've had to say, but I also have to consider what she had to say.

Mr. Freeborn: Absolutely. I fully understand. That was longer, then, than two days?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Oh, much longer than a couple of days, yeah.

Mr. Freeborn: Okay.

Ms Fitzpatrick: The other thing that I want to just mention to you is that a number of people have talked about it not having any impact on children. I taught for a number of years, and I have to say that it does have an effect on children when the time changes. They're restless, they're fidgety, and they're not paying attention because their body is trying to adjust. Somebody had talked about circadian rhythm. I think that in the overall, I guess, universe, time changes every single day. It changes minimally every day, and I think that's so that our circadian rhythm stays with it. When we change the clock twice a year and we change it an hour, we're really bumping the circadian rhythm. Now, I'm not arguing for or against. All I'm saying is that those things have an impact.

I'm from Lethbridge, and the first day that I was in my office, I had a number of people come into my office and say: stop changing the clock. Since that time every time the clock changes, I have a stream of people coming in, and every time I ask people: "Okay. Which way do you want it to go?" I have to say, as I think Mr. Sucha had said earlier, that when the chamber of commerce spoke in Grande Prairie, they said that they did a survey, and it was, like: for one-third, "Don't change it"; for one-third, "Go Central Standard Time"; and one-third went for Mountain Standard Time. So you can see that this is a real balance to try to get what's best.

Mr. Freeborn: Absolutely. To be honest with you, I don't mind not changing the clock; I just don't want to be on Central Standard Time. I think it's very important we stay on Mountain Standard Time and be aligned with the current time.

Ms Fitzpatrick: And that's what I wanted to hear from you, so thank you very much.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Freeborn, for taking the time today. Many of the themes that you've brought up here we've heard repetitively, which tells me, again, that there's significant concern out there. Your sports one is a little bit more focused, I think, on hockey fans and both the organizations that, obviously, are making their living and also trying to attract their fan base and meet their fan base's needs as much as possible.

But you've also mentioned – and we've heard it from the air industry – that it could result in us potentially losing investment, jobs, and possibly even a hub here in Alberta, which would be a big loss economically. We've heard from parents who are worried about safety, and we've also heard, you know, again, from people who do business with British Columbia and those that travel and use it as a recreational area and are concerned with the two-hour time difference that's there.

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to bring your personal perspective on how that might affect your business and your life. Everybody's opinions are valid. I'm here to tell you that you're certainly on a theme that we're hearing quite repetitively, so I wanted to thank you for adding your voice to that concern as well.

Mr. Freeborn: Okay. You bet. It's just an opportunity, in my opinion, for the Oilers fans and Flames fans to come together . . .

Mr. Gotfried: That would be a rare occasion.

Mr. Freeborn: I know.

. . . and express their opinion.

The Chair: Do we want that?

Mr. Freeborn: You know what? It would be historic, wouldn't it?

Mr. Gotfried: I cheered for the Oilers during the playoffs after the Flames were out this year, just to put it on the record, somewhat reluctantly, but I did it.

Mr. Freeborn: Okay. Terrific.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you so much.

Mr. Freeborn: Thank you very much.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Donna Humber.

Donna Mae Humber

Mrs. Humber: Hi. I am a retired preschool teacher, and my thoughts . . .

The Chair: Sorry to cut you off. If you can just introduce yourself for the record.

Mrs. Humber: I'm sorry. My name is Donna Mae Humber, and I am a retired preschool teacher. My thoughts are my own personal thoughts, so there hasn't been a lot of research, as the other gentlemen have done since they have business concerns. But I do appreciate being able to give you my thoughts, and some of them are similar or the same as what you've already heard.

Words are important. How something is said makes a huge difference to how it is understood and to how people respond to what is said. This is significant when it comes to the question that you have asked Albertans regarding daylight saving time. What you have asked is: do Albertans want to eliminate daylight saving time? For most people what this means is, "Do you want to eliminate the hour time change that occurs twice yearly?" and to this question you have received an overwhelmingly positive response.

However, in regard to Bill 203, the Alberta Standard Time Act, the question that should have been asked was, "Do you want to be on daylight saving time year-round?" for that is what this act intends. It doesn't matter whether you refer to it as Alberta standard time or Central Standard Time. What it is in essence is going on Mountain Daylight Time year-round, and I wonder what the response would have been if this had been the question that was asked.

I've written to Thomas Dang, the author of the bill, and to my MLA, Michael Connolly, asking for some justification for change on an economic level. I received no response from Michael Connolly and a response of political doublespeak, which did not address the question, from Thomas Dang.

10:55

Anything that I have read or heard personally concerning this act has focused on the positives of daylight saving time during the summer. Specifically, Mr. Dang mentioned parents being able to watch their children playing outdoor sports longer in the evenings and golfers being able to play a round of golf after work more easily. What he has not mentioned are the corresponding negatives. For many parents it's not only the change in time that creates problems with their children getting to sleep but the fact that it's daylight outside longer and children don't want to go to bed. The fact is that for many adults, including me as well, the longer daylight in the evening creates problems in getting to sleep. These are health issues that should be addressed.

In June in Alberta on daylight saving time sunset does not occur any earlier than 9:30 p.m. in Lethbridge and as late as 10:40 p.m. in Peace River. Since we also have a long twilight, night comes very late, and at our latitude, even without daylight saving time, there would still be ample daylight for children to play their sports and golfers to maybe play a nine-hole round of golf after work.

I've neither seen nor heard any discussions concerning either positive or negative effects of having daylight saving time during the winter. Maybe that's because there are no positive effects. I don't know. People don't want to think about the fact that the sun will rise mid-morning. By the end of December sunrise in Calgary is at 8:39 a.m. If we change to year-round daylight saving time, the sun would not rise until 9:39 a.m.. For most people by that time the morning is almost half over. What kind of psychological effects will it have, particularly on people who already suffer from seasonal

affective disorder, to not see the sunlight until your morning is half over?

What about the economic effects? The only positive effect that I've heard mentioned is that people will stay on restaurant patios later in the summer on daylight saving time, thus spending more money on food and drink. This may be a positive for restaurants, particularly on weekends, but there are no positives if the season is rainy, and the same thing goes for the mention of golfers being able to play golf. Are there other positive effects? Perhaps.

I've heard that year-round daylight saving time will have a negative effect on Calgary becoming a hub for airline travel. This is significant, and I'm sure there are lots of other negative effects.

