



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
6 p.m.

Transcript No. 29-3-23

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

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Subcommittee

Sucha, Graham, Calgary-Shaw (NDP), Chair
van Dijken, Glenn, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (UCP), Deputy Chair

Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (NDP)
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)

Also in Attendance

Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (UCP)

Bill 203 Sponsor

Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)

Support Staff

Sarah Amato	Research Officer
Nancy Robert	Research Officer
Aaron Roth	Committee Clerk
Jeanette Dotimas	Communications Consultant
Janet Schwegel	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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6 p.m.

Thursday, September 14, 2017

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

Location: Calgary

The Chair: Good evening, everyone. I'd like to call the public meeting of the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future to order. My name is Graham Sucha. I'm the MLA for Calgary-Shaw and the chair of the subcommittee and also the standing committee. I'd ask for members of the subcommittee to introduce themselves for the record, starting to my right.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Good evening, everyone. I'm Craig Coolahan, the MLA for Calgary-Klein.

Mr. Gill: Good evening, everybody. I'm Prab Gill. I'm MLA for Calgary-Greenway.

The Chair: For the record I'll also note that MLA Gill is an unofficial substitute for Mr. Gotfried.

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

Before we begin with our first presenter for the evening, I'd like to make a few comments similar to what I made this morning about Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, that the committee has been tasked with reviewing. Bill 203 proposes that if passed, as of November 2018 the Daylight Saving Time Act would be repealed and Alberta would remain on Alberta standard time. Now, Alberta standard time is defined as being six hours behind Coordinated Universal Time and would be the equivalent of Mountain Daylight Time, the same time we are currently on this summer.

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 in four locations for feedback on the bill. The subcommittee has held meetings in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, this one in Calgary, and Lethbridge and will report back to the committee on what it hears following the meeting in Lethbridge. 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, tomorrow.

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

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

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Dennis Dodds.

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

Charles Dennis Dodds

Mr. Dodds: Charles Dennis Dodds, Chain Lakes, Alberta. Good evening, everyone. Thank you for giving me a minute of your time. I also did a written submission to you. I just need one minute of your time. I'd like to know why the bill wasn't written on Mountain Standard Time instead of daylight savings time. All of our neighbours, most of the people we do business with are used to us being on Mountain Standard Time, such as Montana, part of Saskatchewan. I just feel that we need to stay on – if we're going to go on one time, we need to be on standard time, not daylight savings time.

The Chair: This bill is a private member's bill. Mr. Coolahan has been very good about really kind of outlining what that means and how we kind of got here and how the bill was proposed. So I'll allow Mr. Coolahan to kind of provide you with some feedback from his caucus member.

Mr. Coolahan: Sure. First of all, being a private member's bill from Mr. Dang, as I've explained a couple of times to different forums that – you know, a lot of times ideas for private members' bills walk right into your office door, and this was the case for Mr. Dang, as many people have expressed a desire to stop changing the clocks. Ms Fitzpatrick has said the same thing. It happens in her office. I've had some people in my office as well. There was quite a response in Mr. Dang's office. So when he thought of that idea and it started to germinate that he might want to introduce this as a private member's bill, he started doing some consultation around his constituency and some other key stakeholders, including golf and minor sports associations, who were very keen on keeping the long days in the summer. I believe that's how we ended up landing on that, staying on CST.

With that said, you know, when it went to second reading, it was unanimously voted to send it to committee and then again unanimously voted on to send it to the subcommittee to discuss it further with Albertans. The subcommittee now has the ability when we are making our recommendations – one of those recommendations could be that we think it should end up on Mountain Time. Yeah. We've heard that quite a bit, actually, first starting in Grande Prairie, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Dodds: Right. Well, being a farmer also, changing the time, to me, doesn't really matter. It could stay the way it is, but if we're going to keep one time, we need to be on standard time, not daylight savings time.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. We've heard that quite a bit from people, but there is the other side, too. There are people that would like the late evenings.

Mr. Dodds: But it's only a state of mind. They think the day is longer. The day is only 24 hours long.

Mr. Coolahan: I hear you. The sun is going to come up no matter what time it is.

Mr. Dodds: You got it.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I got you.

Mr. Dodds: I only wanted a couple minutes of your time, and I've said my piece. Thank you very much.

Mr. Coolahan: No, I really appreciate it. This is what it's all about, hearing from Albertans, right? Yeah.

Mr. Dodds: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thanks very much.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Anita Schaller.

Miss Schaller: Hello.

The Chair: Good evening.

Miss Schaller: Good evening.

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

Miss Schaller: Anita Schaller.

The Chair: Please proceed.

Anita Schaller

Miss Schaller: I wasn't sure I was going to make it here today. I'm really glad I did. Personally, I have been waiting for them to stop changing clocks ever since they started changing clocks all the time. A couple of years ago – I'll just summarize with a little comment that I made on it, called The Power Hour.

Oh, what a marvel, such great Godlike power
To increase our sunlight for one more whole hour.
With great expectations I welcome the day,
Looking forward with joy to the hour of play.
I leap into my work as up comes the sun
While counting the minutes till my hour of fun.
Now, wait just a minute. Hold on. Just a sec.
The daylight is fading so soon? What the heck?
They said we would have an extra hour of light,
But the sun's going down now, and here comes the night.
I enter my home and recoil. Such a shock.
The only thing changed is the time on my clock.

Mr. Coolahan: That's so true.

Miss Schaller: Well, yes.

I understand that, as you said and I suspected, because people think there's an extra hour at the end of the day where there isn't. I have a little – when told the reason for daylight savings time, the old Indian said that only the government would believe you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket, sew it to the bottom, and have a longer blanket.

Basically, it's just what you want your clocks to say at what time. Although I personally am happy with Mountain Standard Time, I'm happy with Central Standard Time as long as we just stop changing our clocks. I realize that there are a lot of people that do believe they're getting an extra hour in daylight savings time, and they like having their clocks say an hour earlier at the end of their day. We're on that time for eight months of the year already now, so if daylight savings time is the way we have to go to stop changing the clocks, please, let's stop changing the clocks.

