



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  
1:11 p.m.

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

**Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future**

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## Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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**1:11 p.m. Thursday, September 14, 2017**

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

**Location: Calgary**

**The Chair:** All right, everyone. I would like to call this meeting back to order and welcome everyone to the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future.

My name is Graham Sucha. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Shaw and the chair of this committee. For the sake of those joining us this afternoon, I'd ask that all committee members introduce themselves for the record, starting with the member on my right.

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

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

**Mr. Panda:** Yeah. Good afternoon. Prasad Panda, MLA, Calgary-Foothills.

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

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

Now, before I get to the first presenter, two items I want to bring forward. First, just because it's a newer crowd in the audience, I'd like to make a few brief comments about Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, that the committee has been tasked to review. Bill 203 proposes that if passed, as of November 2018 the Daylight Saving Time Act would be repealed and Alberta would remain under Alberta standard time. Alberta standard time is defined as being six hours behind Coordinated Universal Time and would be the equivalent of Mountain Daylight Time, the same time that 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 its review the committee has heard from numerous stakeholders and over 13,000 Albertans through written submissions. On August 8, 2017, the committee established this subcommittee to hold public meetings with Albertans to gather additional feedback on the bill. The subcommittee has been directed to hold public meetings in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge and report back to the committee on what it hears. The committee has also heard oral presentations from a number of key stakeholders on Bill 203. A decision has also been made to accept additional written submissions until September 15, 2017.

Just as a reminder to presenters, you will have five minutes to make your presentation. Supplementary material from your presentation: if you wish to present any of that to the subcommittee, please provide it to the committee clerk. The committee clerk will also keep track of presentation times and will signal when you have one minute remaining as well as when your time has expired.

Now, one thing I wanted to note. There was an individual who was looking to present, however her timeline was pretty late, so she asked for me to relay her feedback to the subcommittee over the noon break. Her name is Ann Kerr. One of the pieces of feedback that she had for the subcommittee – and it's actually a first; it's actually something quite different – is that we retain the time

change however revert to what we had about 15 years ago, where we change two weeks earlier, similar to before President Bush and the United States government changed the law down there, and then we followed suit. Her feedback that she had was that daylight savings time starts too early and ends too late. However, she did preface that she feels we need to ensure that all provinces in Canada are doing this so that we're not an outlier on it.

She actually had a very interesting sort of tidbit about when she built her house. She's just outside of Calgary, here. She designed it so that when she has breakfast, she will always have sun coming in in the morning. Because they change two hours later, she has a couple weeks where it doesn't happen anymore. It was quite an interesting little tidbit that I heard from her, but it was actually quite unique and something different. She wanted me to put that on the record on her behalf and let the subcommittee members know, so I felt it important to do so.

With that being said, Mr. Roth, if you could address the first presenter.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Mary Heinzlmeir.

**The Chair:** Just have a seat right here, and if you can state your name for the record before you begin.

**Mrs. Heinzlmeir:** Mary Heinzlmeir.

**The Chair:** Sorry. We have to hear it in the microphone because our *Hansard* staff are typing it in, but you can have a seat while you're presenting, too.

**Mary Heinzlmeir**

**Mrs. Heinzlmeir:** Okay. I feel that it's important to look at this and see that this affects everybody. I think we should stay on standard time year-round. That's what we've had before.

People have different ways that they work. Everybody isn't just in the city or whatever, and the clock time doesn't affect everybody. There are people who work early in the morning, you know, outside workers or something, so their time change is different. In the summer, when it's light, they get up earlier. For people who work like farmers, then, theirs is by weather.

To try and put this daylight saving time in: that might work fine for people who like to do golfing or something. But when you have the standard time, then everybody is on that same time, and the people who are in different kinds of work can adjust to it. You have it standard so that it's the same for everybody, and if you want to get up to do golfing or you want to open your shop or something earlier, you can do that. It's not forcing that time on everybody. When you have standard time, then that's good for everybody. Everybody can work from that to adjust, like we always used to do, and it's not forcing it.

I feel that putting daylight saving time on there is something where you're forced to do this because this one wants it or that one wants it. I don't think that's right. I think we have to consider that everybody has the right to adjust to it. If you have a standard time, you are making it possible for everyone to work from that time to adjust to their particular needs, to their particular circumstances. I think that's important. So I think standard time should be what we stay on in Alberta year-round and permanently.

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

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you for your presentation. Just to clarify, you're talking about Mountain Standard Time?

**Mrs. Heinzlmeir:** Yes. Mountain Standard Time year-round.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay.

**Mrs. Heinzlmeir:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. J.R. Curtis.

**The Chair:** Mr. Curtis, if you can speak your name into the microphone for the record, please.

**J.R. Curtis**

**Mr. Curtis:** J.R. Curtis. I just want to mention a couple of things. One, on a personal matter, I obviously, like a lot of people, do not like to change the time in the spring and then change it back in the fall. It's just very confusing, inconvenient. So many people have different stories about kids or whatnot, but for myself my main concern is for a lot of businesses that are out there. Right now I work in construction. I'm an electrician. Right now, at the beginning of August, we get up in the dark. That's at the beginning of August. With the current time we are at work at dark at the beginning of September, so we are often going for our coffee break when the sun is just coming up. That's when the time is to fall back. If the time were to stay the current time that it is now, we would be done with our coffee break and into the period between coffee break and lunch.

With that, time and money are wasted. I'm making 40 bucks an hour. I can spend anywhere from an hour to two hours a day sometimes going around looking for lighting to make sure I have the lighting to do my work, and I'm not the only one that does that. Oftentimes I can go around the construction site to find a light and take that light and start to do my task and another gentleman comes to say, "I'm using that light," and he comes and takes it back from me. So it's not just me. I've been on a site with 30 people in my company and with other various companies – plumbers, drywall fitters, anybody – and we're all doing the same thing.

**1:20**

If every company is wasting thousands of dollars per day because people – like, most journeymen are making close to 40 bucks an hour. If you take two or three journeymen or even apprentices making between \$20 and \$30 an hour and you add that up, you've got tens of thousands of dollars if not more, hundreds of thousands of dollars sometimes, per construction site when sites go on for six, eight months or whatnot. You take that per construction site and multiply that. How much construction is going to go on in the future when we get back up to where we were? We are losing a lot of money.

I just think that we should either keep with the time change – I'm not a lover of it, but to me, like I said, we get an hour earlier. There are also times that we cannot do tasks in the morning because it is too dark. We're outside, and there is no way that the site management company can provide enough lighting outside. Tasks are either delayed or put off or whatnot, again causing sometimes delays or setbacks or anything like that in our work. We should either keep with the time change or fall back and keep the Mountain Time so that the sun is up earlier and we are able to start work. Construction companies all over this province are not going to change their start times for work to coincide with the sunrise. We're always going to start between 6 and 7 a.m., so if the sun comes up later, that's affecting us. That's causing loss of funds and loss of money.

I just think that with the economy the way it is now – I've been unemployed more than I've been employed the last three years because of the economy, and I know that we need everything we can to help stimulate the economy and keep it going. Any loss, whether it's a couple of hundred or a couple of thousand dollars per site per day or whatever – I just think we need to control whatever we can.

Another feature is the safety factor. Like I said, I've gone into sites and worked with nothing but a headlamp on because there's no power there. It's a multicomplex or whatever, and there's no way you can provide lighting in every room. I'm in rooms sometimes for two or three hours working with nothing but a headlamp on, and that is causing more safety concerns. You've got more near misses. Somebody from one thing has garbage overflowing in a bin, and someone walks around the corner, something is poking out, and they cannot see that because it's too dim, or there's something spilled on the floor. We just need, you know, as much light as possible to keep our safety factors.

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

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you so much for your presentation, Mr. Curtis. I appreciate the safety aspect of this. During the summer, when we are on this time and we have the longer days, is there any time in which your companies will adjust the time so that you'll start later and just work later?

**Mr. Curtis:** No. It does not matter. All year long we keep the same time. On average, most companies I've been with in construction start around 6:30. The latest time is 7 o'clock, and some start as early as 6. If there's something special that's got to be done, we may even start at 5:30 in the morning.

**Mr. Coolahan:** There was a previous presenter – I think it was in Edmonton – who said that some of the construction sites find it a safety issue and something that falls under OH and S, actually, that legally they can't begin work when it's that dark. I mean, I've seen lots of construction sites where they have the big lights, and, you know, it's just as bright as sunlight. There's no factor in that? I'm not sure why you would head to a construction site when you can't do a lot of work.

**Mr. Curtis:** We go to a site, and, yes, we try to do work, but like I said, no matter what, the construction management company is in charge at the overall site. I have yet to be on one in which every room you're in has enough, sufficient light. It's not possible. You could be in a room for 10 minutes or a half-hour, or you can be there for eight hours for that day. There's no way that they're going to supply enough lighting – Wobblelights is what we call them – in every room to be able to do every task throughout the day. The management company does not know what tasks we are doing for that day, do not know where we are going to be that day, so they can't strategically place the lights in the areas that we need them. Whether it's a half-hour, whether it's eight hours working in a room with no light, it's all a safety thing. Like I said, construction companies are not going to change and start at one time in the summer and one time in the winter. It's set, that's the way it is, and that's the way it's always going to be for a lot of different reasons.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I really appreciate your input. You know, this is the task that we're faced with, dealing with all this different type of input. If we had somebody from the golf industry sitting here, they would come up after and say: we really like the light because people

get off work and they can still play a round of golf. This is the very difficult thing we're tasked with here.

Thank you so much for your input.

**Mr. Curtis:** Yeah. I just want to say that I think or that my general feeling is that a majority of people want to get rid of it more for the convenience than anything else.

**Mr. Coolahan:** The changing of the clocks?

**Mr. Curtis:** Yeah. If you listen to pretty much any businesses, whether it's the hockey Flames or whether it's myself or other companies who may have presented, it's going to affect them more negatively. It's more, you know, an economic thing than just a personal preference thing. I think we need to look at what's going to affect this province as an economic thing more than just a personal thing. Everyone has personal preferences. We can't meet all of those, so we've got to look at what's more important, what's going to be more of a safety watch, and what's going to help grow this economy. Sometimes personal preferences just aren't able to be met.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Point taken. Thank you.

**Mr. Curtis:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much, Mr. Curtis.

Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Gordon Logan.

**Mr. Logan:** Hi. I'm not a public speaker, so I'll do my best. Thanks for having us here.

**The Chair:** That's fine. We all have to start with a first time.

**Mr. Logan:** As the last person said . . .

**The Chair:** Sorry to cut you off. Just state your name for the record and for those tuning in.

**Mr. Logan:** Gordon Logan.

**The Chair:** Thank you. Okay. You can proceed now.

### Gordon Logan

**Mr. Logan:** As the last person said, almost no businesses shift their hours from winter to summer. It seems ironic to me that the government, that so much champions worker safety – and this is under economic development – would even forward this bill, that jeopardizes both. Forcing children to go to school two hours before daylight at 30 below and forcing outdoor workers to start two hours before daylight: that is jeopardizing worker safety.

As for economic development, if you look at the time zone map, right now we are in an economic zone of all the states south of us. We are one hour from B.C. and an hour behind the Central Time zone. If you look at Saskatchewan and Arizona, at least they had the good sense, when they stayed off daylight saving time, to remain in their natural time zones, Arizona remaining on mountain standard and Saskatchewan remaining on central standard.

So in one season, if we go onto this ludicrous proposition, all the people we do business with won't know if we're on Chicago time or if we're on Denver time. It depends on the time of year. We have to go on the same system where our economic sphere lies, and that's with the U.S.A. Saskatchewan has not much clout, not to put down Saskatchewan or anything. They're very respected partners, too.

You also look at the time zone. Certain parts of eastern B.C. are in the Alberta time zone because they're in our economic sphere, and they're on our TV broadcasting and everything else. What's going to happen to them in the wintertime, when there's a two-hour time jump from B.C. to Alberta? Which way are they going to go? Is anybody going to know what time to watch a hockey game? You're going to get your kids up two hours before sunlight and in a snowstorm at 30 below or put them out to a school bus to stand out there? In the wintertime daylight is a writeoff anyway. Whether you've got a half-hour of sunlight at the end of your work shift or none, does it really make much difference?