An argument might be made that Saskatchewan has chosen to be on Central Standard Time year-round, so why not Alberta? Please consider that Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta's largest cities, lie very close to the western edge of the Mountain Standard Time zone. Regina, on the other hand, lies very close to the eastern edge of the time zone. To put Alberta on Central Standard Time would make our times the same as those in New Orleans, Chicago, and the western side of Baffin Island.

The time zone would extend some 2,000 kilometres in Canada, and as far as I can see on a map, the only countries with time zones anywhere near that large are Russia, which has 12 time zones but has chosen to use only nine, and China, which has chosen to have one time zone only. In comparison, Canada has five time zones. Time zones were created for a reason, and by effectively eliminating one time zone across the Canadian provinces, which is what would happen if we go on Alberta standard time, what are the effects going to be?

When daylight saving time came into Alberta 40 years ago, it was through a referendum.

The Chair: Sorry. I just need unanimous consent from the committee if we want to go over her presentation time. Okay.

Please proceed.

Mrs. Humber: The choice was of the people, not the government, and it is clear from the responses to this issue around Alberta since the bill was introduced that this issue is one that is of significant importance to the majority of Albertans and one on which there are very divided opinions. For this reason, if changes are to be made, they should be made based on the choice of the people, not the decision of the government. You have been asking for input from people around the province, and I don't know whether that will influence your decision in any way, but this should, again, be decided by referendum, which could be done online, making it far easier and less expensive to do than it was 40 years ago. The question to ask is simple: do you want the Daylight Saving Time Act of 1971 repealed?

Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent.

Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Thanks, Chair. Thank you, Mrs. Humber, for your presentation. I disagree with your opening remarks that you didn't do any research. It sounded very thorough.

You mentioned coming up that you were a preschool teacher.

Mrs. Humber: Yes.

Mr. Coolahan: Did you do that because you wanted to relay the fact that you saw an impact on children?

Mrs. Humber: No. Just because I wanted you to know who I am. That's all.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Well, thank you.

Yeah. Lots of interesting points, certainly. A couple of things. The influence of these committees, these hearings, will be taken into account, as was the catalyst for the private member's bill being put forward. When a private member has the opportunity to introduce a private member's bill, they come up with ideas, and many of their ideas walk right in the front door of their office. This has been, as you noted, extremely – people have very passionate opinions on this topic, and they're all over the place as well. Consensus on this is extremely difficult. I've said in other hearings that I cannot get consensus in my own home, right? How about your home? Are you getting consensus in your own home?

Mrs. Humber: We both agree that we would prefer that the 1971 bill be repealed.

Mr. Coolahan: To be repealed. Okay. That was the next question. Where do you land on this? To repeal it would mean you'd have to . . .

Mrs. Humber: It means going back to Mountain Standard Time year-round.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. So you would rather go to Mountain Standard Time year-round.

Mrs. Humber: At the latitude that we're at, we get lots of sunlight, and our evenings are long anyway. I don't think that daylight saving time is necessarily a positive. I would prefer to be on standard time year-round.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. One question, too. I'm concerned about your comment around how the question was posed. Where did you read that question? Was that on the survey that Mr. Dang put out?

Mrs. Humber: Yes.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. That concerns me, too, in terms of a referendum, a referendum being, of course, very expensive. If we did that, everyone in Alberta would have to have a very clear understanding of what's being proposed and what they're voting on.

Mrs. Humber: That's what I don't think has happened thus far, that Albertans are clear on exactly what the question is and what this is going to do. I just listened to a news report today, and they talked about 75 per cent of people saying yes to the question. But when the question is, "Do you want to eliminate daylight saving time?" and people say, "Yes," well, what does that mean? To me, what it says is that we want to get rid of daylight saving time. It doesn't mean that we want to go on daylight saving time year-round. That isn't the question that was asked. It's the question that should have been asked according to what the bill proposes.

Mr. Coolahan: Right. I agree that there has been some confusion around that. I think that people are very passionate one way or another, whether they want to stop turning their clocks back and forth. Is the understanding complete that we have to land on one of the times?

Mrs. Humber: One side or the other. That's why I think a referendum is important, because I think that's a question that Albertans should answer. I don't think it's a question that should be

left up to our politicians. Because there has been such division on this, I think it's a question that Albertans need to say yes or no on, and I don't see why it couldn't be done less expensively by doing it online.

Mr. Coolahan: That's a whole other topic, and I really like exploring that, but do you think at this point that it's prudent to make a unilateral decision on this?

Mrs. Humber: For the government to make a unilateral decision?

Mr. Coolahan: No, for the province, even through a referendum. Should we be going at this alone, or should we be discussing this with other provinces and states, for that matter, who are all looking into doing the same thing?

Mrs. Humber: Just the fact that other states and provinces are looking says that this is a significant decision to be made and probably not a decision that Alberta should be making completely on its own.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you so much.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

11:05

Mr. Gotfried: Yes. Thank you, Mrs. Humber. I just have another couple of questions for you.

Mrs. Humber: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you very much for taking the time today and sharing some comments. One of your comments about getting to bed reminded me of when my kids were younger. I think it was always very hard to get kids to bed in the summer hours and to have a little bit of adult time with our partners. That reminded me of how difficult it is and how the light affects bedtime for younger children.

You had mentioned that you felt that this was not a decision to be made by a committee or a Legislature and that you feel that there are a lot of not only diverse opinions but maybe not as well informed opinions at this point in time and that maybe we should not be doing this unilaterally without consultation with other jurisdictions. So it sounds to me like at this point in time – and correct me if I'm wrong – you're not necessarily in favour of a referendum right now.

Mrs. Humber: I think that the discussion needs to be maybe clearer. I haven't heard – and maybe I'm just not listening in the right places – the pros and cons. It seems to me that mostly what I seem to have heard are what the government or the author of this bill is suggesting are the pros of the bill, but the cons other than I know that WestJet has been vocal in what they have said – I haven't heard enough of both sides, and I think that that needs to be debated more clearly, that people need to have both sides and be able to look at both sides before they decide. Considering that this came in on referendum – that was the way that it happened, and the people had their say – that's why I think a referendum is the way to make the decision now, to look and say the same way: the people are going to decide, not the government.

Mr. Gotfried: As I understand it, it was actually a referendum on a second attempt from '67 to '71, so maybe that time allowed people to become better informed.

Just so you know, I mean, one of the processes we took was to have some representations from organizations like WestJet and the airport authorities and whatnot. Really, my sort of thoughts and

objective and I think the committee's objective was to ensure that we had that information brought forward. But your point is well taken, that we need to maybe have that pros and cons information readily available to Albertans, not only to clarify what you said originally, the misunderstanding of what this actually meant, but the implications.