Thank you.

The Chair: I'll open it up if any members have any questions.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I don't have a question. I want to say thank you for coming and saying that, and I really want to thank you for doing it in rhythm. It was lovely to hear that.

Certainly, that's what started this whole thing. The very first day I was in my office, a number of people came through the door and said: stop changing the clock. Now, at the time I certainly didn't think of all of the possibilities that went along with that. So when clocks changed the next time after that, a stream of people came in, and I asked them: "Okay. If you change it, where are you going to change it? Which way are you going? I need to have that if we're going to do this." So I kind of kept a little tally of those people who came in, and it was about 55 to 60 per cent that said that they wanted to go to daylight savings, the Central Time, and the rest wanted to go to Mountain Time.

6:10

In fact, while I was sitting here today, I received an e-mail from the Lethbridge Sport Council. They did a survey with their members, and it came back 55 per cent that wanted to be Central Time.

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts on it.

Miss Schaller: You're welcome.

The other thing I wanted to mention was that when we do change the clocks, within four weeks the amount of sunlight that we have is exactly the same as it was at 6 o'clock as it was when we changed it four weeks ago. So even though we're changing it for the four-months span, there are only really two months when it's partially a little bit different.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, the number of hours of daylight in the day doesn't change. It's just your perspective on when that is.

Miss Schaller: Yeah. What time your clock says when the sun is going down.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. Thank you.

Miss Schaller: Thank you very much.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan, you had a comment.

Miss Schaller: Oh, sorry.

Mr. Coolahan: Did you write that poem?

Miss Schaller: Yes.

Mr. Coolahan: It was lovely.

Miss Schaller: Thank you. Yes, in 2009.

Mr. Coolahan: I wanted to ask if you could elaborate on why you don't want to change the clocks. Is there some sort of psychological or physical reason?

Miss Schaller: Well, when they first implemented it in Alberta, I was much younger, and I got into a lot of trouble because I have a good internal clock. But it was set to the time that we had always been, on Mountain Standard Time, so I was coming home late and getting into trouble and found that very frustrating. I still have a good sense of time.

My animals: they know where the sun is and what time according to the sun you usually feed them or take them for a walk or, you know, go out and play with them, ride the horses, bring the cows in to milk them. They know that. They don't care what it says on the clock.

Personally, I find it very disorientating and irritating to have to change what time I'm doing something because somebody decided they wanted to be off work an hour later. I think that rather than having the whole province and at some time, I hope, the whole country change their clocks, then individual businesses can change their hours, like they used to. You know, if in the wintertime they want to have different hours, they can change it, you know, rather than making everybody change for a few individuals that want that.

Mr. Coolahan: Excellent. Yeah. Thank you for your presentation.

Miss Schaller: You're welcome.

The Chair: I think that's the first time I've heard a presentation by poem before. Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Wim Veldman.

The Chair: Good evening, sir. If you can introduce yourself for the record before beginning.

Wim Veldman

Mr. Veldman: The name is Wim Veldman. I'm a simple engineer, and I'm sorry; I don't have any poems.

Mr. Gill: You probably have Excel spreadsheets.

Mr. Veldman: There you go.

I've lived in Calgary for 40 years. I'm a consulting engineer. I've worked all over the world in many, many times and many different places. Personally, time changes don't bother me. I'm going to say right at the beginning that it doesn't really matter to me personally how time does or doesn't change, but I think I still have some comments I would like to make.

First of all, clarity on the bill. I took a quick poll in my office this morning. In one room of seven people nobody knew what the proposed time change was. To use terms like "Alberta standard time" is very confusing because we think of standard time as standard time without the daylight saving time. That's a detail you can remedy. Six hours behind Coordinated Universal Time, UTC-6, doesn't mean anything to anybody. You could easily say that it's daylight saving time year-round because that's the present proposal. I think you need to clarify that if there was a vote down the road, if people are voting on the present proposal versus – there are really three options.

I also note with respect to the mandate of your committee that the name of your committee has the word "economic." I think time zones have been developed for economic reasons. If you look at little variations in the time zones, northeastern B.C. and southeastern B.C. are in the Alberta time zone for economic reasons. I'm not sure about Lloydminster, but I think they might also be. Alaska dropped a time zone quite a few years ago because they wanted to have one time zone for the entire state for people dealing with Juneau. Arizona has standard time only for economic reasons. It's cooler in the morning; you want to work in the morning in the hot, hot summer. So the uniqueness of some of the time zones is certainly based on economic reasons.

I recommend that when you look at the options, you look at the existing and what is the plus and minus from an economic viewpoint because if that is your mandate, of the existing, are there any pluses or are there any minuses? You know, we know the pluses: recreational activities at night. I was raised on a farm, and

farmers don't really go according to times. We combine according to, you know, if it's dry enough.

Mountain Standard Time: certainly, recreational impact would be a negative. Look at the proposed time. I'd be kind of interested to see what Grande Prairie would feel like if they were suddenly ahead of B.C. by two hours and if northeastern B.C. changed to B.C. time rather than Alberta time. I think Grande Prairie now is driven by northeastern B.C. oil and gas rather than vice versa, so I think that is something to be looked at. I've read, certainly, comments about WestJet, about it being a negative. I think if you judge it on economic reasons, I'm not so sure that a referendum is the way to go.

You know, it doesn't really matter what I think personally. The only way it affects me is that I have contracts in Alaska, contracts on the east coast in Alaska. I would lose three hours of overlap. In Nova Scotia I would gain an hour of overlap. But that really doesn't matter. I personally like daylight saving time because I love to bike in the summer at night.

Thank you very much.

The Chair: Questions from committee members?