Just bear with me here. I believe the whole manner of this thing seems to have been either underpublicized or deceptive. Even the bill is deceptive, and it uses every manner of wording to beat around the bush that we want to move on to permanent Central Standard Time. They say, "Oh, yeah, we want to go six hours behind universal" – did most of the people who answered this survey even know what that means? – or "We want to have the convenience of daylight saving time." I am willing to bet that if you actually took the demographics of the people who answered this survey, they are the people who have the time to sit at their computers under electric lights and answer this. I only heard about this by accident. I heard it mentioned once in July on one quick radio blurb. I googled to try and find it, and I spent an hour of googling before I found one obscure little radio station that even announced this, and I found the link to the website to find the bill, that was deceptively worded. Why do you think there are so few people here? They don't know about it.

I do believe that once we have a few accidents of workers working two hours before daylight, after the ensuing lawsuits, after the extreme expense and confusion of us shifting forward to this obscure time zone, lawsuits and such will bring us back to the previous time zone, either mountain standard or mountain daylight, and we will incur further expenses to shift back.

*1:30*

In summary, it's very short sighted and uninformed, I believe, and it should be squashed. Either remain the same to stay with the economic zone that we do the most business with, or go back to permanent Mountain Standard Time, our natural time zone, as Arizona and Saskatchewan remained in their natural time zones.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Excellent.

I know, Mr. Coolahan, you have a question here as well.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Logan, for your presentation. Appreciate it. You know, the exercise we're doing here is all about clarity and about hearing from Albertans and how they feel about the bill, so I wanted to clarify a few things. First of all, this is the Alberta Economic Future Committee, and it's a subcommittee of that; it's not economic development. That's a different beast. It's actually a ministry. Also, what I wanted to clarify, too, is that this is not a government bill; this is a private member's bill, okay?

I'm going to tell you how we came to be here today. When a private member introduced the bill – as I was discussing just before the break, I think that private member made the right decision to bring forth this bill because he had many constituents come into his office and say that this is what they wanted, so he presented it that way. On second reading in the Legislature it was voted on by all members unanimously, throughout the House, to send it to a committee. It could have gone to any committee, right? This one was chosen for whatever reason. I'm not quite clear on that. However, during the committee, when we were discussing this bill,

it was again voted on unanimously by those committee members to send it to a subcommittee, which is why we're here today.

You know, it's just a good exercise, right? The private member had the right to bring forward a bill, and he made the decision to do so because he felt that there were some strong feelings about this topic. The amount of input received was overwhelming, I mean, more than we've ever seen on anything else. So people clearly have a lot of passion about it.

Is the bill as presented the way we should go? That's what we're here to find out, right? I think your point is very well taken. Many people do not like moving to Central Time full-time. Many people have said that they prefer Mountain Time.

Also, what I wanted to say was that I share your concern, as do many other people, about the clarity of the bill. People didn't necessarily understand what's being proposed. This is what we've seen in these hearings in the last few days, that, I think, people are very passionate about either they enjoy changing their clocks or they absolutely despise it, not necessarily fully understanding that we have to land one way or another and what the bill proposes on landing on one side.

Thank you so much for your presentation. That's exactly why we're here, to hear from Albertans.

**Mr. Logan:** Thanks. As I say, I'm sure most of the people who answered that survey were not online, outdoor workers, who haven't even heard about this bill. As I say, I heard about it one time on a random radio blurb and had to do an hour of Google searching to find any further information. I'm sure there would be backlash if we go to this Alberta standard – whatever time zone they're going to call it.

Thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** It certainly had press, so I'm not sure. I mean, there wasn't any means to try and hide it. We've been travelling the province. I'm sorry you couldn't find it, but we'll take that into consideration as well.

Thank you.

**Mr. Logan:** If anybody has dealt with people from Saskatchewan and Arizona, they're always very confused around time zone shift. I've talked to a lot of Americans in various states, too, and they don't seem to know the difference between standard and daylight time. They continually insist that it's standard when they're on daylight. Imagine the confusion when we're trying to explain our difference, that, oh, we're open or closed an hour later or earlier now. That'll be really good for business, I'm sure.

Thank you.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Just a quick question and comment as well. Your point is well taken. We certainly have tried to reach out to Albertans, and 13,562 have responded on some online surveys we've done. But, to your point, that's a third of a per cent of Albertans, which means that we've only, really, just scratched the surface.

I wanted to comment that I think you've raised some really strong and positive issues for us to ensure that we perhaps even seek some greater input from organizations. People have mentioned OH and S, occupational health and safety, one group that I think we as a committee maybe should seek some further input from. The other one that I think we may have had some written response but we did not have any further discourse with was the Alberta Construction Safety Association, which I've had some engagement with in the past, who give awards out for safety records and also the safety records that impact the Workers' Compensation Board premiums

that they pay as well. These are all really around business and safety.

Your points have given me pause for thought that we as a committee maybe also need to reach back out to those organizations as individuals or as a committee to really seek some further input on those safety concerns which you so rightly raise, so I thank you for bringing those forward.

As I'm hearing you, your recommendation to this committee, then, is that we as a subcommittee recommend to our committee that this bill should not proceed. Is that correct?

**Mr. Logan:** That's correct. Either remain as we are now to satisfy the daylight saving people in the summer or go back to Mountain Standard Time as Saskatchewan and Arizona had the good sense to do. Change the wording of the bill, if anybody wants to keep it going, to: do you agree to switch to permanent Central Standard Time, out of sync with all our economic partners, to a two-hour time zone jump from B.C.? Put those things in there, worded in black and white, so people actually know what they're voting on, and find the demographics of the people who are voting.

Thank you.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Fair wording and point well taken, sir. Thank you.

**Mr. Logan:** Thank you.

**Mr. Roth:** A.K. Ross.

**The Chair:** State your name for the record, please.

**A.K. Ross**

**Mr. Ross:** A.K. Ross. I've submitted a written presentation that's being handed out to you as well, and my verbal presentation is a condensation of that.

Mr. Sucha and your fellow subcommittee members, thank you for the opportunity to add my feedback on Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act. First of all, I agree that it is time to end the biannual time change in Alberta, but I totally disagree with this bill's proposal of moving Alberta permanently to mountain daylight saving time. By placing Alberta in the same time zone as Saskatchewan all year long, we would be two hours ahead of B.C. in winter. This will seriously impede Alberta's road to economic recovery.

I agree with most of the reasons presented by those who oppose this bill, so I will not repeat those arguments here. Instead, I wish to add the following three prospective areas for your consideration. A fourth one is included in my written presentation.

Number one, economic perspectives. First, the Conference Board of Canada graded B.C. with an excellent overall A performance. However, they gave Alberta a D minus grade and Saskatchewan a D grade. This was in their June 2017 report.

Secondly, Alberta's population is now a little over 4 million. B.C. is a little over 4.6 million, but Saskatchewan is barely 1.1 million. As a CPA I see more economic ties and activities between Alberta and B.C. than between Alberta and Saskatchewan. With a greater population and a more robust economy in B.C., why would we want to align our time zone with a neighbour that is still almost fully resource dependent? Is not our government wanting to transition Alberta away from being so dependent on the resource sector as we have been in the past? Would we not be wiser to align our time zone with B.C. to facilitate more economic ties and trade with a province that is developing focused hubs of strong economic activity? A non resource focused economy will help Alberta in the long term.



1:40

Secondly, the Alberta advantage perspective. We can continue to keep our Alberta advantage if we avoid making decisions that favour a very small segment of our population over the rest. In 1990 Alberta was an inspiring leader for the rest of Canada when we forged ahead and created the Family Day holiday on the third Monday of February. Other provinces have followed our lead, also choosing the third Monday of February. However, when B.C. adopted a provincial holiday in 2013, they chose the second Monday of February because they were hoping to boost the economic traffic to their winter ski resorts. But ski resorts are an extremely small component of B.C.'s overall economy. For businesses operating in both B.C. and Alberta, having divergent holidays has created a continual but totally unnecessary employment headache.

It is well documented that these daylight saving time changes often result in health issues, including SAD, along with many motor vehicle and on-the-job accidents, but all of these things can be prevented by simply stopping the practice of springing forward and falling back. Let's fall back and stay back.

While moving to mountain daylight savings time would certainly help families to enjoy longer summer evenings, I feel that most families with young children are failing to realize that their children will be going to school an hour earlier with an additional hour of darkness than they have ever experienced before. How is this going to help those struggling with SAD disorder? How will this help parents to get their children up and happily off to school when it feels like the middle of the night? How will this help cyclists and other commuters get more safely to work year-round but especially in the long, dark winter months? Golfers can choose when they want to golf. Children can't choose when they go to school. Commuters can't choose when they go to work. Let's fall back and stay back. Let's maintain the Alberta advantage for everyone.

Lastly, daylight savings time costs more than it saves. It's been well documented that Alberta's energy use actually increases at the start of mountain daylight saving time in early March and continues to do so over the eight-month duration of daylight saving time. Instead, Alberta would see a 1 per cent energy savings benefit by just staying on Mountain Standard Time year-round. How many light bulbs would it take to generate this kind of savings? Alberta is moving away from fossil fuel for energy. Most municipalities have moved into recycling and composting programs. Cities are changing their streetlights to more energy efficient ones. With all of these improvements, why would Alberta want to retain the biannual time change, which is a more costly practice? With increasing demands on electrical energy each year, through a small change like falling back to and staying with Mountain Standard Time, we will be making a positive, long-term investment in the future energy health of our province.

I absolutely support doing away with daylight savings time, but I will only support a move back to Mountain Standard Time. It makes the most sense.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Ross.

I will now open it up for questions from committee members. Mr. Coolahan.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yes. Thank you for presentation, Mr. Ross. I appreciate it. Lots of information here.

We've heard a lot of people say that they want to stop changing the clock, but perhaps the direction that's being proposed in the bill isn't the best way; we should go the other way. We've also heard from other people that have said that if we stayed on the other time,

it's better for golfing, for minor sports, and these are all economic drivers as well. So this is what we have to understand. We have heard from airports, airlines, and, you know, National Hockey League teams. These are very big players in our economy, too, so we have to take that into consideration.

Most of all, I just wanted to thank you for your presentation and throw those couple of items out there for you. Thank you.

**Mr. Ross:** Yeah. I read all of your submissions, the two documents online. Very good.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you.

**Mr. Ross:** Okay. Thanks.

**The Chair:** Thank you so much.

Because Mr. Curtis had some supplemental information to provide us, I'd invite him to come back up and provide that really briefly as well.

**Mr. Curtis:** Hello. Thanks again. J.R. Curtis. Just want to add two quick notes. One, as the gentleman mentioned, seasonal affective disorder: I also suffer from that. Many times in the winter I get up, and I have to force myself to go to work. It's a struggle, and I know that sometimes my work is affected because I'm at work and I'm just not feeling as well as I should be feeling.

Another note I just want to say is that I'm not the average construction worker. I went to university upon finishing high school and just got into construction in my mid-30s. The average construction worker – yes, they are hard workers – is not the type of person who is totally up on social media, coming to meetings such as this, and voicing their opinion. They pretty much just go with the flow and let things happen and deal with it as it is. I know that if they were more up on it, it would not be 70-something per cent in favour of changing it. All I'll say is that I just wanted to bring it forward that I'm representing, you know, a large portion of Calgary or Alberta people, all the construction workers who do not take it upon themselves to be so involved. I just wanted to express that if all those did vote or give their opinion on this, it would not be 70-something per cent of people approved for the time change.

Thanks again.

**The Chair:** Mr. Coolahan.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. Thanks again, Mr. Curtis. I appreciate it.

I guess that in Mr. Dang crafting this private member's bill, he went in that direction from what he heard from his constituents, and we're here to hear from other Albertans as well. The subcommittee can make a recommendation if we so choose, if we think that it's appropriate, to amend the bill in the other direction. If we think that there is, you know, a desire from most Albertans to stop changing the clocks and land on one of those time zones, we could make that recommendation to stay on Mountain Standard Time. So all input is appreciated.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Richard Miazga.

**Richard Miazga**

**Mr. Miazga:** Rick Miazga. Last I heard, the chickens wake up at the same time, crow at the same time, and the cows bellow at the same time, so I can't see this affecting our agricultural industry.

I'd like to keep daylight savings time. I know lots of people that go hiking in the mountains after work. When they get off at 4:30, they go. They're going to lose that hour, so that's going to be detrimental for them and the amateur sports, baseball, soccer. Is that going to be a carbon footprint now that people have to turn their lights on earlier all year? I do golf. That's going to decimate what percentage? About 15, 20 per cent of their revenue is going to be destroyed. What that one gentleman said about the ski industry in B.C. also pertains to the tourism industry. I don't know. You guys might have the figures on tourism for B.C. I know that in France it's a major industry – what is it? – 90 per cent of their industry, so B.C. must be pretty high because the last highest industry point with B.C. was the marijuana industry. Am I wrong?