I worry about the economic implications. If we chase away investment and we chase away jobs or we chase away an airline hub or we create, really, opportunities for challenges to investment or job loss, that concerns me, and I think it concerns all Albertans.

Are you looking for balance in terms of the information other than, "I don't like to change my clock twice a year"?

Mrs. Humber: I think so. I think people need to recognize, too, that time zones were created for a reason. There is a reason for them. Effectively, what we would be doing by going on Alberta standard time is eliminating a time zone right across the provinces, not the territories but across the provinces, and I think that needs to be thought through very carefully.

Mr. Gotfried: Mrs. Humber, we've heard that before. Actually, it forced me to take a look at some of the times and realize that the implications on the eastern flanks of our province and the western flanks of our province are also a significant difference. But when you extend that, then, to Saskatchewan and, as you said, as far east as Chicago, that we'd be sharing a time zone with, I think that brings it to light. We've had some information and maps presented to us that illustrate that.

The last thing I would like to just say is that, you know, I am concerned that you have not had a response back from your own MLA. I would suggest that you reach back out and let them know that you're displeased with that. We're not all perfect. We all try and respond to our constituents. But if I've missed an opportunity to respond to a constituent, I would like that constituent to reach out back to me and let me know that they're displeased. I would actually suggest that you take that opportunity to make sure that they're accountable to you.

Mrs. Humber: I will do that. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Panda.

Mr. Panda: Thank you. I'm actually the MLA for your neighbouring riding, Calgary-Foothills.

I agree with you. There is a lot of confusion on the question. For me, personally, I'm still clearing my head on this.

You talked about the referendum. I'm not sure if you're informed about the cost of the referendum. I'm told that in an election year, if we do it during a provincial election, it costs us \$3 million, but if we have to do a stand-alone referendum, independent of the election period, it's going to cost us \$22 million. In this economy do you think it's the right thing to do?

Mrs. Humber: Well, for one thing, the question could be left and things could be left until there is an election year. That's a possibility. But what are you looking at as a referendum? Is that looking at physically going out and voting, or is it as the possibility of doing it online? I don't know if that's been considered, but I can't imagine that it would be nearly as expensive to do something online and have people vote online.

Mr. Panda: Yeah, but everyone may not have the capability of doing an online survey.

Mrs. Humber: Well, I just was thinking about that earlier this morning and talking to my husband and, you know, looking at a possibility. I haven't looked at the pros and cons or the difficulties or whatever, but to give everyone a number – you know, every voter has a number, and they go online, they put their number in, and they vote. That number can only be used once. If you don't have a computer, if you've been given a number, you send your vote in. Now, like I say, I don't know. I haven't looked at that enough because I was just talking about it on the way over here. But there has to be some way that it could be done more economically than having physical polling stations.

Mr. Panda: Yeah. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Eldon Pawliw.

The Chair: Good morning, sir. If you could introduce yourself for the record, please.

Eldon Pawliw

Mr. Pawliw: Hello. I'm Eldon Pawliw. I live in Calgary, Alberta. I've lived in Alberta all my life. All my life I've been getting up once a year an hour early and asking why. I've heard various excuses for it, none that have really made sense to me. I think this is the opportunity to put an end to that change and let me sleep a little easier once a year for, you know, a week. I would like to support this.

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

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. I got your note. I have to say that I like sleep, too, so I appreciate that you actually came and brought that perspective. Nobody else has said that, so thank you very much for coming and bringing that perspective forward.

The Chair: Any others?

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation. Sleep. I haven't slept since I had kids, so this doesn't impact me.

You're in favour of the bill as is? Or have you given thought to potential recommendations to change the bill?

Mr. Pawliw: No. I think as is it accomplishes what I'm after. That's one less sleep interruption a year.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. On this Central Standard Time, then, as proposed in the bill?

Mr. Pawliw: Yeah.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other questions? Excellent. Probably the most straightforward presentation we've had so far. Thank you so much.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Bill Twasiuk.

The Chair: Good morning, sir. If you could introduce yourself for the record, please.

Bill Twasiuk

Mr. Twasiuk: Good morning. I'm Bill Twasiuk, Calgary resident and Alberta taxpayer.

11:15

The Chair: Please proceed.

Mr. Twasiuk: In my opinion, there are three areas with which this present bill offers disadvantages to all Albertans. First of all, it will reduce employment. Secondly, it jeopardizes public safety. Thirdly, it endangers children, innocent children who depend on adults for their protection. In short, this is a wrong-headed, dangerous idea, and it should be vigorously opposed.

The first consideration is: who has a similar system? Not one province in Canada, not one state in the U.S. I'm certainly aware that Saskatchewan does not go to daylight saving time. I'm certainly aware that Arizona and other states do not go to daylight saving time. But my point is this: if Alberta were to make the change that's proposed, we would be a single entity in the entire North American continent with a unique time zone.

Let me illustrate the point. For illustration purposes we have Canada, for illustration purposes we have the United States, and with your proposal this would be Alberta, perhaps 4 million people in a North American continent of 400 million. Now, I realize that Albertans are special, but are we truly that special, and do we truly want to be noted special in that manner?

There have been presentations from industry which illustrate that we could lose the stature of WestJet as being a hub in Alberta, many other businesses, and ultimately we would reduce employment. We have both Calgary and Edmonton actively considering how to attract a company like Amazon with perhaps 40,000 additional employees. If we were to be a special time zone, would that be a real advantage? I suspect not.

I think that we are heading in the wrong direction there. To have a city, a province out of sync with the rest of North America makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. If MLA Dang were here today, I would mention to him that perhaps his parents or his grandparents, like mine, immigrated to this country because they wanted a place to safely raise their children. They wanted a place with good, responsible government. I would ask Mr. Dang whether he has truly considered the implications of his proposal.

Indeed, it has already been mentioned that with Alberta special time in the winter the sun would get up at after 9:30. Now, do children need to be placed in that situation of danger? I would ask Mr. Dang to visualize this circumstance as it comes on the news from St. Albert, where a young father has in the darkness of night not seen the ice near a school crossing. Three children are dead – not his but three children – three grieving families because of darkness, which could be avoided.