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you so much for your presentation. You've reiterated a lot of things that we've heard, but it's good to hear them. Certainly, the economic impact is huge. We have to consider it. You're absolutely right. Grande Prairie would not be happy going the other way. They need to stay on Mountain Time for economic reasons; there's no question.

You know, we're here just to determine what's best for the province, and that helps us make our recommendations. Your points on, I guess, the clarity or the bill not being clear are understood. We've heard that as well. Also, with the survey, too, we've heard that as well, so we'll take that into consideration.

What else was I going to say? Yes, this is Alberta's Economic Future Committee; however, we were just the lucky ones to get it assigned to us. It could have been to a different standing committee. I mean, with that said, we are to look at the economic future of Alberta, so we will certainly take that into strong consideration.

Thanks for your presentation.

Mr. Veldman: The last comment. I was also interested in clause 2 of the bill, that says that no one could change the Alberta Standard Time Act; i.e., Grande Prairie couldn't do a reverse on Fort St. John.

Thank you.

The Chair: MLA Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. First of all, thank you very much for what I thought was an articulate presentation. To your point about your personal opinion versus an economic look at it, I appreciate that, but I also have to consider personal viewpoints, and I'm going to give you an example. When we were in Grande Prairie, a presenter came. She's got some medical issues and is required to take medication that must be taken at the same time every day. What she told us was that twice a year, when the time changes, she goes through very dramatic, painful transitions, both physically and psychologically. I think the time she had referred to was that it took her about a month on each side. People who provide that kind of input for me: I have to take those into consideration as well. We've certainly looked at the economics and will continue to look, but people that are here are here to give sometimes their personal opinion, sometimes a business perspective. I appreciate that everybody has come to do that.

Thank you very much.

6:20

Mr. Veldman: Yeah. Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Just a quick comment. Certainly, that's the balancing act we have to do, and in fact I would say that it was the sort of personal reasons around changing the clock that were the catalyst to this bill coming forward.

Mr. Veldman: I recognize that.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. But when you peel back the layers, there are many other considerations, and that's what this is all about, too. Thank you so much.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

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

Mr. J. Long: Thank you.

The Chair: Good evening. If you can both introduce yourself for the record, please.

James Long
Dan Long

Mr. J. Long: My name is James Long. I'm accompanied by my brother Dan Long.

Mr. D. Long: Hello.

Mr. J. Long: The first question I had for the committee was whether, in fact, a full environmental assessment has been done on the additional greenhouse gases that may be generated as a result of the time change. Does anyone know? Given the concerns we currently have in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, it would be very important that we understand that we're not adding to greenhouse gas emissions as a result of a change in the number of daylight hours and the electrical usage that that may accompany. I would expect the committee would have a full environmental assessment done on that impact before any decision was made.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. That's a great suggestion. That's the first time we've heard that. We have seen . . .

Mr. J. Long: It's the first time you've heard that?

Mr. Coolahan: It is, actually. Thank you.

Mr. J. Long: I'm stunned by that. Really, in the entire province this is only time you've heard that? I'm shocked.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. But I will say that we have heard that there are no electricity savings with it.

Mr. J. Long: Well, whether there are savings, what we're talking about is the generation of, you know, incremental greenhouse gases from daily activities, whether that's lights coming on earlier or staying on later, whatever it might be, and also incremental use by individuals throughout their day. That's such an important issue that we need to know before any decision is made, and I would expect that Albertans would demand that given the current concern over greenhouse gas emissions. The last thing we want to be doing from a global perspective is making a very selfish choice to change our own time and add to international greenhouse gas emissions. That would be awful. I mean, I would feel terrible about that.

Mr. Coolahan: That's excellent. Thank you.

Mr. J. Long: Then the second thing was whether a detailed economic assessment by a disinterested third party has been done and what the implications on employment would be. We certainly don't need more people unemployed as a result of disruptions by airlines or trains or any other industries which are clock run, let alone commuting and other industrial activities. Again, to have credibility with the public, one would expect there would be a third-party assessment, not one done by interested parties, people who put the bill forward or people who are promoting the change in the existing time. I would hope the committee has considered or will recommend to the government that that be done and tabled before any consideration is given to the bill.

Then the third concern that I had was that this came in as a result of a plebiscite. I've got say that I look like I was young enough to vote, but I was not at the time. I just wonder what arguments were made at the time. Have you done any historical analysis on what arguments were made to bring in daylight saving time?

The Chair: Quickly, from what I recall seeing just through correspondence, it was just because other provinces had enacted it before. There was a plebiscite prior to that, about five years back, that . . .

Mr. J. Long: I thought it was defeated. I remember reading something about that.

The Chair: Yeah. The first plebiscite was defeated. The second one I think was won by 53 per cent as well.

Mr. J. Long: And then because these issues can be so divisive – and I don't know. I'm sure that the commentary that you've had has been somewhat colourful at times or divisive. In order to have societal buy-in, it seems to me that even if the cost was substantive, we need to have this put to the electorate as a whole because if the decision is made by the government independently with a majority currently in the Legislature, there will be a large amount of dissent unless it's shown to have been a very inclusive process. So I would really encourage the committee to report back to the government that this be as inclusive as possible. I know we want to try and keep costs in line these days, but if we're going to spend anything at all in terms of furthering democracy in the province, it would be very important to have buy-in through a plebiscite. Those were the comments I had.

Mr. D. Long: I'm sure you've heard this before, but I did the math on what I saw the response was on the online petition. I think there were something like 13,000 people that responded, majority in favour. Given the fact that – I don't know what the population is in this province, something like four million people.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Four million, one hundred thousand.

Mr. D. Long: Right. So that's less than one-third of 1 per cent of the population that's responded to this matter. I think it's material enough and important enough, particularly given the fact that our largest trading partner and our biggest economic driver, which is the United States, has absolutely no intention of dropping daylight savings time in the places that we do business. I think it's important that there's a bigger buy-in than that small portion. I recognize that you're having public meetings, but I don't know how well attended they are.