**The Chair:** We don't have any of the economic data on B.C. because, obviously, this is Alberta. Our focus is solely on daylight savings and the implications that come from Bill 203, so we wouldn't be briefed on any of those items. We'd only be briefed specifically on this one and the information that we're receiving from the public.

**Mr. Miazga:** Our winters are long. Our summers are short enough. Now, these people that lose this hour – the sun is going to come up earlier in the morning, shine in their windows, and heat up their houses, so they're going to lose more sleep. They're going to just sit there in their bed and toss and turn, right?

I don't have much else to say, but I just can't see why we want to take Saskatchewan's lead and not be with the rest of the world and advance.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay. So that was my question, Mr. Miazga.

**Mr. Miazga:** Miazga.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Miazga. I'm sorry, Mr. Miazga.

**Mr. Miazga:** Lots of us in central Alberta if you've never heard the name before.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you, Mr. Miazga. So I wanted to clarify: are you saying that you want to stay status quo and keep moving the clock?

1:50

**Mr. Miazga:** Yes.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay.

**Mr. Miazga:** I love the hour extra at nighttime in whenever, March or April. It's like you just come out of a horrible tunnel of darkness. Now you get the light again after work for whatever, half an hour or two hours after 4:30.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. As I was saying to the earlier gentleman, Mr. Curtis, I believe, that's how the bill was drafted, with people like you thinking that they would prefer that. That's what we're here for, right? I mean, everyone has an opinion on this. It elicits a lot of opinions, and it has elicited a lot of responses, so I appreciate you coming down here today.

**Mr. Miazga:** Yeah. Thanks.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. Roth:** Peter Brackett.

## Peter Brackett

**Mr. Brackett:** My name is Peter Brackett. I'm a retired professional engineer, and I've done business all across the country and North America during my career and consistently dealt with the time zone issues and the time synchronization of business between them. One thing to think about is, definitely, the differences between various places. It's much more difficult to deal with Toronto on the two-hour time difference. You know, they're there before you get started at the normal working hour, but they're gone when you need them. Time consistency is a major factor for doing business well, so if you're not consistent with the majority part of the world, you're going to have problems. There's going to be an associated cost.

A little technical background is that the world was divided into 24 time zones by a Canadian who led the charge, Sir Sandford Fleming. You look at where those 15-degree lines occur, and then the local time zones get changed for political or realistic actions. It's why part of B.C. gets added into Alberta's time zone, because of the natural connections they have. The fact is, you know, that where you are in the time zones makes more sense plus or minus of whether you change. That's why Saskatchewan is less affected by not going to daylight savings time than the others.

The other one is, definitely, that whenever you have a change in time factors, there's a tremendous hidden cost involved in it. When George Bush moved the time zones for plus and minus the time, the businesses had to spend a lot of money making changes to their business processes, to the software, a tremendous amount. I worked for CP Rail. We were lucky some of our processes were linked to one time zone whereas in the U.S. Burlington Northern was linked to local time, so they had a hundred people out working for a month before to make changes to just one system. You've got all those hidden costs that are a factor. Business consistency is an important factor of how you're doing it, and there are many hidden costs when you're not consistent with the rest of the world.

There was very short notice for me to come to this meeting, so I haven't got more background presentation on that, but I just wanted to mention a few things like that, that should be taken into account. The issue is that, you know, we've only got so many hours of daylight, and choosing to match up those hours of daylight to get the most advantage from them is something that should certainly be taken into consideration.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Coolahan:** Mr. Brackett, just a couple of questions. I just wanted to clarify where you land on this. It sounds like, you know, you have some real concern about changing the clocks, changing time, any permanent changes that would impact economics. Does the change biannually impact economics as well?

**Mr. Brackett:** Yes. There is cost to the changes. There are higher accident rates with the changes, but there is going to be a significant cost if you don't keep yourself synchronized with the rest of the world.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Right.

**Mr. Brackett:** And I don't think that's been taken into account sufficiently. Yes, it's nice to say: well, we'll just wave our hands and not change. But the business processes would certainly suffer if we're on a different time zone. I think Saskatchewan, because of

their size and their business activity, doesn't deal with the rest of the world as much as Alberta industry does.

**Mr. Coolahan:** So your recommendation, then, is status quo.

**Mr. Brackett:** Yes. Stay synchronized with the rest of the world.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mr. Panda:** Excuse me. I have a question for you.

**The Chair:** Oh. Sorry, Mr. Panda.

**Mr. Brackett:** Sorry.

**The Chair:** A couple of additional people want to ask questions.

**Mr. Brackett:** I wasn't sure who was talking.

**Mr. Panda:** Okay. Thank you. Thanks for coming. Are you an APEGA member now?

**Mr. Brackett:** Yes.

**Mr. Panda:** Did you get a chance to talk to any other APEGA colleagues?

**Mr. Brackett:** No. I've been away on holidays and just got back and didn't have much time to prepare for any background on this issue and take it all into account.

**Mr. Panda:** Yeah. So on all those major projects that APEGA members are involved in, in construction and engineering, I just wanted to know: how would that impact . . .

**Mr. Brackett:** I have not got a background in local construction technology or business to comment on it properly.

**Mr. Panda:** Yeah. I would like to know how it impacts the productivity. How would it impact their costs?

**Mr. Brackett:** Those are good questions, and I said that they should be explored. I just don't have the background. I'll say what I know and what I don't know.

**Mr. Panda:** Thank you.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Mr. Brackett, for joining us today. Again, it's good to hear from people with some professional background and experience in operations and construction and projects of different sorts. We've heard from a number of groups – WestJet, the airline groups as well – about the economic impact. You know, we've heard from some other organizations about economic impact, and I think there are many of us that are concerned about that economic impact not just in productivity within Alberta but, as you mentioned, that connectivity to the rest of Canada, the rest of North America, and the world. It sounds to me like that's a very serious concern for you during relatively difficult economic times here in Alberta, so I really appreciate your comments on that as an APEGA member and someone with a strong background. We certainly welcome any further input and feedback you get from peers or former peers and colleagues to better inform us about this. It's been very helpful for us.

**Mr. Brackett:** What's the proper way to do some research and present the information back to the committee? Is there a particular web address or anything like that to pass the information back, an e-mail address?

**The Chair:** Yeah. We'll be taking additional information until the end of the 15th. I know the timeline is pretty tight from today, so that would be tomorrow. Mr. Roth would have contact information to provide for you after. The mandate of the committee is to report back to the Legislative Assembly by October 4, so our timelines are relatively tight with that consideration, but even if there are further things the committee feels it should have explored, we can always recommend that as well.

**Mr. Gotfried:** If I might add, you can always reach out to your MLA as well because even though we're dealing with this at the committee and that process will come to a conclusion, it may mean that this bill moves back to the Legislature, so I would encourage you if you have any further information or insights or input to call your local MLA.

**Mr. Brackett:** Okay. But is there also a place where electronic e-mail can go to this committee?

**The Chair:** Yeah. That would be through Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Brackett:** Okay.

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

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Mario Deshaies.

**The Chair:** If you can state your name for the record before you begin.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Yep. Mario Deshaies.

**The Chair:** Have a seat.

**Mario Deshaies**

**Mr. Deshaies:** Thank you. Thank you very much for receiving me today. As you can tell, I have a French accent because I'm from Quebec. In Quebec we change time like the rest of the country, and my humble opinion is that we should keep changing time like we do at the moment because we co-ordinate with the rest of the country and most of the U.S. Economically I think it would be better to keep it as is, but that's my personal opinion.

**2:00**

Also, I really enjoy in summertime when the sun is going to bed at 11 o'clock and not waking up at 3 o'clock in the morning, so I think it's better for that to keep it as is at the moment. That's the second thing.

If we have to change time – and I agree with that gentleman who spoke before who said we should align ourselves with B.C. because in B.C. there's a 4.6 million population compared to 1.1 million with Saskatchewan. If you calculate also Ontario and Quebec and the Maritimes – so it would be much better to align ourselves with B.C.

The other point that I don't understand is: why are we rushing that bill? Why are we rushing that bill when we have much more important issues to take care of in this province? I think for me it's almost like we're losing our time here, and that's my personal opinion.

If we want to do an important change like that, it should be with a ballot box at the next election because it's so important and will have an impact on so many people. I don't think we should make changes before an election. At the same time that you have an election, it's easy to have a ballot where you can explain to the

people what they want. Do you want to have the time change? Do you want to align yourself with B.C.? Or do you want to align yourself with Saskatchewan? Just keep it simple.

I used to be an NDP supporter, but I'm not sure what's going on with everything and, especially rushing something like that, that you will get my vote for the next election. Thank you very much. That's all I have to say.

**The Chair:** Questions for Mr. Deshaies. Mr. Coolahan.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you. Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Deshaies. A couple of things. You know, we all have opinions on this. We want to be sensible, right? I mean, I have my own opinions, too. I don't mind changing the clock, right? So there it is. More and more of what we've been hearing in these hearings is that for me – I'm finding that I'm concerned about making a unilateral move. I think if we're going to do it, we need a broader discussion with other western Canadian provinces, with western United States because many of them are looking to change as well. You know, what happens if they change and we don't? We're in the same boat, right? That's why I think my approach at this point is to think more of "Let's start a discussion" rather than make a move at this point.

I just wanted to clarify some things for you around the bill itself. This is a private member's bill, okay? It wouldn't matter which party introduced this. It would likely have gone down the same route. This is not a government bill. Anyone could have introduced this. As I said this morning to somebody else, I think Mr. Dang made the right decision to introduce this bill. The reason I think it was the right decision was the overwhelming response he had in his office and many of us have in our offices, particularly right after a time change. People come in and say: stop changing the clocks. Right?

**Mr. Deshaies:** Oh, yeah.

**Mr. Coolahan:** So when you get enough response – saying earlier, too, I mean, that if you get 10 people coming in with the same issue, you know, you better take notice. But when you get several hundred, as he did, it was a very good moment to pivot on a private member's bill.

When it hit the Legislature, I think the numbers made everyone take notice that, okay, there's something here, right? But I don't think anyone was willing to make a decision either, right? So unanimously it was voted to take it to the committee.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Well, I think it's a good idea to have a committee to share ideas, but from my point of view there's no need to rush that. I mean, there are more things that we should do in this province here in terms of diversifying the economy than pushing for the time change. Before we do something like that, we have to measure the impact economically for the province here. When I was listening to the TV and I saw what was going on, I said: "Why are we rushing that thing? You know, why don't we take the time to make sure that if we make changes, we make the right changes?"

You said that other places are looking to change time. Maybe we should co-ordinate with them so we're not only by ourselves. I don't know if you are aware of other provinces in this country that want to make the time change, but my idea would be that if you have to make the time change for what you propose, wait maybe for B.C. to do the same or Ontario to do the same. It makes sense.

**Mr. Coolahan:** That's what I was saying. Northwest Territories is looking at doing it, and they are actually waiting for what happens here.

I just want to respond to your comment about rushing the bill. I don't think that's accurate. For one, private members' bills have a very certain amount of time that is allotted in the standing orders for debate.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Okay.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay. It's actually a small amount of time. If we actually wanted to push it through, we would be done by now. I think we were all sensible enough to realize that we needed to talk more about this. Frankly, this has not been expedited whatsoever. After three meetings I feel like it's gone on forever.

I do appreciate your comments and thank you for your . . .

**Mr. Deshaies:** I was just giving you my impression, you know. I don't have a lot of knowledge of the issue, but my concern is that since, you know, the economy is not that good in Alberta, we need to pay attention so we don't harm it, make it worse than it is at the moment.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Absolutely. That's why we're here, to make sure that we make the right decision. One other aspect I'll just throw out there on the parameters of a private member's bill is that it can't be a money bill, as they call it. It can't cost a lot of money. Well, everything costs money, but it's not supposed to cost money, which is why we're doing these, so we make sure of the right decision. You know what? The decision could be to stay status quo. That could be the recommendation coming out of this committee.

**Mr. Deshaies:** No, no. I mean, if we do a change, we need to make sure that there's no impact on people and business because that is very important for our province here.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Absolutely. A hundred per cent.

**Mr. Deshaies:** I'm thinking about – I don't want to take too much time here – tourism. If you can have the sun until 11 o'clock in the summertime, it's much better.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I love it.

**Mr. Deshaies:** You've got more people spending, and that's when I like it. That's one of the reasons that I want to keep the status quo at the moment.

That's all I have to say, guys.