This bill is as frivolous as my illustration. I surely feel that the government has better things to devote their attention to.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation, sir, and keeping me abreast of your opinion. I do want to make a comment around government wasting time on this and whatnot. In defence of Mr. Dang, when you have the opportunity to table a private member's bill – okay? – as I was saying earlier, most of those ideas walk right in your front door. There was significant uptake on this topic, and certainly it elicited what we have seen as the most responses to any topic ever – right? – 14,000 submissions. It's significant, and it's something that I think we had to investigate. That's what we're here

doing. As a subcommittee we will consider everything that's being said, and we will come forward with a recommendation. That recommendation might be to alter the bill as it is presented.

I appreciate your concerns, and thanks for your presentation.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Twasiuk: If I might just remark in that regard, 14,000 responses is significant, yes, indeed. I see by the limited number of people here that this has not generated a tremendous amount of interest. There is also a possibility that people are totally satisfied with the existing circumstance. After all, it has served Albertans well for 40 years. Why do we need the change? At this present moment our economy is not strong. We are not a bright light within Canada. Should we not consider this frivolous?

Mr. Coolahan: No. I do think it's based on the response. People continue to give responses online and write in on the topic. It's actually an obligation to hear everyone and consider it because it has been put forward as a private member's bill, and the private member's bill was the result of many people wanting to change. People are very passionate about not changing their clocks.

I do have concern about a full understanding of what that means. I think that is the thing. I mean, Ms Fitzpatrick has relayed her story, you know, of day one in office and five people coming in and saying: stop changing the clocks. I think we've all experienced people in our office who have similar feelings about that. Our role here is to hear from all Albertans and to weigh the pros and cons of what that means.

Mr. Twasiuk: Once again, if the opinion of all Albertans is to be considered here, this bill is very one-sided. There are three possibilities. One is to maintain Mountain Standard Time all year. Another is the proposal. A third is to continue to do the things we are doing right now. Why is this presented as a one-sided circumstance?

Mr. Coolahan: Because that's what he was hearing. That's what he was hearing. That's exactly what it was.

Mr. Twasiuk: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you for taking the time today to join us. Some of your comments have certainly put some things into perspective. You know, personally, I think I shared some of your concerns when this came up. I'm not hearing people coming into my office and saying: stop changing the clocks. I'm hearing them come into my office saying, "I haven't had a job for two years," and "What's happening with our economy?" and "What are we going to do with respect to our debt?" That's what I'm hearing from my constituents.

However, as a committee of the Legislature, this piece of legislation – and I don't try and assume any motivation of the private member who put this forward. It's his right to put it forward. The Legislature did vote to put it to our committee. You've pointed out that there were 13,562 responses, which is unprecedented, but represents .3 per cent of the population. Your comment that perhaps the apathy means that the other 4 million plus people actually are not overly concerned about any changes from the status quo: your points are well taken with respect to what we are spending our time on.

We are obligated as members of the committee and subcommittee. I'm always very interested in hearing from Albertans. This subcommittee will bring forward a recommendation to our committee, which will then report back to

the Legislature. I guess my last question for you is: what would you like us to say?

11:25

Mr. Twasiuk: I would like the committee to recognize that there is a significant silent majority on this point who feel that we presently have a totally functional and acceptable system of managing time in Alberta which corresponds with the other approximately 400 million people in North America, and we should continue with exactly what we've got.

Mr. Gotfried: Would your preference be for us to recommend that we kill this bill or that we take it to a referendum to all 4 million plus Albertans to make that decision?

Mr. Twasiuk: I believe that if it were to go to a referendum, it should be tied into an election as opposed to something specific, which is extremely costly. Once again, I feel that we have a workable circumstance right now. Our economic circumstance in Alberta is not one where we have a huge amount of excess money. It makes absolutely no sense to do that at this time. When it's tied into the next election, I believe we'll see some very interesting responses.

Mr. Gotfried: One of the concerns that we've heard from a number of presenters over the last few days is about ensuring that Albertans have very clear information about what this actually means in terms of pros and cons. If we were to move to a referendum, which would give Albertans a voice, would you like to make sure that, as opposed to us looking singularly at this bill, Albertans are well informed about the pros, cons, and, as you mentioned, the various alternatives that you mentioned that are available to us?

Mr. Twasiuk: No question that that would be vastly preferable to what is being presented right now. As I've mentioned and to reiterate, it is very one-sided. It presents one option out of three. I don't believe that people need to be led in that manner, and I did not say misled.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you very much.

The Chair: Any other questions? Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Just a point of clarification and a reminder to Mr. Gotfried that he may not have been hearing this in his office, but the reality is that in the Legislature when this private member's bill was presented, not one person voted against sending it to committee. In committee, which Mr. Gotfried sits on, not one person voted to not send it to subcommittee.

I just wanted to put that on the record. Thank you.

Mr. Twasiuk: I would like to add one more item, and that is that MLA Dang sits in the Legislature with an obligation. His obligation is to seriously consider the items which he brings forward for discussion. He is sitting on hallowed ground, and intelligence and judgment need to be made. The man is young, and I recognize that perhaps these were starting attempts in his political career. However, in my opinion as a taxpayer, this is a frivolous bill.

Mr. Coolahan: I disagree with that.

Ms Fitzpatrick: There were 26,000 people he consulted with before the bill even came forward. I don't think that that is insignificant, and it's not insignificant that people came to my office over and over and over again to say: stop changing the time.

Mr. Twasiuk: Perhaps I'm here as a representative of that nonvocal majority who think this is frivolous.

Mr. Panda: Thank you for taking time to come and present to us. Your feedback is noted. To put it in perspective, we are all equally concerned about the economy and jobs. That's what I hear in my riding, too. The majority of people walking in my door or sending me e-mails or calling my office are more concerned about jobs and the economy. It's our obligation to do these consultations, knowing well that this is taking up everyone's time. It costs taxpayers further amounts of money, bringing staff from Edmonton and moving the equipment and all. There are costs involved. We are aware of it. It's our job to be conscious of that.

Thank you.

Mr. Twasiuk: Thank you, all.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Daniel Marko.

Mr. Marko: Good morning.

The Chair: You can state your name for the record, please.

Daniel Marko

Mr. Marko: Yes. My name is Dan Marko. I've lived in Calgary for my entire life, and I work in IT. I'm very happy with the idea of the bill to end changing the clock. In IT changing the clock causes us great grief. Saskatchewan has a single time zone, Saskatchewan time. Everybody's watch, phone, VCR, DVD player, coffee maker knows about Saskatchewan time. It's already in the devices. It's an easy time zone to change to. It's not Central; it's Saskatchewan. We'd be joining our neighbour in a single time zone that's fully accepted. China knows about the Saskatchewan time zone.