I think this is an important matter. I'd just reiterate what my brother said about the fact that I have real concerns about the amount of buy-in and the amount of inclusivity with respect to the

process, which I'm sure you've heard before. I'm just reiterating that.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation, gentlemen. It was great. I'll just add some questions and comments. Yeah. I mean, important stuff.

Certainly, third-party assessment would be very valuable on both the environment and the economic aspects because what we've heard from some of the primary economic players is – let's face it – conjecture at this point, right? There's nothing concrete. This entire topic, quite frankly, is short on empirical evidence. It's very emotional a lot of the time. A lot of it was driven by those 14,000. I know we're saying that it's a very small portion of the population, but I think for my money and for Mr. Dang's money, who introduced the bill, I mean, it's substantial to say that it's something that people are interested in. We should be talking about it, and we should be discussing with Albertans.

I've said this before. A lot of private members' bill ideas walk right in your door, right? So if you even have 10 people with the same issue walk into your door, well, you've got to take notice, right? When you've got 14,000 responding, it's significant. I mean, this is part of the process of getting to understand what's best for the province in terms of time and what Albertans are thinking about and how they view which way we should go, should we do it, should we not. You know, we will come up with recommendations that are based on this.

It is personal. I don't mind changing the clocks. We have to consider the fact that some people do. Am I concerned about the economy of moving to Central Standard Time? Absolutely. Am I concerned about the golf industry and minor sports industry losing that extra time? Absolutely. These are all the things we have to weigh.

Certainly, I think we're going to take a lot away from what you gentlemen have said today around the greenhouse gas emissions and the third-party economic assessments, so thanks so much.

Mr. D. Long: Thank you very much.

Mr. J. Long: Thanks.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

6:30

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Tony Wegscheidler.

The Chair: Good evening.

Tony Wegscheidler

Mr. Wegscheidler: My name is Tony Wegscheidler of Calgary, Alberta. Now, before I begin my presentation, just for clarity's sake, I'd like to read a couple of lines from the background material that Mr. Roth sent me, and I want to make sure it jibes with what Mr. Sucha said at the beginning. This says, "In Alberta, Mountain Daylight Time begins in March and ends in November." Later on it said with regard to the impact of Bill 203: "From November 2, 2018, Mountain Daylight Time would be used all year in Alberta." Does that jibe with what you said earlier? I wasn't a hundred per cent sure. Am I correct in understanding this?

The Chair: Yes. Well, I did present with the month. I did not present with the exact date of the month. But it does state in the bill as well what is officially being recommended, which does say November 2018.

Mr. Wegscheidler: Okay. I'm going to be using the phrase Mountain Daylight Time and Mountain Standard Time. I hope that doesn't confuse.

Mr. Coolahan: We're okay with it.

Mr. Wegscheidler: You're okay with that.

The Chair: We're okay with it. No guarantees it won't confuse.

Mr. Wegscheidler: As a farm kid growing up in British Columbia, I truly loved the long summer evenings. I would be running around the farm, typically with a baseball glove and a bat and, dare I say, even a pellet gun. I lived for those summer evenings. Now as an adult I continue to love the long summer evenings. Now, however, I use those summer evenings by reading in the backyard garden oasis that my wife has created. I work in an office. We have long winters here, and in my life I have two seasons. I have hockey season, and I have reading season. These long summer evenings that we have right now to me are nirvana. I truly love them. So when I heard that the government was toying with the idea of tinkering with what was in place, I went into a tizzy, concerned for those long summer evenings.

Then I went and I examined Bill 203. I, of course, understand now what's going on, but I guess the first thing that came to mind was: why are they doing this? I've lived through more than 100 time changes in life, and to say it was a problem would be an exaggeration. It seemed that, you know, after a day or so life got on, and it seemed to me also that with the daylight saving time we have a more efficient use of time in the winter months.

Now we're proposing something where, for example, in the winter we're going to be seeing daylight start at 9:30 in the morning instead of 8:30, and we're going to be out of sync with everybody but Saskatchewan – for what? – for four months of the year. I guess the first thing I was thinking – and I know you're probably going to be thinking about this – was: what's the problem here, and is the solution going to be more problematic than what the original problem was?

Having said that, if it's decreed or decided that we are going to go to one time in Alberta, let's go with the way Bill 203 has been laid out and presented. Obviously, my intent is to preserve those long summer evenings. This is the primary point of why I'm here in front of you tonight. I want to preserve those long summer evenings. If we were, instead, to go to one time and then go to Mountain Standard Time, obviously you're going to be taking away one hour of daylight in the summer from the evenings and swapping it or placing it anywhere from 4 or 4:30 to 6:30 in the morning. Let's face it: for all the people who use that time in the evenings, the equivalent number of people are not going to use that same time in the morning.

I'm sure you've heard this, but I'm going to reiterate it. There are all kinds of people who love the long summer evenings. I live across the street from a bike path and a walking path. I see the people out there in the evenings. As well, we have riders, we have gardeners, we have golfers, and we have readers like me who love to use that long summer evening. Like I said, to me, it's stress relief. I'm more active also instead of sitting in the house.

Should we go to one time and use Mountain Standard Time, you'd be taking away, I estimate, probably the equivalent of 80 hours of good time from anybody who likes using the outdoor time in the evenings in the summer, and that's the equivalent of taking away two weeks of vacation from everybody. It would genuinely impact the quality of life of Albertans if we went to one time and it was standard time.

To summarize point 1, think about what the problem is here that you're looking at, think about the solution that you're putting in place, and weigh it out. Obviously, you're going to do that.

Secondly, if it is decided and decreed that we're going to go to one time, please use Mountain Daylight Time to preserve the long summer evenings.

Thirdly, with regard to Mountain Standard Time please do not consider that for use as year-round time; otherwise, you would be genuinely impacting the quality of life of Albertans.

Thank you, members of the subcommittee.

The Chair: Any questions from any members?