**Mr. Coolahan:** All right. Thank you.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Mr. Deshaies, for your time today.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Oh, no problem.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Your presentations reminded me that I have my own opinions on this. I've become better informed as we've been going through this process. It's entrenched some of my opinions, and it has changed some of them as well, and I think that one of your points that you brought up, you know, is: why are we rushing? I think that that's been addressed here, that, actually, we're trying not to rush. We're trying to inform ourselves as legislators. Through that process I hope that, depending on which direction we take, we will be in a position to better inform Albertans. I hope that that's where we land.

You've talked about priorities, and, trust me, one of my opinions is: are we spending time on an issue right now when there are much more important things for us to do as a province and as legislators? That's probably at the top of my list in terms of my personal opinion

on this. But, again, all Albertans' opinions are to be valued in this discussion.

You also mentioned about alignment. We've heard it various times that there are 23 other jurisdictions considering this legislation. Your point about alignment is that maybe we should have those discussions with those others considering it. If 23 were to do it at the same time, that might carry some weight and influence other jurisdictions, which would be, I guess, roughly another 36 more jurisdictions across North America that we might impact.

**2:10**

But I'm hoping that what you shared with us today and what we've been able to glean from other presenters as well allows us to be better informed and in this process be able to better inform Albertans to make those well-informed decisions as we go forward. Thank you for highlighting those. Every presenter has brought forward some thoughts for me, personally. I hope that we're able to share that with our fellow legislators, the decision we make here as a committee, taking into account all of the things you mentioned: the priorities, the time, the cost, the alignment. This is, I guess, what we're here for. This process, I hope, has been helpful for you, and thank you for making it more beneficial to us as well.

**Mr. Deshaies:** Thank you so much. I appreciate coming and getting an education here with everybody. My opinion didn't change. We should keep it as is, or my second opinion would be to align ourselves with B.C. The worst of the worst of the worst, in my opinion, would be to align ourselves with Saskatchewan, and I totally agree with the presenter that said that if we have to align ourselves, it's much better to align ourselves with B.C.

Thank you, guys.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Good point. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Craig MacKay.

**Craig MacKay**

**Mr. MacKay:** Hello. Thank you. Craig MacKay. I, like a previous presenter, am also an electrician. However, I work as well as a project manager for a multibillion-dollar national telecom company. I can tell you that time change and differences in time zones, as corporate head offices are in B.C. and Ontario, are a concern, but it's a manageable one that almost every large multinational or national corporation deals with. It's the cost of doing business. I don't think that's a concern.

I can definitely attest to the challenge of having to look for sources of light in construction. However, as one of the members on the committee said, it's the responsibility of OH and S to provide adequate lighting. However, they're also looking for the bottom dollar, so that's challenging.

The bottom line is – I consider myself well informed. I consider myself educated. When I first heard about this and researched it, I actually thought the member's bill as it stood was to keep with daylight savings time. I don't support the bill in the current form. I wish we would stay in Mountain Standard Time and remain on that time. I think that's a much more sensible time. It provides more hours in the day.

Obviously, not everyone is going to be happy with this. Many industries, many individuals have different opinions. Obviously, 13 some-odd thousand Albertans have had opinions enough to register their pleasure or displeasure at this, maybe where they wouldn't

necessarily be politically active. This is a hot-topic issue. I have young kids. I don't like changing the clocks. It's inconvenient. It's bothersome. No one is going to be happy, but I think that if enough Albertans are considering making the motion, you know, there's usually a ratio: for every e-mail, that represents X number of Albertans; for every phone call, that represents X number of Albertans; for every person that shows up in one of these committee meetings, that represents an even larger portion of Albertans because people are willing and motivated to do so.

Lastly, I hope that we're not lending extra weight to people of certain professions. I myself have a different opinion than the other electrician who presented. He's allowed his opinion. I don't want to say that my opinion is more or less valid than the engineer or the farmer or anyone else. We all have a vote in this, have a say in this, hopefully. Everyone has an opinion. Everyone can say what they prefer. There are economic benefits and detractors for each side of the argument.

In its current standing I would not support the bill. I would like to have it as Mountain Standard Time. That's my two cents.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much, Mr. MacKay.

Any questions?

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Mr. MacKay, for coming here today. I think you're exactly right. There are 13,562 who have responded, and 75 per cent of those said that they wanted to support the bill. We've had varying responses as well. I just did my own quick poll today. We've had 18 presenters: 11 were no, against the bill; two were for the bill; and five were to go to Mountain Standard Time. That's where we're represented today as far as the numbers go.

Every Albertan's opinion is going to be valid on this. I think, again, we're hoping that in our opportunity to be better informed about this and to seek Albertans' opinions, we can also then better inform people so that when they are bringing forward their comments or their positions or if we get to a referendum on this, they can make those well-informed decisions, both from a personal perspective, how it affects their day-to-day life, but also from an economic or business perspective as well. All of these opinions are valid, and it's very interesting for us to see where those opinions go and where the preferences lie. Each and every day we've had a little bit of a difference on that. Thank you for your comments.

Again, just to be clear, you're for us to eliminate the time change but to go to Mountain Standard Time?

**Mr. MacKay:** That's correct, yeah.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Quick question. You know, as you said, everyone has an opinion on this, and we've heard many of them. I like to ask people this because my household is divided. Is your household divided?

**Mr. MacKay:** My wife is a social worker, and she can't believe this is the first time I've been politically active. She doesn't love it, but she has many more political aspirations than dealing with daylight savings time. She kind of said that she didn't care, so it's on me in my household.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Fair enough. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Excellent. Thank you very much, Mr. MacKay.  
Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jay Penny.

**Jay Penny**

**Mr. Penny:** Hi. Good afternoon. I'm Jay Penny. I'll say right off the start, and then I'll go into some detail, that what I'm for is just leaving the status quo. If I could tweak things and I ran the province unilaterally, a bit of a joke, what I would do is – like, George Bush shifted this ostensibly because of Iraq in 2002. Somebody correct me if I'm wrong, but it was approximately then. We went from advancing the clocks on the first Sunday of April, and then we would fall back on the last Sunday of October. Now it's basically the second Sunday in March that we spring forward. We've advanced daylight savings time three or four weeks approximately, and we've added a week to it in the fall. We don't go back till the first Sunday of November.

The problem I have right now with that tweak is that just when the mornings are finally getting light in early March, suddenly it's as dark as it is in December in the morning, and in the afternoon in early March before the time change you're still not getting darkness till about 7. Suddenly, you know, it's light till 8 at night in early March with the time change, but the mornings are still dark at 8. You don't need the afternoon daylight in early March. Nobody is out in the parks playing. They're frozen or covered with snow. It has an effect for a lot of the commuters and kids and everything. You're now adding another hour of darkness in the morning.

You know, to me, that would have been and still is a desirable thing, if we left it at what it used to be 15 years ago: we don't spring forward till the beginning of April; we fall back at the end of October or even the first of November, you get past Halloween, whatever. That's my point. That's what I would prefer to see. However, like, given what it is now, if the Americans largely decide to do something else, most political jurisdictions, we'll just fall in line, you know.

2:20

To get this out of the way, I would stay with what the current system is now, on Mountain Daylight Time in the summer months, Mountain Standard Time in the winter. It's absolutely ludicrous if it's wintertime and we're two hours ahead of British Columbia and one hour behind Montreal. I mean, it's asinine. It's like China, where, apparently, everybody is on Beijing time, so three hours in western China the sun doesn't come up till 10 or 11 in the morning. I think that's ridiculous to go to permanent daylight savings time.

A lot of people seem confused. Just like the previous gentleman said, when he first heard it, he thought that because it was an act to repeal Mountain Daylight Time, one would assume that the net result would be Mountain Standard Time, but really it's an act to enshrine Mountain Daylight Time all year round and change it to Alberta standard time, which really does not exist in world timekeeping. There are time zones, you know, central – as everybody knows, there's not an Alberta time zone.

That's pretty much the gist of what I have to say.

**The Chair:** Excellent.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you very much for your presentation today. We've had reference to the change dates before, but you've put it, actually, a little bit more into focus for us here about the impact of that change being, you know . . .

**Mr. Penny:** In March.

**Mr. Gotfried:** . . . an earlier changeover and a later change back. The time changes are quite significant even over a several-week period, as you've noted here.

**Mr. Penny:** Pretty much an hour.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Yeah.

**Mr. Penny:** In the spring and fall it's a hour in the morning and an hour in the evening of more or less daylight because right now we're losing two minutes a day on each end of the day and vice versa.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Yeah. I mean, that's interesting. Again, I think the challenge on that is the one of alignment with other jurisdictions, which is why we moved in the first place, right?

**Mr. Penny:** That's right. I mean, that's the main idea. For all of us in North America, let's say, to go to the proposed bill – let's say that we all adopt it. It would be so dark here in the morning. But I think if everybody shifted, well, then, it doesn't really matter what we call the time. The length of day doesn't change. You can call it anything. The sun comes up; the sun goes down. There's more of it in the summer and less in the winter.

You know, I think some people are confused. Like that old indigenous saying: you can't cut one end off the blanket and sew it on the other end and now have a longer blanket.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Yes. We've heard that one before.

**Mr. Penny:** Yeah. I'm sure you have. It's been in the paper.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Yet we do have some people that thought that there was going to be a shorter blanket, just so you know.

**Mr. Penny:** Yeah.

**Mr. Gotfried:** So is it George W. we're supposed to blame this on?

**Mr. Penny:** Yes, absolutely.

**Mr. Gotfried:** It wasn't his father.

**Mr. Penny:** He was the one that took responsibility. Whether it was his idea or not, it was under his presidency that we are now in the current system of daylight time in North America, where, you know, the Americans and us . . .

**Mr. Gotfried:** Interesting. You know, we had one gentleman mention that we might be better off to be on Pacific Standard Time. There are big challenges with that, but if you look at the narrow band of jurisdictions that are on PST versus the fact that we'd be in the same time zone as Alabama and Chicago, you know, it is, I think, the same issue you brought up about the breadth of China being in one time zone. I haven't done a check, but if you look at the sunrise and sunset times within that time zone, it's quite significantly different.

Again, just to reconfirm, you're quite comfortable with the status quo, then, at this point in time but with a comment that if we could move back to the old change dates, that would be even more preferable.

**Mr. Penny:** That's correct. Of course, adding another month of Mountain Standard Time would be my preference. You know, I know that's probably not going to happen. But having said all this, I'm comfortable with the status quo. I just really think that it kind of works in Alberta for solving the problem of it being too dark. I mean, it's very dark in the winter anyways – we all know – but it would be way too dark in the morning. Now, like the other gentleman said, if we were on permanent daylight savings time or this Alberta standard time suggestion, that happens, but if we

reverted to permanent Mountain Standard Time with no jump ahead, then it would be very light. It would be light at 3:30 in the morning in Calgary. That's pretty early. It seems early enough when it's kind of getting light at 4:35 in June.

**Mr. Gotfried:** You've presented us one of the most logical blankets we've had so far, so thank you.

**Mr. Penny:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Any other questions?

**Mr. Coolahan:** I'll just make a quick comment. You know, I really enjoyed your presentation. I think what we forget sometimes – and some people have brought this up in other presentations – is that it doesn't matter what time it is. The sun comes up and the sun goes down. I think we forget that time is a human construct, and only humans could make it so complicated.

**Mr. Penny:** That's right. Like, it's not the milk cattle and that that have the problem; it's the farmer doing the milking.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Exactly.

**Mr. Penny:** I know there are other considerations with trade and whatnot, and some people have made very good points, dealing with a head office in Toronto, et cetera, et cetera. Those are different issues though, I think, from the rank-and-file members of the public that just have that basic interest of ultimately: what time is the sun coming up? What time is the sun going down? Years ago – what was it? Fifty years ago?

**Mr. Gotfried:** Forty.

**Mr. Penny:** Forty. I think that that debate was kind of enlightened, really, in that time, saying: hey, maybe it wouldn't be a bad idea if we had some extra afternoon hours at the expense of the mornings, which are light anyway. You know, so we've kind of been down the path. I think that's about all I have to say.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Appreciate your time today.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Forty-six years ago. Sorry.

**Mr. Penny:** Okay. Thanks very much.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much.

On that note, we'll take a brief 15-minute recess and reconvene at 2:45.

[The subcommittee adjourned from 2:27 p.m. to 2:48 p.m.]