I'm going to back up a bit. I came here today to listen to the seminar. I didn't realize I was going to speak, but I thought I would first of all say that yes, I think we should stop changing the clock. I would really like to keep daylight savings time year-round and make it Saskatchewan time, but the most important thing to me is that we stop changing the clock. If it's Mountain Time, then every device in the world has to, then, get an Alberta time, and I think that would be significant and it would take years and years to actually get our coffee maker to know about Alberta time whereas they already know about Saskatchewan time.

I am really impressed that I get to take part in democracy. This is what we do. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Marko. I just want to ask for clarification because you said that you want to stay on daylight saving time. What the bill proposes – and this is what would pair us with Saskatchewan – is Mountain Daylight Time, so I just want to ask that question.

Mr. Marko: Yes, that's exactly correct.

The Chair: Okay. Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you so much for your presentation. In fact, I think that is the first time, if I'm not mistaken, that we've heard from the IT industry. Quite frankly, it's all: the ghost in the machine with its magic. It just changes in my phone. So if we went to Alberta standard time, you're saying – no, no; sorry. The proposal is to go to Central Standard Time. But if we went to

Mountain Time, you're saying that the world would have trouble finding us?

Mr. Marko: No. If you take a coffee maker today from anywhere, you can tell it that you're in the Saskatchewan time zone. You can tell it that you're in mountain daylight or mountain standard or whatever, and it will know how to adjust for March and November.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah.

Mr. Marko: For Mountain Standard Time you tell it you're in Calgary. It knows automatically.

Mr. Coolahan: Right. Okay.

Mr. Marko: More importantly, for IT, Outlook knows about Saskatchewan time, and it knows about Alberta, that Calgary is in mountain daylight. It knows how to adjust automatically to that. If we go to Mountain Standard Time year-round, then we're going to have to get a brand new time zone called Alberta time.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I'm not sure that's accurate, to be honest with you, because, actually, the bill is proposing what would be called Alberta standard time even though we would be on Central Standard Time.

Mr. Marko: Yes; I realize that. But a VCR or a computer or a coffee maker: they don't know about that.

Mr. Coolahan: Oh, I see what you mean.

Mr. Marko: Because it's a brand new . . .

Mr. Coolahan: I got you.

Mr. Marko: It's going to take years for manufacturers to put in a new time zone, and it's going to take years more for older devices to be thrown out. It's just going to take forever to implement it into our electronic lives whereas Saskatchewan time is right there already. Like I said, your phone, your computer, your coffee maker knows about Saskatchewan time. It's just a matter of saying Saskatchewan time, and it's all working.

11:35

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you for your time.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you. I think the clarification, then, is really about terminology. Alberta standard time is Central Standard Time. I actually received earlier from someone a very good visual map here, which I'm happy to share with you after, which illustrates exactly that we're just taking a big jog to the west to become part of Central Standard Time. It was pointed out that that would put us on the same time zone as Chicago, I see Alabama, parts of Tennessee, and sort of the list goes on.

I think my question to you is: from your perspective, from an IT perspective – you know, obviously you have a lot of professional knowledge here – would Mountain Standard Time suit you in the same way as moving to Central Standard Time? In that case, we are mapped in already, I think, on the international time zone maps as Mountain Standard Time. It would mean that we just did not have daylight savings time as part of our time zone options, as you would say, in a computer's Outlook, for example.

Mr. Marko: Well, intellectually everybody understands what Mountain Time is or Mountain Daylight Time. That's easy. Your

coffee maker doesn't understand that. Your coffee maker knows you're in Calgary, and it will switch automatically in March and November.

Mr. Gotfried: No. Not if you click on the box that says: I don't use daylight savings time anymore. It would be no different than Saskatchewan versus Manitoba, who are on Central Standard Time. In Saskatchewan you don't click in that box; in Manitoba you do. In Alberta it would mean you click on Mountain Standard Time, which would be the default, and you would just unclick the box that says: we use daylight savings time. Would that not be the correct way to do it?

Mr. Marko: You're a hundred per cent correct except most devices don't have that box.

Mr. Gotfried: So how do they do that in Saskatchewan, then?

Mr. Marko: Saskatchewan time has been programmed into all of those devices for 20 years. Saskatchewan didn't change yesterday.

Mr. Gotfried: Okay. But they're on Central Standard Time with the box unclicked. Are you saying that every device comes with Saskatchewan standard time?

Mr. Marko: If you look at your computer, it has Saskatchewan listed.

Mr. Gotfried: It does. Okay.

Mr. Marko: And if you're in Brazil and you look at your computer, it has Saskatchewan listed as a time zone or as a time choice.

Mr. Gotfried: Okay. You're much more knowledgeable than I am at that. But in terms of if we went to Mountain Standard Time, then I assume the next revisions of computers would then have that as a click box where Alberta would then be identified as Mountain Standard Time without a daylight saving option, so that would perhaps take some time, but that would be just as simple and no different to you in terms of the outcome.

Mr. Marko: Well, personally, I would very much prefer no time change. I have kind of a little bit more of a preference to keeping the daylight rather than the standard, but if we keep standard year-round, I would be almost as happy as keeping daylight year-round.

Mr. Gotfried: All right. Thank you for your clarification.

Mr. Marko: You're welcome.

The Chair: Excellent. Any other questions?

Well, I feel fortunate that my coffee machine doesn't have a clock. Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. James Quinn.

The Chair: Can you state your name for the record, please?

James Quinn

Mr. Quinn: My name is James William Quinn. I just came here to see what was going on. I had no intention of speaking. In fact, this is the first time I've ever spoken in public, and I'm pretty much scared shitless.

First of all, I've been enlightened quite a bit today. Several things. Ms Fitzpatrick said about the people who have to take their

medicines at certain times of the day, and it upsets their routine. I had never even thought about that before.

The other thing I want to point out is that I think I was totally confused on what we're changing our time zone to. I thought we were just getting rid of daylight savings times and just going to Mountain Standard Time. I didn't realize we were going to Central Time, and I have a feeling that, like me, probably a good majority of the people are thinking that having one time zone or not changing the time twice a year means that we're just going to go to Mountain Standard Time. Like, I had no clue about that till just these last couple of minutes. I think a lot of the people that are going to speak out to keep the one time are probably as confused as I was.