Ms Fitzpatrick: No, other than that I want to say thank you for your presentation. As I've said earlier, we are here to listen to what Albertans have to say, and we have to consider what everybody says when we make a recommendation to go back to the committee on this.

Thank you very much for coming.

Mr. Coolahan: I'll just make a comment. In drafting the bill, as I was saying earlier – you were here, I believe – with many submissions and many people walking in through Mr. Dang's door, what I forgot to mention, too, was that I believe it was last fall when an opposition member tabled a petition with 3,000 signatures on it. It still is a catalyst to what's happening, but unfortunately what the petition said was just to stop changing the clocks, right? There was no consideration to which side we're going to. That's when people take a step back. Many people are very passionate about not changing the clock for one reason or another. They simply just don't like the physical act of changing the clock, or they don't feel well for a couple of days trying to adjust. But when you add that dimension, things get complicated, right?

Thank you for taking the time to consider that and understand which way that you would like to go. Just to clarify, you're okay with the bill as it's being proposed?

Mr. Wegscheidler: Yes.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

Mr. Wegscheidler: Thank you, all.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Megan Molotkow.

The Chair: If you could both introduce yourselves for the record, too, please.

Megan Molotkow
George Molotkow

Mrs. Molotkow: Yes. Hi. Good evening. My name is Megan Molotkow, and this is my husband, George Molotkow.

Mr. Molotkow: We are here because we were confused. The way that you have explained this bill definitely is different from the way that we understood it. I firmly believe that we should not be changing the clocks. I firmly believe that we should be saving the extra hour. There are plenty of health reasons. There are plenty of economic reasons. Some of the questions that have been asked of you: you've answered them in a way that simply shows that you have no real evidence, that much of the evidence is simply public knowledge, whatever.

We apologize for taking up your time. We hope that this bill passes, and I hope that before it does, somebody actually changes the wording so that it is continuous all through the different lines here so that people like me will not be embarrassed by sitting here in front of you and complaining.

6:40

The Chair: If I may, I'm just kind of speaking in my capacity. You know, there are elements that we've heard, some feedback in relation to things like the title of the bill. There are some rules that exist within a parliamentary system that they have to be cognizant of when titling a bill; however, there is room for the option to change that.

Now, on the latter side, there are law technicalities. Parliamentary Counsel can cover anything that I might be missing here, but basically you can't contradict an existing piece of legislation, so there is an element there that repeals the current Daylight Saving Time Act because it has to be included in there. Then, because it's going on a different time zone than existed before that was put into place, there has to be another clause for it.

To be frank, I was a restaurant manager before I did this. I'm not a trained lawyer, so I've had to do a crash course on legalese over the last, you know, few months while I was getting settled in as an MLA here. Unfortunately, they have to utilize a lot of technical words in there and be very careful of the wording of it to ensure that it follows the law of the land. Then it's our position and it's our place to make sure that we can explain that and provide the feedback and educate our constituents appropriately to what the law actually entails and what the implications are. That's kind of the benefit of us having these meetings, too. If there is a point on which we have to educate the public and inform them in regard to a matter, a forum like this allows us to have that information.

I'll allow the Parliamentary Counsel to supplement if I've missed anything in relation there. Okay. Excellent. I was good on that, I guess. First time.

Mr. Coolahan: I just want to say thank you for your presentation, and it's no waste of time because this is what we want to hear. In terms of evidence you're right. We lack it. I mean, the only empirical evidence we have, really, and a lot of what was driving this bill, too, were people giving studies that show that there are more car accidents after a time change, right? This is what we've seen. We had the road builders association come in. They didn't actually give empirical evidence – it was anecdotal evidence – but from the insurance company there is empirical evidence on more accidents.

Mr. Molotkow: More accidents than after the Super Bowl or the morning after a Flames game or, say, on the Friday before a long weekend?

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah.

Mr. Molotkow: Really? I'm afraid not.

Mr. Coolahan: Why? Does it go up after a Flames game? What's happening after a Flames game?

Mr. Molotkow: The same thing that happens – I mean, what is the Red Mile? When you start looking at what actually happens during a Flames game, the next morning has to have some consequences.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Now you're confusing me, sir. Are you saying that you're okay with stopping changing the clocks?

Mr. Molotkow: Yes.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. I'm telling you that the argument for doing exactly what you want to do is because people have more accidents after we change the clocks.

Mr. Molotkow: Well, what I'm saying is that if you are going to stop all the activities that cause accidents, then I'm pretty sure that we could list, you know, 40 or 50 days per year that definitely require change.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Ms Fitzpatrick: No. Thank you very much for giving your presentation.

Mrs. Molotkow: Thank you for clarifying this as well.

The Chair: The one thing I always add – and it's always very interesting as sort of a subnote of commentary here – is that being in a parliamentary democracy, there are a lot of procedural things that exist, whether it's the way that legislation moves through the House, the way it has to move through committee, even the fact that this committee is almost an extension of what exists in the Legislature. You could technically say that this is a mini Legislature right now.

You know, it sometimes makes things complicated. Some of it's just rules and procedures that we have written in, some are things that we've adopted as being part of a parliamentary democracy, and some of them root themselves as far back as the Magna Carta, 500 years ago. While I'm not going to, you know, argue whether or not it is or isn't a perfect system, it is the system that we have, and we are obligated as elected officials to follow through with what the system is. Hopefully, that provides a little bit of supplementary commentary to that as well.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Heather Wrigley.

Heather Wrigley

Dr. Wrigley: Hi. My name is Heather Wrigley. I live in Calgary. I don't have a whole lot to say, actually, except that I think it's important that we keep in mind that changing the time on the clock does nothing to alter the number of actual hours of daylight we have. People seem to lose sight of that. They're, like: well, we're going to lose that hour of daylight. We're not going to lose any daylight. I think that if people want to take advantage of the changing day length as the year progresses, they can adjust their own activities. They can get up earlier. They can go to bed at a different time. Golf courses can adjust the hours of their operation to take advantage of when the daylight is occurring. If people want to make those adjustments, they can do that without inconveniencing the rest of us with changing our clocks twice a year.