**The Chair:** We'll call this meeting back to order here. Thank you, all, for the brief break.

Mr. Coolahan, I know you had something to note.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. I just wanted to comment. During the break somebody had made a comment about us being on our phones and not appearing engaged. It's not the case. In this world we're actually communicating with our research staff in Edmonton, who are feeding us some information as we go along. I apologize if it seems rude, but we are still engaged and happy to communicate.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** And during this time I will note as well that I'm actually communicating with my committee clerk while on my phone, too. Typically he and I sit next to each other, but today that is not the case. He's sitting next to Mr. Panda instead.

With that being said, Mr. Roth, if you can call up the next presenter.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jane Coates.

**The Chair:** If you can state your name for the record, please.

**Jane Coates**

**Mrs. Coates:** Good afternoon. My name is Jane Coates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for this opportunity. I really came here today more to listen to what everyone else was going to convey back to you, but I'll just make a couple of comments. First of all, I think we should keep it just the way that it is for this reason, that probably is maybe more concerning for me. I think that we only have so many dollars. We only have so much time and energy.

The one sector that I think I haven't heard somebody speak on is the impact on our schools and the education tools that will have to be adjusted and changed, so our children that are currently in school and/or our universities will have to adjust accordingly. It's not just us, but it would be all the educational suppliers across the country and also throughout the world, in changing the name, in changing something that I'm not sure is really necessary.

Comments?

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

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you. That was very succinct and very straightforward. You know, we've heard lots of opinions and positions from educators, former educators, and quite frankly the opinions have been all over the map with respect to their perception of the impact on their students. We really haven't heard anybody talk about some of the tools that they use as well, but it just reminds us that there is an impact, one way or the other, on people. We've heard that it's the daylight that counts. We've heard that the time change is difficult. We've heard all kinds of things. I'm not sure that we have a lot of empirical evidence on one way or the other. We have a lot of opinions, which are all valid, but it just gives us food for thought in terms of: what is the reality? I guess the reality is that it's different for every child, it's different for every teacher's perception of what that reality is, and it's different for those parents that have to deal with it both pre- and post-school and getting their kids ready for school.

You know, the more we learn and the more we hear, the better informed we are. Every Albertan's opinion is valid here, but it's nice to hear from everyone to see what their perspective is, so thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you for your presentation. It's actually an interesting point. I don't think we've heard that. We've heard a lot, as Mr. Gotfried said, from educators. A lot of their opinions have to do with children being a little unruly after a time change.

**Mrs. Coates:** Sure. I can, you know, echo that. Our three children are now young adults, and I know what kind of transitioning you do have to go through. But, truthfully, I agree with the gentleman before me. I mean, the sun gets up; the sun goes down. It's the people that have to find the mechanisms to be able to adjust. I'm looking at it from a taxpayer's standpoint, and we're in the process of almost getting our third child through university. The thing that astounds me is how often their books, their tools change because there's a different author. Well, if we've got a different author but we have a different mechanism that our government has put through that all of a sudden impacts every single book, every single book

from pre-kindergarten all the way to grade 12 and then our universities, that's a significant amount of money that I'm not sure that we've all really considered.

When we only have so many dollars and we're trying to be good stewards, I think we have to also look at what that impact is to our Ministry of Education. It's not just our teachers, it's not just our kids, it's not just our parents, but it's with the actual tools.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. I mean, if we've been to university, we understand the significant impact of the cost of books and how the next year is always version 2, and you have to have that one. You can't even buy a used book. In terms of elementary schools I don't necessarily agree that it would have a great impact on their curriculum. I mean, we could, as a proposal here – if you end up landing on Central Standard Time, then you're on Central Standard Time, and we have, you know, the Internet and whatnot now.

But I appreciate a new perspective because I don't think we've heard that one before. So thank you.

**Mrs. Coates:** Good. Thank you.

**Mr. Panda:** Thanks for taking time, Jane, and thanks for your presentation. I know that your family is involved in professional hockey, and I want to know how that impacts that business. Also, one of the previous speakers said that when the economy is down, don't hurt it any further. How do you see this bill helping or hurting the economy, and how would your family view the changes from a professional hockey point of view?

2:55

**Mrs. Coates:** From the hockey point of view, the status quo is important because the rest of the National Hockey League isn't changing; it's just Edmonton and Calgary. Well, there are 31 teams, I think. You know, without the discussion being broadly based, all of a sudden the impact is more significant on Calgary and Edmonton. We already have enough economic pressure here in Calgary, I would suggest, and I would suggest that with our game of hockey, if you're talking minor hockey across the country, there is an impact on parents, specifically in administration, and an impact on the kids, that I think is more negative than positive in our household.

**Mr. Panda:** Okay. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Any additional questions?

Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Justin Ladd.

**The Chair:** Good afternoon.

**Mr. Ladd:** Good afternoon.

**The Chair:** If you could state your name for the record before you begin.

**Justin Ladd**

**Mr. Ladd:** Justin Ladd. Thank you for giving me the opportunity today. I know that I was speaking with Mr. Gotfried before we came back from recess, and one of the, I guess, issues that I've seen over even the last two days with the bill is the way that the initial survey was laid out. Over the last two days I've asked the patients that I've seen – I'm a physiotherapist – the questions as they were laid out in the survey, and I'd say that 90 to 95 per

cent of them have said: we'd rather have an extra hour of daylight in the summer in the evening.

Without any other swaying, when I tell them what the difference is in the winter by doing that, having sunrise at 20 to 10 as opposed to what it is now and the fact that we would be a two-hour difference from Revelstoke in the winter and we would only be a one-hour difference from New York and Toronto, then they question me and say that that doesn't sound right. I reassure them that that's the way it would be, and then those same people quickly say: "Oh, no. Then I'd rather just leave it the way it is." I think that the way it was initially worded in the online questionnaire didn't essentially give people the information they needed in order to actually make an informed decision.

Whether this goes to referendum or anything like that, I think it's important that all that information is presented prior to any other decision being made. Personally, I think that keeping it the way it is would be my choice. If you wanted to get rid of the time change, I personally would rather stick with Mountain Standard Time just in terms of keeping everything in alignment. In Saskatchewan they don't change; they stick with Central Standard Time. To me at least, it makes no sense to be on the same time as Dryden, Ontario, but to have a two-hour difference between here and Revelstoke. Just from that perspective, to me, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense. Again, if it does go forward, then I think inform the public, which has maybe been done a little bit more in the last two days but wasn't necessarily done before the online survey.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you very much for taking the time here and for your thoughtful presentation and also for the straw polls you've been doing with your clients. I think that's as well informed in many respects as many of us try to do with our constituents.

You know, I was just looking at some information. You and I were talking about the breadth of Central Standard Time, so I took a look at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which would still be in the same time zone. Their sunrise in the same time zone would be at 7:20 a.m. on December 21, and we would not be until 9:37.

**Mr. Ladd:** In Calgary?

**Mr. Gotfried:** In Calgary.

**Mr. Ladd:** In Grande Prairie it's nudging . . .

**Mr. Gotfried:** In Grande Prairie it's 10:20.

**Mr. Ladd:** Yeah.

**Mr. Gotfried:** I've done the numbers on that, and High Level would be 10:37 and Fort McMurray 10 o'clock, yet we'd be operating and opening up our offices at the same time. That would be, for example, let's just say Grande Prairie, exactly three hours later. There's quite a breadth there that is represented, and I think that these concerns are being brought forward. We're actually doing a little bit more research. We're listening to individuals. We're actually looking at what this means geographically and also in terms of how far south or north we are. Lots of implications for us to consider here.

**Mr. Ladd:** The other, I guess, question or comment that I had was: if it was to switch to Alberta standard time I think is what it was being called and three years down the road if all of a sudden, because of when the sun is coming up and everything else, everyone decides instead of now starting at 8 o'clock in the morning that, well, we're going to start at 9 o'clock, what's the



implication? Is everything now going to switch from a normal workday in Calgary being 8 until 4? Does that now become 9 till 5? We're now just in the same spot we were in in terms of daylight hours as we were three years prior, but in terms of the rest of the country and the rest of North America we're now this one skewed little portion that operates on this funny time zone. That would be my only other comment. Going forward, five years from now does this then change the way that we're doing things in terms of: the start of the day is now 9 o'clock instead of 8, with schools and everything else?

**Mr. Gotfried:** You bring up a good point because Calgary is an early-starting city.

**Mr. Ladd:** It is. Very early.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Our rush hour is much earlier than, let's say, Toronto. There may be different reasons – they may start as early, but they have to drive further – but Calgary and Alberta, I think, generally are early starting. It might be from our agrarian roots. Certainly, in the oil and gas industry you see the most people trying to be early starters and trying to end early. In fact, we do get a bit of a head start on the time differences. In many cases it's in dealing with Toronto, and some people choose to do that and have adjusted to that.

I think your question is a good one. How are we going to adjust to the adjustments? The other thing is: do we find out three or four years later that it was not correct, and how much is it going to cost us to go back? Very good points you've raised.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. I'll just make a comment. Actually, I believe Russia did do that. They changed and didn't like it.

**Mr. Ladd:** Then ended up transitioning.

**Mr. Coolahan:** That's right.

Sir, what did you say your profession was again?

**Mr. Ladd:** I'm a physiotherapist.

**Mr. Coolahan:** And you talk to your clients. I think that's a really good base, engaging kind of where people are at. You said – correct me if I'm wrong, and I think this is what we've been hearing as well – that most just don't like changing the clock, but they don't understand the ramifications.

**Mr. Ladd:** Exactly. If you ask them, "Do you want to get rid of the time change?" – and this is only 30 people over the last two days that I've asked and colleagues as well – getting rid of the time change is a great idea, but the ramifications of which time you pick: that's when people start to question whether or not it's worth it, even with myself. Sure, I'd love not having a time change, but if the decision is that now that the sun doesn't come up till 20 to 10 in December, even if you won't want to use the extreme, even if you want to say that it's not coming up till 9 o'clock for a good two-month period out of the year, is that worth the sun now going down at 5:30 instead of 4:30 in the afternoon? To me that difference isn't great enough to justify throwing everything else off moving forward.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Being in the health profession, do you hear people complain about the time change and how it impacts them psychologically and physically?

**Mr. Ladd:** Not enough that I would remember. I don't personally have kids, but friends and stuff have kids, and they don't enjoy

having to do the time change, but from everyone that I know, within a week everything is back to where it was. Again, I don't have kids. The struggle that they find even in the winter now is getting their kids up when it's dark outside, which only amplifies it if we switch to the proposed time zone.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I have trouble getting my kids to sleep.

**Mr. Ladd:** That, too.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Getting up is not a problem.

We heard it from many adults who seem to be psychologically impacted by it.

**Mr. Ladd:** I do. I prefer waking up in the daylight, but I get up way too early for any of this to affect me with that. That's a separate issue.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. I mean, I think the waiting and what we've seen even here is that we don't like changing clocks.

**Mr. Ladd:** More so than the time.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. But I think also what we're hearing in the end is that a unilateral change by the province is disruptive, and if we have a grander conversation with other provinces and even states about this, then, you know, if we can – I mean, as we were talking about earlier, George Bush was able to command that we all change, so if we had a conversation around doing this and we all got aligned, I think that's how it would work in the end.

3:05

**Mr. Ladd:** Yeah. I agree. If it was a North America wide change, then it would be okay, but even if we changed, there's no way that we would pressure Toronto into changing if New York wasn't going to change just because of the business link there. There's no way they would want to change their equal times, so I would agree.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thanks for your presentation.

**Mr. Ladd:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Patti Shannon.

**The Chair:** Good afternoon.

**Ms Shannon:** Hello. Well, this is the first time I've been to a public consultation, and I thought I had to have something written, so I'll read what I do have prepared and hopefully speak to it as well.

**The Chair:** If you can just introduce yourself before you begin.

**Ms Shannon:** My name is Patti Shannon.

**The Chair:** Excellent. Thank you.

**Patti Shannon**

**Ms Shannon:** I'd first like to speak to the process of informing the public of this potential change. What I'm concerned about is the online survey and putting too much credence in the results, which certainly seemed to favour moving away from our current time system. What I'm concerned about is that the survey wasn't publicized enough. I think the results are statistically insignificant, and I'm dismayed to see the journalists picking up those results and

almost becoming ubiquitous in our general press without understanding where that 75 per cent in favour came from.

Nobody I asked in my circle of friends even knew that there were changes to the daylight savings time being contemplated let alone that there was a survey. Again, I'd be the first to admit that my straw poll could also be skewed, but I would say that I represent the working person who's working full-time, taking care of their family, and typically lets the government do what's best because they usually do. But then you get a situation like this, that I'm passionate about and grateful that we have a democratic process that lets me speak my opinion.