The reason I wanted to speak, why I came up here originally, was that I love the summer. I really love the summer. I love those long summer evenings. You know, if I had a job to get off from in the evening – I like to spend those evenings at home with my family and friends sitting out in the backyard, barbecuing, drinking a few beers. I love going camping and sitting around the fire pit at night and in the evenings. I love driving around in a convertible car in the summer, when it's warm enough to do so and it's still nice and bright out.

I don't find it a real strain to change my clocks twice a year. In fact, I even have a watch that does that automatically for me, which is pretty damn convenient. Like I said, I never planned on speaking here, but I just felt like I especially wanted to bring up the point that a lot of the people probably don't realize what we're voting for or what you guys are voting for about passing to Central Standard Time as opposed to Mountain Standard Time.

As far as, like, having a referendum, I've heard numbers batted around. Anywhere from \$3 million to \$5 million to put it on a ballot, you know, for a provincial election, and up to 20-something million dollars to have an individual referendum, which strikes me as being crazy. In fact, for \$10 million I'll go around personally and I will ask every individual voter in Alberta which way they want to vote. But I'm big on a referendum. I think that's the way to go, but I think people have to be aware of what exactly the referendum is for. If we want to stay on one time, I love daylight savings time all year round. I'm definitely not happy about going to Central Standard Time.

Anyways, like I said, I think a referendum is what's needed to be done. I think people have to realize what the vote is on. Three million dollars seems like a small amount. I've seen governments spend a lot more for a lot more trivial things than asking the individual Albertan what exactly they want, an individual Albertan as opposed to the people in government hearing voices from their constituents who may be a small minority of the actual people in their area. I'm a firm believer in government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

That's all I've got to say. As Forrest Gump said: that's all I got to say about that.

The Chair: Thank you very much for the pop culture reference. It comes up.

Mr. Quinn: I hope you have very few questions because I'm really scared.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan does.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Quinn. You did a great job, by the way. No need to be fearful.

I mean, I think your point is very well taken on perhaps people not fully understanding what we're discussing. I wanted to make a couple of clarifications, too, on that. I think what we're doing here is helping actually clarify these things for people. I think these sessions have been helpful. I wanted to make sure that we're talking

about the same thing here on something you said: you like the long days, but you don't want to go on Central Standard Time. But that is what's going to give us the long days.

11:45

Mr. Quinn: Oh. See, I came here totally in the dark.

Mr. Coolahan: So to speak.

Mr. Quinn: So to speak.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. I just wanted to clarify that for you.

Mr. Quinn: Yeah. I didn't realize that was going to be the other way around like that.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Quinn. You did a great job, so maybe you should take up a career in public speaking in the future perhaps.

Mr. Quinn: Maybe I should run for government.

Mr. Gotfried: You know what? Maybe you should.

You know, it's great to hear from all Albertans, and I'm glad you've taken your time to come out today. You mentioned that you didn't really have an issue with changing your clocks. We hear from a lot of people that it's an inconvenience to change their clocks. I think that as we're going through this process, I hope that we'll have more information to push out to Albertans about the pros and cons of all the options in front of us. But I just want to be clear. Changing your clocks is not a big issue for you? Maybe tell us how much time it takes you to do so.

Mr. Quinn: Not a big issue with me, especially since I don't have a job anymore. I've got more time on my hands than I know what to do with, you know?

Mr. Gotfried: So you'd rather have a job and worry about the clock perhaps a little bit more.

Mr. Quinn: Yes. Yes. I'd much prefer that.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Quinn, for taking your time today. I really appreciate your insights and comments.

Mr. Quinn: Okay. Thank you very much.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

Mr. Roth: Ron Waller.

Mr. Waller: I'm here but I thought I was going to go later.

The Chair: Well, if you want to go this afternoon, we . . .

Mr. Waller: That's all right. I'll do it now.

The Chair: Whatever works for you.

If you can state your name for the record as well, please.

Ron Waller

Mr. Waller: Good morning. I'm Ron Waller. I'm a chartered professional accountant, retired. I've lived in Calgary since 1961, and I've been retired for the last 21 years.

In my opinion Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, is frivolous and irresponsible. This act would put Alberta out of step with

virtually all of North America. We've gone back and forth between standard time and daylight saving time for many years without any serious consequences. Why, then, is there any confusion, and why are we trying to fix something that is simply not broken? The current system does what it is intended to do. It gives us extra hours of daylight during the summer and then returns us to the natural time of our longitude, Mountain Standard Time.

In his letter to the *Calgary Herald* on Monday, September 11, Mr. Dang made a couple of statements which I simply cannot believe. First of all, he said, "The vast majority of Albertans have made it clear to me and to colleagues in the legislature that it's time we eliminate Daylight Saving Time in Alberta." Really? He also said, "While conducting consultations, I received tens of thousands of online submissions to my survey and many more Albertans phoned and wrote in." The published statistical overview says that the committee received approximately 13,562 submissions, hardly tens of thousands. Those submissions represent less than one-third of 1 per cent of the population of Alberta. Mr. Dang's survey does not represent reality. The *Calgary Herald* in its editorial of Thursday, September 7, correctly pointed out:

Most who responded to Dang disapproved of DST, but little attention was given to the majority of Albertans who haven't been heard.

It's often the case that those who choose to offer opinions are those who have complaints, rather than those content with the status quo.

Curiously, in the published list of people who had voted in the online survey, there are quite a number of people who voted multiple times, and you'll find that on page 315 on the third line there was, in fact, a no vote for adopting Alberta standard time from one Thomas Dang. It was hardly a scientific survey. I can imagine that many people who responded to this survey and voted to get rid of daylight saving time were unaware of its replacement and what the consequences would be. There was no indication of that in the survey that I can recall. Having known that, they may have voted differently.

If we stay with the present system of Mountain Standard Time, the latest sunrise in Calgary at the end of December would be at 8:40 a.m. However, if Alberta standard time is adopted, this would be 9:40 a.m. I cannot imagine sunrise at 20 to 10 in the morning. That's, like, 20 minutes before coffee break. This change is an example of why Bill 203 is irresponsible. It represents a higher potential for more accidents as drivers and pedestrians will experience their morning commute in longer periods of darkness. Children on the street walking as far as 2.4 kilometres to school and waiting for buses will be less visible. Some rural students could be standing by the highway and be less visible as well. If there's any glitch in the busing system, particularly in snowy weather, there could be some very serious negative outcomes, causing not only considerable stress for the child but for their parents and family as well.