I find that changing the clocks makes our lives more complicated than they need to be, and our lives are already complicated. People get confused by it. People show up to work at the wrong time. You know, I work shift work, so it means that once a year I have an 11-hour shift instead of a 12-hour shift and that once a year I have a 13-hour shift instead of a 12-hour shift when I'm working nights. It's just – I don't know – so unnecessary. I personally don't have a preference for whether we keep standard time or daylight time. I just hate changing the clocks twice a year, and it's just a personal

preference. I don't have any science backing me up. I just want to stop changing.

That's all I have to say.

The Chair: Any questions from committee members? No?

Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Dave Caldwell.

Dave Caldwell

Mr. Caldwell: Thank you for hearing me, lady and gentlemen. My name is Dave Caldwell, and I live in Calgary. I'm going to throw out a bunch of numbers, and I'm going to say: do the math. Now, we all know that that's not a very good phrase to say, but my numbers can be corroborated. That's why I say: do the math. You don't have to take what I say, but the facts will back me up.

Right now we are on mountain daylight saving time, which is Central Standard Time. Now, in the wintertime we're on Mountain Standard Time, which means that our clocks are set as if they were between Regina and Moose Jaw, at 105 degrees west of Greenwich. This means that Lloydminster all year round, if it stayed on standard time, would get 20 minutes of daylight saving time all year round. In daylight saving time, that part of the year, it would get an hour and 20 minutes of daylight saving time.

Calgary, at 114 degrees west of Greenwich, gets 36 minutes of daylight saving time even in the winter. In the summertime it gets an hour and 36 minutes of daylight saving time. Hythe, which is pretty close to the Alberta border – and let's not split hairs as to whether it's on the border or not – would be getting a whole hour of daylight saving time all year round if we were on standard time. When we are on daylight saving time, it gets two hours of daylight saving time. No. I've got it wrong. It gets an hour of daylight saving time all year round, and when we're on daylight saving time, it gets two hours, which is why in Fort St. John, which is even west of that, they don't change the clocks.

If we keep on Central Standard Time all year round, the same as Saskatchewan does, we would be in effect setting our clocks as if they were in Thunder Bay. It's not precisely Thunder Bay, but it's close to it. Right now our clocks are set as if it's noon in Thunder Bay – our clocks say that that's what it is – but the sun hasn't arrived at us yet, which is what gives us our long summer evenings.

If we were going to stay on a particular time zone all year round, we should stay on Mountain Standard Time because even at Lloydminster we would still be getting 20 minutes of daylight saving time on standard time, and over at Hythe they'd be getting an hour of daylight saving time. They'd have the long summer evenings all winter long.

6:50

My own preference and the way I really want to have it happen is to keep on changing the clocks, the way we are. But if we're going to keep it on standard time, one single time all year round, it should be Mountain Standard Time, which, as I say, in Calgary gives us 36 minutes of daylight saving time even in the winter.

Further, a referendum would be the way to do it. It was brought in with a referendum; it should go out with a referendum.

Mr. Coolahan: Or stay.

Mr. Caldwell: Yeah.

That's all I have to say.

The Chair: I just want to make sure that the argument you're basing this on, longitudinal distance from the Greenwich line to the standard time, which is Thunder Bay . . .

Mr. Caldwell: Which is where our clocks are set right now. They are set six hours west of Greenwich, which is at Thunder Bay. Seven hours west of Greenwich is Regina, Moose Jaw. Eight hours west of Greenwich is the B.C. border near Grande Prairie, or it's the Okanagan. The two are straight north and south of each other.

The Chair: I am glad that *Hansard* is transcribing this so I can go back to it.

Mr. Caldwell: Yes. As I say, please do the math. Don't take my word for it, but it's all factual.

The Chair: But those are, actually, interesting facts, and we haven't heard someone speak to the longitudinal challenges that come from that.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, that makes sense.

Actually, I wanted to ask you, because we don't get a lot of people in here saying that they enjoy changing the clocks, to just maybe elaborate as to why.

Mr. Caldwell: Well, I go back and forth to Vancouver, and I change the clocks all the time. If I go to Winnipeg, I have to change the clocks all the time. I look at the Toronto Stock Exchange. It's two hours out of whack from here. It's three hours out of whack in Vancouver. I mean, you have to deal with a world where you're changing clocks. London and Beijing don't have the same time as we do. If something is happening, if the news says that this happened in Japan and it happened this morning, it's already night in Japan. I mean, we get along with those sorts of things. We're not stuck. As I say, if I drive to Vancouver, I change my clock, and I change on the way back.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah, I know. I share the opinion. I don't mind changing the clock. I think it's like a new beginning every few months. I get rewarded with an extra hour of sleep in the fall and then an extra hour of sunlight in the spring, so I'm pleased in the evenings.

Thank you for the presentation.

Mr. Caldwell: Thank you for having me.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Alex Frei.

Alex Frei

Mr. Frei: Hello. Alex Frei, Chestermere. I'm thinking, after listening to some of these, I should have some long explanation, being as I'm an engineer, but I don't. It's really a personal thing. I'm an early riser, and I would love to have more hours in the morning for the things I love doing, especially since I try and pack things in before work. When I heard about this, I thought: "Fantastic. I can get more hours in the morning." That's as simple as I wanted to say it.

The Chair: Any questions?

Mr. Coolahan: In terms of the actual bill itself, you're okay with exactly how it's reading?

Mr. Frei: You know, I gather a lot of information second-hand through my wife. She told me about it. I said yeah. I was unconcerned about the wording. I can't speak to the individual specifics.

Mr. Coolahan: But with the result, I guess, of what the bill would say, to stop changing the clock and remain on Central Standard Time?

Mr. Frei: Yes. That would be great.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. So you are not a house divided like mine. That's good.