I think that changing to Alberta standard time is an issue that the majority of Albertans haven't been fully informed on and haven't had enough time to contemplate. As the gentleman before me was saying, it sounds good until you start actually thinking through the results and what they could be. I think it's critical that a move like this, that puts us out of sync with most of the rest of North America, is well understood by Albertans. I'm requesting that a change of this magnitude is put to a democratic vote in the next election. That way we have a fully informed population and, you know, let whatever happens for the majority of Albertans become our system.

Now, my personal opinion is to leave the status quo the way it is until it can be demonstrated that there are economic reasons for changing. I've read in the press that the proposed change is partially in response to phone calls to MLAs' offices during the period of time when the clocks are changed, and I think to myself: what are we in Alberta, a province of whiners? Like, this is happening all across North America. Do we statistically get double or triple or 10 times the amount of complaints that every other constituency in North America has? I'd like to see some statistics on that. I don't know the answer to it, but it makes me think, when that is used as a reason to change, that it might not be a valid reason although I can understand the government trying to be responsive to its citizens.

The other question that I reflect on is that it seems to me that this Alberta standard time could be an important issue, and perhaps Alberta could work with all of North America to have it changed, which would be a very logical thing to do, but I think we could be addressing an important issue at the wrong time. Any business, any government needs to figure out what are the top 10 priorities that they have. Certainly, right now addressing anything to boost the economic activity of our province should be front and centre and this put on a backburner until we have some better economic progress in our province without the huge deficit that our province is running.

From a business perspective I work for a company whose head office is in Vancouver, and we have a lot of internal meetings. Think about this during the winter months when you have internal meetings because when you're doing business, you tend to have your internal company meetings early in the morning or late in the afternoon so you can get stuff done during the day. If we want to do a business meeting at 8 o'clock in the morning in Vancouver, which would probably be a bit of a stretch because not everybody always gets in at 8 o'clock sharp – so let's say we have the meeting at 8:30. That's 10:30 Calgary time. It's right in the middle of my day, that now I have to have an internal meeting where I'm not actually out getting stuff done that is important for my clients.

Conversely, if you try to do it at the end of the day – we do video conferences. I don't know if I made that clear. It's like you're in the boardroom with, you know, Vancouver and Calgary. Then if you go to the end of the day Vancouver time, which is 3 o'clock, so that you're not addressing all of the Vancouver people in the middle of their business day, if you start at 3 o'clock, now Calgary is starting at 5, and you have no energy left at 5 to be a vital part of any company meeting and decision. Now you have to move it back to

maybe 2 o'clock, which is right in the middle of the business day for anybody in Vancouver. It really screws you up. Like, you don't get as much work done. I mean, the meetings will happen, and maybe you won't go to as many, but the bottom line is that it screws you up. You have something happening in the middle of your business day that really should be happening at the end.

The last thing that I'd like to say is that I'm very much in favour of the long evening hours in Calgary in the summer, when we have the sun setting late at night, because it allows businesspeople like myself to be able to do evening activities and even start a golf game at seven, and you can still get nine holes in. It seems counterproductive to me to have all of this money going to Participation and then to do anything that would shorten the evening time in the wonderful summer months when you can be out doing activities.

Anyway, there you go. That's my little rant. If you have any questions, I'm wide open.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you so much for your presentation. Just off the top I just want to make sure I understand where you're at here. Are you promoting status quo, changing the clocks as we have it right now?

**Ms Shannon:** I'm promoting status quo until we can show that there is an economic benefit to making a change.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay. Just a couple comments, too. I do share your concern – and other people have expressed this – about there being some confusion around the wording in the online survey. I think that's something that we have to look at, certainly.

**Ms Shannon:** I'd add to that the amount of publicity that there even was an online survey. Everybody that I talked to didn't even know about an online survey. A hundred per cent.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay. With that said, there were, you know, close to 14,000 people who did answer that survey, which is, to let you know, a record number of input on anything in this province. What I think that does is justify our being here today more than anything else.

Sorry; go ahead.

**Ms Shannon:** If I could make a counterpoint to that, what segment of the population found out about the survey to be able to respond to it? That's what I'm saying. It could be statistically skewed. I don't know who it was, if it was – I don't know. I'm not picking on any group, but every physiotherapist or every teacher in the province that it seemed to go out to – I don't know.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I don't know either.

**Ms Shannon:** Yeah. Neither of us knows. All I'm saying is that 14,000 is statistically insignificant in a province of over 4 million.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay. I understand that. We've had this statistical discussion, and I think a lot of statisticians would be very happy to have that kind of number to work with.

3:15

The point I'm getting at – and I wanted to clarify for you, too – is that this is not a government bill; this is a private member's bill, okay? The private member, I think, made the right decision to bring this forward as a result of consultation with his constituents and then seeing the number of people who have responded. So it was the right decision, I mean, clearly. Not only that, but, well, Alberta has a long history of debate on this topic, frankly, right? And right

now, as we're speaking, this debate is happening all over North America, right? So we're not an anomaly here at this point.

We have to make the right decision, though, which is why we're here, right? I think the private member made the right decision to bring this forward. There was enough interest in this to present it as a private member's bill.

Now, when it got to the Legislature, when we got into second reading, across all party lines everyone made the decision to send it to committee, so it went to committee. Then everyone, across party lines, in the committee agreed to send it to this subcommittee. It has been extremely helpful. I think it's been helpful for us in making a recommendation when we are finished this, and I think it's been helpful for the general public, too, in kind of clarifying some of the misconceptions and issues that arise with stopping the change of the clocks.

I just wanted to pass that on to you and, really, just thank you for your presentation.

**Ms Shannon:** Okay. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Mr. Gotfried.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you. Ms Shannon, I just wanted to thank you for presenting to us today. I take to heart some of your comments about: are we whiners in Alberta? Let's hope we aren't. Also, very much I took to heart your comment about the top 10 priorities. That perspective has been brought to me by many of my constituents, more than have brought the issue of daylight saving time to my table, about: why are you spending time on this?

I think Member Coolahan highlighted the fact that this is a process that we're undertaking, and I think it has been informative, and you joining us here today is, I think, key to that. I was very interested in your perspectives on business. Again, you've taken it one step further to give us some real specifics on what that means to you as a businessperson who does business with people in British Columbia and how that's going to affect your own effectiveness. You know, again, the way I look at it: if that becomes awkward, do we lose jobs to British Columbia because it's easier for them to do it out of Vancouver, to manage an Alberta operation, than it is to have people here who are out of sync with them? I'm concerned about that.

The other point you made was about the reach. I was thinking about the fact that we had an unprecedented 13,562, a third of a per cent of the population, responding, and it just maybe brings me back some pause. Did we go about this properly, did we reach people in the way that people are communicated with best these days, and would we have been more effective to spend a few thousand dollars on Facebook ads to reach people? We've obviously been ineffective from your perspective, from your own straw poll amongst your friends, in reaching people and highlighting this. It's been in the newspapers and various things, but, you know, maybe we have to be more innovative in terms of how we reach people, maybe through business associations and engaging chambers of commerce and whatnot to do that as well as through school systems and others. I think the fact that we've been dealing with much of this in advance, a lot of it after the school year, maybe has made it a bit awkward as well.

Just to be very clear again, you'd be quite happy with the status quo and at this point in time would prefer that that be the message you're giving us in terms of our recommendations to our committee and then to the Legislature. Is that correct?

**Ms Shannon:** Yes. Status quo until it can be shown that there's an economic benefit. Because of the significant debt that we are accumulating, it's potentially not the time to be addressing this.

**Mr. Gotfried:** I'm in alignment with your comments on that. Thank you for your time today.

**Ms Shannon:** Okay. Thank you.

**The Chair:** I'm sorry; one more.  
MLA Fitzpatrick.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Where did you hear about this?

**Ms Shannon:** I read it in the newspaper in August.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Okay. I need to kind of back up and give you a little history about my own constituency. When the bill came up in the House – well, first of all, let's go back to the first day I was in my office, when I had a number of people come into my office and say: stop changing the clock. The first day in my office. Every time the time changed, I had a stream of people, I had a stream of e-mails saying the same thing to me. Every time I did, I asked the question: "Which way do you want it to go? If you want it to stop, which way do you want it to go?"

The other thing that I did: I do a monthly column in my local newspaper, and I put the information in my paper. It was advertised in the paper when the survey went out. I made sure that I noted that in my constituency. So I had people call. When I looked at the survey results, there were certainly a number of people from Lethbridge who responded because I made sure they knew about it. I don't know what riding you're in. I don't know if your local newspaper does a letter from your MLA. All I know is that I did everything I could, and I know that my colleagues did the same thing. Certainly, not everybody in the province has seen that, but we certainly went out to try to get people engaged in what was going on.

As Member Coolahan had said, this was a private member's bill. Our government has certainly been focused on our economy and getting jobs and doing the outreach to try to get more business in our province, and we've been successful. We continue to grow in this province. We're coming out of that recession, and we are because of the work that we've done. Because this bill was a private member's bill, we have an obligation as legislators to address that bill within the Legislature, and, as Member Coolahan said, we also put it to a vote about sending this to a committee so that we could have a response on it. That's what we've done.

I thank you for reading the paper and learning about it and participating, because every single voice in Alberta matters. Thank you.

**Ms Shannon:** I certainly commend you for your huge efforts in communicating. I hope everybody takes and uses you as a good example for communication. But I also want to remind you that as much as you communicate and that the people you hear from are the people that don't like the system, there could be an equal number of people that you don't hear from that are just fine and don't even bother to phone you or communicate with you in any way and say: oh, yeah, it's just fine with me. Right? I mean, I raised three children. They're all in their 20s now. We had no problem setting the clocks forward or back. It wasn't an issue at all in our household. I know it is in some, but I'm just saying that in our household it wasn't an issue. But I didn't tell anybody that because it was just a non-issue, right? Like, you don't phone somebody and say: oh, our family is doing just fine during the time changes. That isn't the way most busy people, raising families and working, think.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** I get responses from both sides of every argument on every issue that goes out.

**Ms Shannon:** Okay. Good.

Anyway, thank you very much for my democratic right.

**The Chair:** Mr. Panda.

**Ms Shannon:** Oh. Another one. Sorry.

**Mr. Panda:** We have some more comments. Thank you. What's your background? What type of business are you in?

**Ms Shannon:** I'm a chartered financial analyst. I manage money for high net worth families. So that would be the demographic of who I'm hearing from and listening to, high net worth families in Alberta.

**Mr. Panda:** Okay. You're in the business, so you understand the economic impacts of this bill. One of my colleagues there was saying that every voice counts. That's true. Every voice counts. But if we look at the big picture, we gathered feedback from some 13,562 people who happened to know about this bill. They gave some feedback based on the information they had. I mean, today I was hearing from people that they're confused about the question itself, that it was not clear. As I defend the right of my colleague Thomas Dang to bring forward his private member's bill, I'm obligated to bring it to my constituents and the public to get their feedback. At the same time, I want you to know I'm not here to defend wasting taxpayers' money.

You brought up a good question about economic benefits and all. That's what I'm hearing. Actually, in this room I have a constituent that just came up here before you and told us the same thing. Just because there are only a few people coming here doesn't mean that your voice won't count against the 13,000 people who have time to give their feedback. I would rather get quality input by doing this from people like you who have done something in business and who understand the impacts of the decisions your representatives make.

Thank you for that.

3:25

**Ms Shannon:** Okay. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Mr. Coolahan.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. You go ahead.

**Ms Shannon:** Am I done?

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yes. I'm just making a comment.

**Ms Shannon:** Okay. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Gottfried:** Just one more comment. Ms Shannon, thank you again for coming. To put things into perspective – I mean, you're right. We had 13,562 people respond. That's three-tenths of 1 per cent of the Alberta population. I've never had 200 people come to my office for anything, but one of our members did. That represents on average – our constituencies are around 45,000 – four-tenths of 1 per cent of the constituents in that area. You know, everybody's opinion, I guess, we can take as being representative of more than just themselves. Maybe there are other people around them that agree with you. There are businesspeople that share your views.

You know, I've heard a lot here. I've learned a lot. It hasn't changed my opinion a lot on this. What I have heard, not from 200 – it's even maybe one-tenth of 1 per cent of my constituents – is about priorities, as you mentioned to us, and that's one of the top things I'm going to take back, priorities of Albertans. Are we spending the appropriate amount of time on the right things on behalf of Albertans?

So I thank you for your time and for that insight from your perspective as an Albertan who has many things on your mind. Thank you.