Other consequences include costs to change computer programs to adopt Alberta standard time. Programs that regulate the medication systems in hospitals will need to be changed. Their programs are already set for the present system. Programs for existing computer devices will not have a provision for Alberta standard time. This will have to be done by some kind of workaround that not everyone may be able to do. There are probably a lot of other unintended consequences in this area as well.

For many people the issue of interrupted schedules is claimed as a concern. One of these is sleep patterns. I have seen news reports of sleep experts who provide conflicting information regarding the significance of this. In either case they always seem to indicate that it can be dealt with very simply by managing the approach by

changing bedtimes by a few minutes a day for a few days before the hour change is required. How many of us sleep in late or go to bed late on weekends? Why doesn't that interrupt our circadian rhythms like daylight saving time does? Again, schedules for taking drugs, farm operations, et cetera, et cetera, can be managed with a little planning to phase in the one-hour change over a few days. Those people who have negative schedule concerns would rather have the government change the whole system to accommodate them because they are unwilling to manage their own circumstances.

It's in your hands. Please do the right thing and kill Bill 203. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Waller.

I'll open it up for questions.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much for your presentation, Mr. Waller. I just want to actually make a correction. Mr. Dang had a number of people come to his office and talk to him about stopping the changing of the clock. He did a survey in his constituency where he received about 26,000 responses on his survey. The survey that you referenced was the public survey that was sent out afterwards.

Mr. Waller: Okay. Even if he had had 50,000 responses, that would only represent 1.5 per cent of the population of Alberta. It's very little. That's like the tail wagging the dog.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Mr. Waller, what I'm saying to you is that those were his constituents who came to him with a concern. Whether it's 1 per cent of the whole population – in fact, that number is just a bit over 50 per cent of the population of his constituency. I can certainly relate to what he did because I have had streams of people come into my office every time the clock changes to say: stop changing the clock. Every time they do, we do have a conversation about whether they want the time to go east or west. All I was saying was that there was a reason that he brought the bill forward, and that was because his constituents had come to him with an issue for them. We do need to pay attention to those kinds of things. That's our constituency.

11:55

Mr. Waller: That's right. But when those people came into your office, did you question them as to why they were concerned about it, what their concerns were?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Absolutely, I did.

Mr. Waller: Okay. Those concerns, I think, were similar to the ones that I mentioned here, where in most cases it's only a matter of people managing their time. So many people just say: it's me; I'm the only person that is important. So simply because "I don't like changing my clock, or I don't like the effect it might have on my sleep, et cetera, but I do absolutely nothing to manage that," then I get this feeling that, you know, people are doing this in a very frivolous way. They may come in, they may take the time to do it and so on, but they're unwilling to make whatever changes are necessary to accommodate it, a benefit to all of us.

I enjoy the late summer afternoons and so on, but I think that switching to Central Standard Time on a year-round basis and making for that late morning sunrise in the wintertime is a mistake. I think that's going to have some very bad consequences, quite frankly, and when it does, that's on you, folks. If you would make that decision to go that way, that's on you, folks. I hope that if some child is abducted or some kid is killed in an accident or something, you're willing to look in the mirror and say: I did that; I chose this way of doing it, and this change has made me responsible.

Ms Fitzpatrick: As I said, thank you for your presentation. I expressed to you why MLA Dang put this forward. He was representing his constituents . . .

Mr. Waller: Fair enough.

Ms Fitzpatrick: . . . as I try to do with mine.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Waller, for your time today. You know, I think that you've made some excellent points here: 13,562 Albertans is .3 per cent of the population. It's a very small sample. If I recall correctly, I think the number represented by Mr. Dang's survey prior to that, which was of his own volition, was about 28,000, still a very small number. There has been some concern about the wording of that particular one. Obviously, with it being his private member's bill, there may have been some unintentional skew of that question, which may have indicated a higher percentage.

What we've seen since then, I can tell you, is that up in Edmonton we heard that his presentation – and I'll refer back to my notes here – showed about 82 per cent of Albertans were in favour of getting rid of this and supporting his bill. Then we went to about 75 per cent, which was the 13,562. We've seen a recent poll from Global Television which shows it's about 50 per cent. We had representation, actually, from this committee, which represents about 40 per cent. Then we went down from our representation on our first day of consultation to the afternoon session. We have changed, but after that, where we had about 33 and a third per cent in favour of it.

So it's changing. People are becoming better informed, and I think that's our intention here, that people are making well-informed opinions and sharing those with us. Having your information here and your representation and sharing that is part of this process. It seems a bit laborious, but we have committed as this committee to listen to Albertans, and we intend to do that. Your voice is heard clearly.

Any last comments on what you'd like to see us do with this bill?

Mr. Waller: Well, with respect to the survey that was online, I did respond to that survey, and I did vote no. I went through the list five times, the published list of those people who voted yes and no, and I did not find my name anywhere in there. I sent an e-mail to my MLA, Brandy Payne. I got a response from her assistant that said: we've passed this on to the ministry. I'm not sure she even read the thing. As I understood, that published list should have been included in there as well. My name was not there either.

You know, you say that you've heard from a lot of these people and so on, and here I'm looking at something that should have recorded me that didn't. How that happens, I don't know. I'm not even sure she read my e-mail. An assistant passed it on to somebody else and said: there you go. A copy even went to the Premier's office. Never heard zip from anybody even though at my MLA's office the assistant said: as things come up, we will inform you. Never heard anything more from them, so I'm very, very frustrated by the whole thing.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Waller, you mentioned a little earlier – and this is sort of part of my concerns as well. Again, I don't find the changing of the clocks personally to be particularly onerous. I'm going to estimate it takes me maybe 10 minutes maximum. Maybe the next day I find that I've missed a clock, and I change that, and it's done. Not a lot of inconvenience. There are many, many arguments we've heard about how it affects people and whatnot.

We've also heard from some people about how difficult it is for them to change taking medication by one hour twice a year, which I – they're entitled to their opinion. I wonder about the – you know, we live in a world where the only thing that we know is guaranteed is change. This is twice a year, and we've been dealing with this and living with this for 40 years.

I'd like your thoughts and opinions on people's sort of inconveniences versus some of the other impacts, some of which you've highlighted, some of which some other presenters have, in terms of safety issues. As you've said, if one child is killed because of the darkness, that is one child too many. But I'd just like your opinions on this from a broader perspective. Again, what would you like us to take back from this subcommittee to our committee as a recommendation with respect to Bill 203?

Mr. Waller: Well, first of all, when you talk about making the changes, whether it's to changing your clocks or to changing the time you take your drugs or to the time that you milk the cows, all of those things are trivial, quite frankly, in my opinion, trivial in that it is so easy to manage that simply by instituting a small amount of change for several days prior to the change in hours. Very simple to do.