Mr. Frei: No.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thanks for your presentation.

Mr. Frei: Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Carole Davis.

Carole Davis

Ms Davis: I'll take the short mike.

This is just a personal view, too, that I do not mind changing the clocks. I grew up changing the clocks. But I do mind the fact that if we change – I don't like the idea of being two hours from B.C. in changing time. We change time when we're travelling, as the other gentleman said. I like the fact that when you spring forward and fall back, it gives you a reminder to check your furnace filters and to do everything like that.

If this bill had not come up, I don't think people would have said anything. We've been doing it for years. The accidents: I don't think there are that many more accidents when we lose sleep. If we're travelling, we come back. If we lose sleep, if we're coming from Europe or we're coming from Toronto, we're going to lose sleep anyway.

I personally am dead against this bill. I really think, you know, that if it's not broken, don't fix it, that type of thing. We've been doing this for years. That's my opinion. Again, it's just a personal opinion. I don't like it just for travel alone; you know, driving through the mountains when it's a little dark. Edmontonians: you guys get that extra hour of sun anyway. We don't in Calgary because of the mountains. Our sun goes down a lot faster than yours does. I can see the guys in Edmonton wanting it maybe, but, God, don't take our sun away from us in Calgary, okay?

That's just my opinion.

The Chair: On the latter side, it gets darker sooner in the winter.

Ms Davis: Well, I'm from Winnipeg, so I know what it's like getting darker.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I just wanted to comment on that if this bill hadn't come forward, nobody would be talking about it. It's not true, actually. This is, like, the topic that never goes away, honestly.

Ms Davis: Well, there's always somebody who is going to bring it up once in a while.

Mr. Coolahan: As I said earlier – I don't know if you were here – there was actually a petition tabled in the Legislature not that long

ago, from an opposition member who brought it from one of his constituents, with 3,000 signatures on it saying: stop the time change. You know, the vast number of submissions on the survey – it's something people love to discuss. I guess we're tasked with deciding whether it's the right thing to do here at this point.

Ms Davis: Well, I think that, like I said, if it's not broken – I mean, for years farmers have worked around it. Like I said, the flying and the driving are going to make a big difference when you're travelling. And you know what? It isn't that damn hard to change a clock or a watch. I'm sorry. That's the way I feel.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. For most people who comment on that, it's more about the psychological effect.

Ms Davis: Well, I have SAD, and I appreciate the extra sunlight, you know. I have SAD, and I need that sunlight. It's a health issue, too, sometimes.

Mr. Coolahan: Sure.

Ms Davis: Even in Europe they change the times through different places. It's been going on for years.

Anyway, again, I'm sorry, but that's just my opinion.

Mr. Coolahan: That's fine. Thank you.

Ms Davis: Short people do maybe have a say once in a while. Thanks.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your time.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Scott Short.

Scott Short

Mr. Short: Good evening. My name is Scott Short from Airdrie. I didn't really come prepared with much. I heard about it on the radio, in the news, so I just wanted to come and give my two cents here.

My view is that I hate it. I hate changing the clock. It's frustrating. It's annoying. Every year everybody, you know, complains about it. However, we're too interdependent as a society with the rest of Canada, all of North America. If we were to be aligned with every province, with the other states, then, hey, let's try and do something together, which we know is never going to happen because we're all in our own little worlds, our own jurisdictions.

For me, the biggest challenge – and just the British Columbia example is the most telling example. For us to be in a two-hour differential for six months of the year is just far too much. When I look at this a bit further, this wasn't a campaign promise. This wasn't something that I heard that was a big electoral issue when we went through this two and a half years ago and we voted for our government. If we are going to make this change – and please tell me if I'm wrong; if it was campaigned on, I'd gladly take that away – it really does need to be a referendum issue as well. At least, it needs to be something that's on the political spectrum.

7:00

You know, the next point and, I think, the most telling one that I can give is that I'm a human resources manager. In my line of work I deal with the boardroom, and I deal with the shop floor. Citizens don't understand what's happening here, and they don't understand what it means. You say to a senior manager: "Hey, you know what? They're getting rid of daylight savings time." "Yeah. It's about

time. We should." Say it to one of the warehouse workers on my kid's hockey team. "Yeah. It's a great idea."

But the best example I can give you – and, once again, tell me if I'm wrong – is that we love our hockey. We're in the Pacific division, the Edmonton Oilers and the Calgary Flames. You know where I'm going. I understand that the two major franchises have expressed their concerns. I don't want to watch the Oilers or Flames play in Vancouver at 9:30 in January. When you put it in that type of an example, that's when people are really going to get upset. It's, like: "Oh, I didn't understand that." Well, because people didn't get informed. Once again, I might have that example wrong, but I think that's the most granular, basic reason for why, if we are going to move forward with this, there needs to be better communication, and my proposal for better communication is that you need to spell it out to the electorate. Give examples: "This is what it'll mean if the legislation passes." Give real, timely examples.

You know, my perspective is that we're too interdependent as a society. I think there's too much of a cost, from what I'm hearing, that's associated with this with the deficits that our province is running right now. You know what? Canadians love hockey. If you really want to make me mad, make me stay up till 9:30, till midnight, to watch a game on a Tuesday. That's not going to happen. I'm going to be pretty angry for six months of the year.

That's all I have. I don't have any math.

The Chair: I can appreciate the challenge with the hockey game. When I was a student in Ottawa, I had to stay up till 4 a.m. to watch third-period overtime for the Canucks one game.

Mr. Short: Yeah. I know. It's rough. Like, when I give that one example at the hockey rink, "Oh, I didn't understand that," well, yeah, that's what it means to us who play in the Pacific division.

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

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you for your presentation, Mr. Short. Actually, you articulated a lot of the way I feel about this situation, too. I've started to believe that a unilateral move is actually maybe not in the cards. We need to maybe have a broader discussion, you know, provincially, maybe in the west and maybe nationally. Many jurisdictions are looking at changing it in the U.S., as is the Northwest Territories, who are actually waiting to see what happens here.