**Ms Shannon:** Yes. Thank you. Just like any business: what's our priority? Thank you very much.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I was going to make a quick comment, Chair, a couple of comments. I know we have the Legislative Assembly officer here who is in charge of communications. I'd like to hear if we could, if possible, if she's still here, just where this was advertised. I'm not entirely sure. There seems to be some concern about it not being advertised enough, so I'd like to hear. I do understand that it was Facebook and newspapers, and I'm not sure what else.

The other thing, to my colleagues at the table here: I do find it interesting that all of a sudden there's a concern about the cost of this. I mean, you had the opportunity to vote against this, and it never happened. So I find that a bit disingenuous.

Also, I think, Mr. Gottfried, you're the only one who has publicly stated that you would like a referendum on this. That is extremely expensive. As we know, it's about \$22 million.

**Mr. Gottfried:** If I could respond to that, Mr. Chair?

**The Chair:** Yeah. Absolutely.

**Mr. Gottfried:** Actually, I think what I've been doing is reflecting some of the information we've been given. We've been told that a stand-alone referendum could be in the neighbourhood of \$22 million. We've heard that a referendum attached to a general election, which, if we were to move in that direction, would be, I think, the only option for us to consider, could be as low as \$2 million – that's with the previous ones – but probably in the range of \$2 million to \$6 million if my recollection is correct.

What that means is that I have thought about that. We have heard from businesses telling us that the impact to them could be in the millions of dollars, not a one-shot deal but annually. If that goes on for the next decade and it costs, let's just say, WestJet \$5 million worth of lost revenue per year times 10 years, that's \$50 million worth of lost economic activity. That's assuming that they keep their activity the same. If we were to lose the hub from Calgary, let's say, to Vancouver and lose that operation, let alone the activity and loss of revenue, it could be many times more than that.

So if we get to a point where that, in fact, is an option, I think that on behalf of Albertans we need to ensure that we take a look at the costs – and I'm talking about the economic costs, the cost to fulfill what might be the will of Albertans to have an individual say on this – and the benefits of both the economic outcomes and of us actually listening individually to every one of 4 million-plus Albertans. I have not said – this is actually what the committee is here for, to take that information back. I'm hearing from my constituents that this is not on their top-10 priority list. I have my own opinions on this, but I am here because I like to hear from Albertans what the most important issues are to them, what their perspectives are. Every Albertan's voice is important, and I'm happy to hear those.

Thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Do I get to respond to that?

**The Chair:** I'm going to take this opportunity to consider – I want to be cognizant of the time of the people who have come here to

present as well. While there is an opportunity for debate, I want to recognize that this is the opportunity for the public to have the forum here.

Ms Dotimas, if you can provide us just with a brief synopsis. Then we'll get back to presentations from people who have registered here as well.

**Ms Dotimas:** For sure. Thank you, Chair. I understand that there are some questions regarding the avenues in which the committee meetings, the public meetings specifically, were used to reach the public. As of September 1 we actually had started radio advertisements as well as newspaper advertisements in the locations where we are conducting public meetings as well as within 30 to 50 kilometres outside of those centres given the availability in the community and weekly newspapers.

We also leveraged our media contacts and let everyone know in the Alberta media to spread the word. A lot of them have shown up and provided information to their readers. We know of some radio programming – you know, I don't want to name outlets, of course – in the public areas that have also discussed it on their talk shows and things like that. In terms of, again, trying to mitigate some of the costs, the media has been very helpful in spreading the word.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Marlene Sorensen.

#### Marlene Sorensen

**Mrs. Sorensen:** Hello. I'm Marlene Sorensen. I am a retired schoolteacher. I was born in Alberta and raised on a farm. We had daylight saving time. There was no fuss. When I got married, we had three children. They were engaged in all kinds of activities. The clock changed; no fuss. It seems to me that there's a lot of fuss being made about this time change. What was the motivation for changing it? It brought no fuss to us.

Well, to be honest, let's look at the people it affects most like businesspeople and the economy. I'm thinking of the airlines. I heard on television today the impact it would have on the travel, especially to British Columbia, and they're a major partner to us. Let's face it. I also heard that the professional hockey games would be impacted because the TV rights would be exchanged, the time starts would be later, and the audiences would probably be reduced. To me, those are two things that are fairly important, the economy and entertainment.

There was an online survey, and it's interesting that other people are commenting on it, too. What was the age, the profession, and the reason for change that these people answered when they took the survey? Was the survey worded so that you would get the preferred results that you wanted? I'm referring to the pre-Olympic survey for 2016. I took the survey, and it was biased to having the Olympics in Calgary. It was biased, and – you know what? – they've admitted it, so they're going to create a new survey.

What was the distribution throughout the province? Now, you've mentioned your constituents knew about it. I probably heard about it, but like all online surveys it's the squeakers that really respond. They're the ones that are sort of the naysayers as far as I'm concerned. How did those respondents find out about the survey? I guess that's been addressed, but I had it down as a comment here. Did they answer without business concern, or did they just answer?

3:35

In closing – and this is a harsh one – I've made a lot of presentations, and I've come really well prepared with statistics and

diagrams and whatever. This time I'm just coming because in my gut I feel we have to keep the status quo.

On one occasion, when the session was finished – and I say this boldly – the chairperson had adjourned the meeting, and he caught me in the hallway and said: Mrs. Sorensen, I really appreciate your good comments, but the decision has already been made. It caught me cold.

On that, I'll just close.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Sorry. Where was that?

**Mrs. Sorensen:** It was at a hearing. Now, I've done provincial hearings for provincial electoral boundaries, and I've done hearings for federal boundaries. When they put a map on the wall, you see the rivers going here and there, and you're going to zigzag into this community because you think it's a preferred one. Don't ask me when it was because this was probably 10 or 15 years ago. I've given up, but this one is so dear to me that I really wanted to speak to the status quo.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Sure. Thank you for that. Absolutely.

**Mrs. Sorensen:** You know, it came as a shock to me. I was completely blown off the wall, and my husband was with me, and he said: oh, my gosh.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I don't want to speculate on what happened there, but I'll say this. In this panel, in this subcommittee here, there's absolutely no benefit to a partisan decision.

**Mrs. Sorensen:** No.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Absolutely not. I mean, we have to work together to come to the right decision for all Albertans, and that could be the status quo. That might be our recommendation. I'm quite certain the chair will not be saying that.

**Mrs. Sorensen:** I don't want to hear it again.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I'm sure you don't.

**Mrs. Sorensen:** It costs a lot of money to run a hearing like this. It's open to the public, and you're airing all the results of online statistics, and, you know, the people that presented here. I'm sure it won't ever happen again, but I was flabbergasted.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Well, thank you for coming. You know, everyone's input is valuable, and like I said, we'll be working in a bipartisan manner to make sure we get the right decision. Thank you.

**Mrs. Sorensen:** Okay. Thank you for having me.

**The Chair:** I'll clarify that I will not be saying that today. Excellent. Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Andrew Dumont.

#### Andrew Dumont

**Mr. Dumont:** Good afternoon. Thanks for doing this. I'm glad that I can speak to this. My name is Andrew Dumont. I was born and raised in Alberta on a farm. My dad and mother hated daylight savings time since I can remember. It's not natural time. That's why we have a.m. and p.m. Like, going back before standard time, in the 1880s they brought in standard time so that it was uniform for business and railroad schedules, airline schedules, too. I'm sure

maybe WestJet needs to check with CPR on what they did a hundred years ago, but they could figure it out.

Our bodies are set by our internal adjustment to the sun. We're diurnal creatures. You can look that up. I read a study in '98 or '99. It was in the *CCPA Monitor*. They were talking about the increase twice a year due to daylight savings time. There's a spike in not just vehicle accidents but industrial accidents by shift workers. Health and safety should trump every other consideration. I'm sure that the hockey teams can figure it out. If Arizona and Saskatchewan can run professional sports, how come we can't? Are we too stupid? They can't figure that out?

Northeast B.C. is another reason we should stay on standard time, not Saskatchewan time. With northeast B.C. we have much more of an economic link with the pipelines and our oil and gas. I work in oil and gas. I manage a small gas plant. It's a lot better without it. It's a complication when you're running 24-hour operations. It's just another place where overtired people, shift workers, are going to have accidents.

Our bodies are set by the sun. That noon meal drives our digestion, which drives our sleep. Those people that want to go golfing in the summertime: I would suggest that they get up an hour earlier or two hours earlier, and they can go golfing and leave the rest of us with our sleep not messed up over the year.

I think I've covered all the points, the main ones being health and safety, the increase in accidents. I think we're going to save time. We're going to see an economic benefit because, like Saskatchewan, we won't be messed up, and we won't have missed schedules because somebody either remembered his clock or didn't remember his clock. I think it's a no-brainer, and I hope the government can proceed with this, but we'll see.

**The Chair:** Excellent.

**Mr. Dumont:** Any questions?

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

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you so much for your presentation. Just to clarify, you want to stop the clocks. You hate changing the clocks.

**Mr. Dumont:** I hate changing the clocks, and if I have to choose between daylight savings time and the suggested – I think the bill suggests we move to Saskatchewan time, but I would prefer Mountain Standard Time . . .

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay.

**Mr. Dumont:** . . . because I think it would be better. We'd be aligned with northeast B.C. The other thing is that people that are against daylight saving time now will say: whoa; we're two hours behind B.C. We do have a lot of links with Kelowna and Golden, people traveling back and forth.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I'm glad you brought up accidents. It's actually one of the few areas where we actually have empirical data on this.

**Mr. Dumont:** Yeah.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Most other things are just conjecture at this point. That is one thing that we have empirical data on as well as heart attacks, I believe, which is a weird thing.

**Mr. Dumont:** Yeah.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. Thanks again.

**Mr. Dumont:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Sorry. Mr. Chair?

**The Chair:** Sorry. Mr. Gotfried had a question, Mr. Dumont.

**Mr. Dumont:** Sure.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Just a quick clarification. Your preference would be to go to Mountain Standard Time. The bill, actually, proposes a new time called Alberta standard time, which is the same as Central Standard Time. What you're proposing is that we go back to Mountain Standard Time without a time change. Is that correct?

**Mr. Dumont:** That's right, but if I have to choose, I'd rather no time changes. If I have to live with that – there seems to be a preponderance of those that want to scrap daylight savings time, but it seems like the majority are for changing to Central Time.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Your preference would be Mountain Standard Time, though. Okay. I'm just trying to record that.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. Dumont:** Thanks.

**The Chair:** Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Gene Byblow.

**Gene Byblow**

**Mr. Byblow:** Good afternoon. My name is Gene. Thanks for letting me be here. I haven't been here all afternoon. I just have a few things I want to say, and it's probably stuff you have heard already, but you can then just put me down as one of those.

First of all, I'd just like to say that I'm against the change. I think we should just keep things the way they are. I have no problem with it. The changing of the clocks is not an issue. The getting up an hour earlier and going to bed later have never been an issue, so keep it the way things are. I totally agree with the lady from a few minutes ago, and I heard all your discussions.

As far as the number of people who took the survey and everything, I think it's a very small sampling to say that the majority of Albertans want this. From the population of what it is, from who did the sampling and stuff, I just think it's very small. To say that the majority of them from that small sampling – I don't think that's fair, but that's just my opinion.

Another thing. Now, I could be wrong here because I haven't been following this day and night and everything, but from what I hear, one of the big reasons for the change is because people are inconvenienced about changing the clock. Now, that's one of the big reasons. If you're hearing that major corporations like the Flames and WestJet and other ones – those are the two that I'm familiar with; like I say, I haven't been following it all that close – have a lot of data to say that this is going to affect them big time, if they've got the data to support this and one of the main reasons is that it's an inconvenience, you know, I think, to me, that's not even a comparison.

Granted, the fellow who just came up here and said that, statistically speaking, there are more accidents and stuff – I don't have the numbers for that. I've heard a little bit about that. I don't know. There could be; there couldn't be. I don't know. If there is, that's something to be concerned about.

You're saying that there are other jurisdictions who are looking to change. You know, if there are and stuff, I think that we should make sure that we're in co-ordination with everybody. If we're going to be doing this, we should be trying to do it more together

as opposed to somebody doing it now, somebody doing it in three years, whatever. If it's this big of a change, I think that everybody should be, you know, on the same page and everything. I think that a little more time has to go into making this major decision.

3:45

Just to say it one more time, to say that the majority of Albertans want this, I don't really agree with that because of the small statistics, you know, from the sampling that was done for something that either way you go, you're going to definitely get people who are going to be unhappy. That's a given. So I think something that's this big should be looked at a little bit more carefully.