There was a lady on TV the other day, and they were talking about the kids going back to school. It was on the first day of school, and she said: we started a week or 10 days ago bringing our kids back down to the time they would need to go to bed to go to school. That's all it takes to make these changes. It is so simple.

Yes, people are entitled to their opinion, but I'm afraid that I find most of those arguments extremely trivial. What I would like you to take back is to just simply kill this thing. I want to stay exactly where we are. It's worked all these years. It's perfectly fine. Keep it the way it is.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you. Your points are well taken and well heard.

Mr. Waller: Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Waller. Just a couple of comments. I don't mind changing the clocks either. I enjoy the extra lie-in in the fall, and I enjoy the extra light in the summer. However, with that said, this bill was the right thing to do. Mr. Dang did the right thing. As we've talked about, he had 26,000 respondents from his own constituency. You can't ignore that. That is an overwhelming pattern. I mean, if we have 10 people coming into our office with the same issue, you better take notice, and when you get those kinds of numbers – my goodness, he did the right thing.

Mr. Waller: Sure. That's fine.

Mr. Coolahan: When you have a private member's bill, as I was saying earlier – I don't know if you were here – I mean, a lot of your ideas come right in the door. I mean, this smacked him in the face. Let's face it.

So I think he came up with a very good bill, and this is what we're talking about here. Whether you like it or not, I mean, we can't ignore the voices. He couldn't ignore all the voices, and I think it was the right decision to bring it to where we are today because we are hearing many more positions on this. It's been very enlightening, and I think we'll be able to make a recommendation that is more representative of the general population than just Mr. Dang's constituency.

Mr. Waller: Okay. I agree with you completely on what you've just said, that, sure, it was his business to bring this forward because

this is what he has heard from people. However, having heard that from those people, finding a solution is not the easiest thing here because . . .

12:05

Mr. Coolahan: I'm not arguing with that.

Mr. Waller: . . . we have this system that presently works just fine.

Mr. Coolahan: Like I said, you know where I stand.

Mr. Waller: You know, it bothers some people and so on, and as I said before, I still think most of them, if they sat down and really thought about it – it's a trivial issue.

It took me a long time, at least when I first started hearing about this change, to find out what it was all about because until I actually went online and got a copy of the bill – and it's all in legalese about minus six hours UTC, et cetera. When I really looked at it, it quite quickly boiled down to Central Standard Time. That's putting us on Winnipeg time. The consequences, then, of that give us the late mornings.

So he did the right thing, yes, by perhaps bringing this bill forward. However, I don't think it's the right thing to do.

Mr. Coolahan: Fair enough. That's why we're here, to hear those opinions. Absolutely.

Mr. Waller: Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

Mr. Gotfried: Just a quick point of clarification for Mr. Coolahan. I believe that the survey was not just within Mr. Dang's constituency. It was a province-wide opportunity. It was not 28,000 people from within his constituency. It was province-wide.

Mr. Coolahan: That's fine, Mr. Gotfried. If I could just say that if I'm incorrect on that, I think my point of "If you've got 10 people coming into your office with the same issue, you better take notice" is what I'm trying to get at.

Mr. Gotfried: Okay. Thank you.

Your point about Central Standard Time. I think, you know, we've, as I showed earlier, got a map that an earlier presenter had given us, and it shows that we'll be sharing a time zone with Chicago, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, which is – Alabama's next closest neighbour is Florida and Georgia on the eastern seaboard. It's a pretty broad swath of time zones and geographical areas, so your points are very well taken on that. I think this map actually should be shared with Albertans.

Mr. Waller: Absolutely, but the other aspect of that is the fact that if we went to Alberta standard time, Mountain Standard Time and mountain daylight saving time still exist. We have Montana to the south of us. We have the Northwest Territories and part of Nunavut. They're all on Mountain Standard Time right now. At least, they're on exactly the same system as we are right now. Now we're going to put another thing in the middle of this which is out of it. That's going to add to the confusion. Things like computer programming and so on are going to have to accommodate those kinds of things, and heaven only knows when that's going to come around.

I drove through into B.C. across the time zone line. My car tells me, "You've just changed time zones; do you want us to change it for you?" and I said: yeah. You know, it does it, so it's all automatic. That won't exist anymore.

Mr. Gotfried: Yeah. Mr. Waller, one of the things I learned in doing some of the research on this is that even if you were to go to Lloydminster versus, let's say, Grande Prairie in our province, there's a significant difference in the sunrise time. I hadn't really thought too much about that there. It's going to spur me on, and I'll probably try and look at it after this session. I'd like to know what the sunrise time is in Alabama, which is the furthest easternmost part of Central Standard Time, versus what we will be. That will be an interesting thing.

Mr. Waller: Their sunrise time is going to be earlier.

Mr. Gotfried: Central Standard Time might make really good sense for them. It may make less good sense for us, so I really appreciate you bringing some of these issues to highlight for us. Again, your points are well taken, as all opinions of Albertans are being taken here. Yours is a very strong one, and we will certainly – I'll personally take that under very strong consideration.

Mr. Waller: Thank you.

Mr. Panda: Thank you again for coming. Did you say that you're an accountant?

Mr. Waller: Pardon me?

Mr. Panda: Retired chartered accountant?

Mr. Waller: They changed us all. I started out as an RIA. Then I became a CMA. I think now I'm a chartered professional accountant. I have the certificate, but I'm retired.

Mr. Panda: So you are a CPA.

Mr. Waller: I'm a CPA. Correct.

Mr. Panda: Thank you for your passion on this issue.

Mr. Waller: Thank you.

Mr. Panda: Have you thought about any economic impact of this bill with respect to job creation or GDP contribution?

Mr. Waller: Not particularly. I think that from what I've read in the past, it seems like you'll have numbers of people who are saying, "Yes, this will benefit us economically" and others that say no. I can't argue those points. [interjections] I was just waiting for them to finish their conversation over here.

I can't argue either way on those kinds of things, and I've left it to the big industries like, you know, as we've said, the sports and outfits like that who have come up and said that this is going to affect their business. That's their thing to deal with. I'm just taking this as a personal thing and as it deals with the general public, not with the business side of the public.

Mr. Panda: Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Waller, for your presentation today as well.

Mr. Waller: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

All right. We'll now take a recess for noon. We will reconvene at 10 after 1.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 12:11 p.m.]