In summation, you know, I'm not saying that things can't be better, but right at this point in time, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. That's my opinion.

**The Chair:** Excellent.

Mr. Gotfried.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Great. Thank you very much, Mr. Byblow. You raise some good points there about the sampling and the survey, and I think you're exactly right that it really was an unscientific survey because to do it properly, you'd have to be very random and probably have geographical spread and representation. It's really been a bit of an opt-in kind of a survey, which can skew representation quite a bit. Your point, I think, is well taken. The good news is that we have heard from a lot of Albertans, albeit a small percentage, four-tenths of a per cent, on the survey and what may amount to 100 or more in terms of our public consultation.

But we've also heard from businesses, as you reference. Again, it's hard to attach a hard-and-fast number to what the economic costs are, but we've also heard from other people that any risk of economic cost to the province at this point in time is something that we should avoid.

We've seen highly scientific surveys go completely awry, often in a political realm, so again I think we have to take even that with a grain of salt, even if we were to embark on something like that. I hope that through the feedback we get from Albertans such as yourself, we can make the right decisions going forward in terms of the impact, the feedback we get from people, the timing, and the priorities that have been also mentioned by many presenters.

Thank you for taking the time to come here today. I think it's very important that you've done so. Thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thanks for your presentation. I agree with a lot of what you're saying at the end there.

I just want to comment on the survey. I think we're looking at the survey a bit incorrectly, even my colleague Mr. Gotfried there. If we were using those statistics that came from that survey as what we believe to be what the majority of Albertans thought, this bill would be passed already. We wouldn't be here right now. So what we actually used that survey for was to get here. I don't think we should be too concerned about what that survey said. The survey, yes, said that 75 per cent – and, you know, sometimes words get a little misconstrued through the media. Pass the word down the line, and it's a different story or whatever. Let's just say that the survey served a good purpose. The survey served a purpose. It was tremendous numbers, as we said, unprecedented numbers to get us here and to be smart enough to say: whoa, there's some real interest in this, so let's take a real long, hard look at it and hear from Albertans. I think that's the advantage of the survey.

**Mr. Byblow:** Yeah. I'm not talking so much about how the survey was worded or anything. I'm just talking about the numbers. What I've been hearing a lot is that from this survey the majority of

Albertans want this. What I'm saying is: it's safe to say that the majority of Albertans surveyed want this, which to me is a big difference because if there has only been, like, whatever, one-tenth of one per cent, it's not fair to say that the majority of Albertans want this when there was such a small percentage. To say that a majority of the people surveyed want this is a huge difference from saying that the majority of Albertans want this.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Agreed.

**Mr. Byblow:** That's my point.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. I agree. That's what I'm saying. We didn't view that as gospel, for lack of a better word. If we had, we would have passed the bill, right? It could have been done. We just used that unprecedented input as a means to say: hey, people are interested in this topic.

**Mr. Byblow:** Okay. That's it.

**The Chair:** Excellent. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Byblow:** All right. Thank you.

**The Chair:** I believe we've had one more register. We're just confirming the information.

Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Kim Lock.

**Kim Lock**

**Ms Lock:** Good afternoon, gentlemen and ma'am. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Kim Lock, and I work for my family business, which is the Lake Louise Ski Area in Banff national park. I also, incidentally, have two young kids, age three and six, so I know first-hand the effects on young children of changing the clock. In my opinion, remedying the slight inconvenience to Albertans of switching the clock twice a year is not worth the unintended economic consequences to Albertans.

I'm speaking solely on behalf of the Lake Louise Ski Area, but, as you're likely aware, there are four ski areas in Jasper and Banff national parks, and all four are critical to Alberta's economy, to the tourism industry. The ski industry and the tourism industry will be very negatively affected by this proposed change, particularly if it is chosen to be consistent with Saskatchewan time year-round, meaning that we're not falling back an hour and our late December 8:45 a.m. sunrise will change to 9:45 a.m.

I'll speak to exactly how it will affect us in a few moments, but, first, I just wanted to give a few statistics that I think are very relevant. There is \$1.66 billion in visitation and tourism expenditures in the Canadian Rockies annually: 33 per cent of visits are during the winter, the ski season from November to April, and 60 to 70 per cent of people that come to the Rockies in the winter are there primarily to ski. That means that there's an injection into the Alberta economy annually of in excess of \$370 million per year, and that does not even include spending by the thousands of workers that are employed in Jasper and Banff and the hundreds of hotels and restaurants that depend on the ski areas for winter business.

How will we be affected? If we don't fall back, the 8:45 a.m. sunrise in our busiest time of year, over the Christmas break, is going to become 9:45, and this means that we, thus, can't open until 10 a.m. Some people might say, "Well, why can't you just push back by an hour, open later but stay open later?" adding another hour at the end of the day, which we could do, but we know from

decades of experience that skiers like to ski early and get off the hill early. Some definitely stay until the end of the day, but the majority go early in the morning, get off the hill early afternoon, and go back to their hotels and do their après-ski thing.

This is going to make us uncompetitive as a destination when you compare us to other areas: Colorado, Utah, and all of the various places in B.C. that people can choose to ski. When visitors find out that they essentially have an hour less to ski if they come to Banff, Lake Louise, or Jasper, they're not going to think favourably of that, and a proportion of them will certainly choose another destination instead because they're going to think they're getting less value for their money. That's going to obviously affect all of the businesses in Banff and Jasper but also the tax revenue that Alberta gains from all of these businesses.

While changing the clocks is certainly a bit of an inconvenience, this has definitely got unintended economic consequences. Our organization is not in favour of switching, particularly switching to a time that is consistent with Saskatchewan. We would prefer to leave it as is because the long summer hours in the evenings are as well beneficial for summer tourism.

Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity.

**The Chair:** All right.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Great. Thank you, Ms Lock. It's great to have another business opinion here. We've heard from WestJet and some of the airport authorities. We've heard from some of the hockey.

What it reminds me of is that you're in a business that will live and die by consumer choice.

3:55

**Ms Lock:** That's right.

**Mr. Gotfried:** And consumers do have choices.

**Ms Lock:** Absolutely, they do.

**Mr. Gotfried:** You may see a small impact in the first year, and in the second year it may have a greater impact, and then you may lose more customers because once they try something else and they like it better because of the timing, you may lose them for the long term, which then affects your sustainability as an organization.

I guess one of my questions is: if you were to experience a loss in consumer support and a loss in revenues, what would you do to address that? What would be the economic impact of you actually having less success in attracting those consumers?

**Ms Lock:** Well, the economic impact would be fairly widespread. Alone we employ close to 600 people, and 80 per cent of those are Canadian permanent residents or citizens. The restaurants and hotels in Banff depend very strongly on the ski industry to survive year-round. Of course, summer visitation in the national park is huge, but the viability of basically every business in Banff national park is very dependent on being a competitive destination year-round, so that's going to have very far-ranging effects.

**Mr. Gotfried:** The extra hour of sunlight you mentioned – we heard, actually, earlier from one of the presenters about the importance of the summertime hours for tourism as well – could you maybe give us a little bit of an idea of how that would impact your operation as well?

**Ms Lock:** Yes. In the summer the trends are actually opposite. Customers come near the end of the day rather than at the beginning of the day. They are trying to pack a great deal into the long daylight hours in the summer, and they will drive from one destination to the

next destination to the next destination. But, of course, not many people are willing to get up at 3:30 or 4:30 in the morning, and those long evening hours are certainly attractive to visitors and locals alike to be able to enjoy our great wild spaces.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Great. Thank you.

Again, it's giving us a bit more on the economic. We have people's preferences and opinions or lack of desire to change their clocks, and I think we have to understand as legislators and as Albertans the economic impacts that will affect provincial revenues, tax revenues, as you noted as well, employment, and investment in other suppliers and trades that you may deal with in the economy. It is not just about time; it's actually a lot about money that we're talking about.

**Ms Lock:** It is. There are very drastic consequences to this bill.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you for your thoughtful presentation.

**Ms Lock:** Thank you very much.

**The Chair:** Excellent. Any other questions?

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Do you have nighttime skiing at your facility?

**Ms Lock:** We do not have nighttime skiing. We're not permitted to do nighttime skiing given that we're in a national park, so we have to concentrate all of our skiing during daylight hours.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Okay. Generally how many hours of the day are you open on the ski hill?

**Ms Lock:** We open at 9 a.m., and we close at 4 p.m. In the springtime we will extend to 4:30 p.m. on the weekends.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Okay. You compared yourself to some ski hills in Utah. What are their hours?

**Ms Lock:** I can give Vail's, which is actually in Colorado. It is one of the primary ski destinations in North America and one which we compete very closely with. Their hours are 8:30 until 3:30 and then 4 at certain times of the year.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Okay. I've skied in Utah, and I've skied in Banff. As a skier I go out and I ski. When it opens up, I ski, and I ski till it closes. Everybody I know that's a skier: they go to Banff because they love to go to Banff. They love Lake Louise. They love Kananaskis. They love the ski hills that are around. Norquay, I think, is the one that the real diehard skiers want to go to. They go to those hills because they're Canadian and because that's where they want to ski. In fact, I know lots of people from Quebec that come out and ski in Banff as their vacation time. Everybody I know that skis goes and skis for as long as they can ski.

**Ms Lock:** We need more people like you.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Yeah. It's just that I'm trying to wrap my head around you saying that you think that people will not come out and ski there as a preference. Like I said, everybody I know that skis in Banff because they love it, and it doesn't matter where in the country they live. If they can get out to ski in Banff, that's where they go.

**Ms Lock:** Absolutely. Certainly, many people do come to Banff to ski. We're always doing our best to remain a top destination, but when it comes to international visitors, it's very difficult to keep up with other ski resorts all across North America. We're seeing a large



number of American visitors and a large number of European visitors, visitors from Australia, and even starting to get to South America. Of course, we compete very strongly for the international market with British Columbia and with Colorado and Utah.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Thank you, and thank you for coming and doing the presentation.

**Ms Lock:** Thank you for the opportunity.

**Mr. Gotfried:** One last question, Ms Lock. We've heard from WestJet that some of the time change moves might result in the undermining of the hub that is being created in Calgary. Could you comment on how that might affect you?

**Ms Lock:** Yes. We are very dependent on having excellent flight schedules into Calgary, that being the primary airport for all of our destination visitors. Flight availability is certainly trackable, and flight schedules are certainly trackable to the number of visitors we see from eastern Canada and North America and across the world.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you.

**Ms Lock:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Excellent. Thank you very much, Ms Lock. I recognize the distance you probably travelled to be here with us today as well.

**Ms Lock:** Thanks very much.

**The Chair:** Excellent.

Sorry, Mr. Gotfried. You have something to correct?

**Mr. Gotfried:** Just a very quick comment and statement. Member Coolahan mentioned earlier that I was the only person that had mentioned a referendum with respect to the outcomes of some of these proceedings. I just wanted to draw to the attention of the committee and to our presenters here that on June 22 there was an article on 660 News with Ian Campbell which quoted that – this is obviously from that but not necessarily in quotes – “the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, Graham

Sucha, says officials heard from people on both sides of the spectrum and so far they are considering a number of solutions, including a referendum.” I just wanted to put that as a correction on the record, that in fact our chair has referenced that as an option as well.

**The Chair:** In reference to what is said, obviously through interviews there, I do reference what feedback is brought to the committee during these times. That's some of the feedback that we've heard from presenters during that period of time. That's one of many comments that are made during those interviews, and however they're sliced is however they're sliced, but I try to reflect what is being presented towards us here.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Can I just add a quick comment?

Mr. Gotfried, I don't think that's what I said, actually. I think I said – or, yes, I did say – that you were the only one that's publicly endorsed a referendum.

**Mr. Gotfried:** That is incorrect.

**The Chair:** In that vein, I'm going to obviously recommend, as I said before, that there is an opportunity for debate in relation to a lot of these things, but I do want the focus of this forum to be for the public to provide feedback here as well. I'm going to, moving forward, recommend that we avoid some of the back and forth on this because there is the proper forum for that as well.

I just want to double-check to make sure that we got through all registrants, through all people who have registered for today. Excellent.

Right now we're scheduled for a recess and to reconvene at 6 o'clock this evening. I want to thank everyone who's joined us here today as we've had diverse feedback and many comments that have come to the committee here from Calgary and that have been very well educated as well.

Thank you, all, very much for your time, and we are recessed till 6.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 4:04 p.m.]