I did want to clarify something for you as you mentioned something about it not being on the platform. This is actually a private member's bill, okay? It was brought forth by a private member. It's not a government bill.

Mr. Short: Okay.

Mr. Coolahan: A private member can bring forth whatever they would like. Generally the ideas for private members' bills come as a result of constituents telling you about an issue. Mr. Dang, who brought this forward, had several people come into his office saying: I hate changing the clocks. Many of us have had that. I think he did the right thing in bringing this forward.

As I mentioned earlier, there was also a petition tabled with 3,000 names. I mean, it was the right thing to do to explore this, right? There are plenty of arguments to say that it's a little unclear how it's written or that the survey was written unclearly as well, but, you know, the decision to bring this to a subcommittee I think was the smart thing to do rather than to pass it in the Legislature. We'll see where we go from there.

Thanks for your presentation.

Mr. Short: I appreciate it. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Gill.

Mr. Gill: Yeah. Thank you very much, Mr. Short, for being here with us. I just have more of, like, a comment regarding what Mr. Coolahan has said, that there was a petition from an opposition member. I want everybody to know that the petition was actually from the Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster. Like, this issue is very big in Lloydminster, being split in two provinces. That's where the 3,000-member petition came from, originated from. I just want everybody to know that.

The Chair: There are actually quite a few historical ones. There was another one from Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville about three years ago. I think that historically there have been other petitions that have come down the pipe, too, about this issue. It's not an issue that's really sat under any political party. It's more been individual members advocating for their constituents.

Mr. Short: You're right. I mean, if it's a private member's bill, that helps me with the clarity, and that's where I put it back to. Let's have a political party either take it up as something in their platform, or let's put it to the people in a referendum. Like I was saying, we all hate it, but none of us can think of a solution. You know, I echo your comments, Mr. Coolahan. If we all walked down the hallway together, I think it makes a lot of sense, but until that time it's just disjointed. Yeah, it's disjointed.

Mr. Gill: I think that when it comes to hockey, both the Calgary Flames and the Oilers are going to have, if my math is correct, at least four or five games which will be starting, like, really late, as you had mentioned, around 9:30. I have young kids, so I already have challenges putting them to sleep at 9:30.

Mr. Short: Yeah, I know. It's closer to 18 or 20, but you're right. It's tough. Yeah, I know.

Mr. Gill: I appreciate your time, though. Thanks.

Mr. Short: Yeah. Thank you for your time.

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

All right. We have finished with the registered presenters. Something that we did, that was very similar to what occurred when we did our meetings in Grande Prairie and in Edmonton, was allow an opportunity for those who have joined us in the audience. If you have any supplementary feedback or want to provide any comment in relation to Bill 203, I'll give you this opportunity to do so now. Just make sure that you introduce your full name for the record, please.

Brady Tattersall

Mr. Tattersall: My name is Brady Tattersall. I'm in Calgary-Klein, and I've also sent a letter to Mr. Coolahan. I will just bring up some of the points that I think are important. I think it is more of an economic thing, where the costs for some businesses must be phenomenal. What I put down is: how much time is wasted and at what cost to reschedule staff in places like hospitals? These have thousands of people working every day. What do you do? Pay one person one hour less and pay one person one hour more each and every day until this rectifies itself?

As a firefighter for 33 years here in Calgary, any time we had this daylight saving time, there were always some that were late and some that were way early. It is a problem because now you have to

pay one person more and one person less. This is costing that department alone a tremendous amount in just manpower to reschedule, you know, with the pay schedule and so on.

The world itself is a 24-hour place. If you want to feed your cattle at 4 o'clock in the morning and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the cows don't really care. You know, they'll be there at feeding time.

The time change, I'd like to say, is very disruptive. I know my daughter works for a communications company. She has to start early in the morning and deal with people in Ontario, and she finishes off dealing with people in B.C. To change the clocks, it takes her about a week and a half just to get so that they can communicate back and forth, and this is a fairly major company.

There are also the people that say that they want to see more sunlight, and as I put it in my letter: well, tell them to get their asses out of bed two hours earlier. It's the best time of day, and it's very nice at that time.

With the advent of electronic communication the time when two or more parties want to communicate is not dictated by time. Governments are about the only people who keep to an old time schedule, okay? Everybody does things according to the needs of what they're selling, what they're buying, or how the markets are moving.

7:10

I've heard that daylight saving time is supposed to save money, and I think it did in the summer. Well, if it saves money in the summer, think how much we can save in the winter? Can we not just stop this idiocy of changing the clocks back and forth twice a year? Just put it – I don't care, really, if it's one or the other. I would like to see daylight saving time, personally, all the time and just leave it at that. I'll bet you that if we do this in this province, we will be the leaders, and the other ones will be following.

Also, Saskatchewan: they don't have daylight saving time, and believe it or not, they have not slid off into the ocean or been eaten by aliens. Okay.

Thank you very much for coming and giving Albertans a voice.

The Chair: I think, MLA Fitzpatrick, you have a question.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. Actually, a comment. I worked in corrections for over 30 years. It's a 24-hour operation like hospitals, like lots of different businesses. Just because you work the extra hour at one time of the year doesn't mean you get the hour off at the other time of the year because it is shift work. It costs an incredible amount of money when you're paying an extra hour for somebody, when you take it right across the country and you cover every institution that has staff on.

I just wanted to thank you for those comments because not too many people have made that point. Thank you very much.

Mr. Tattersall: Right. I think the point was also made – a lady was talking to you about medication. I don't know how much time is spent in a nursing home. That is really important, not just for that one lady. When you check any nursing home, there are some people that are desperate to have that medication at a certain hour every day or twice a day, whatever it is, to preserve their life or their well-being.

Okay. Thank you very much.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yeah. Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: I just want to thank you for your presentation, sir. Yeah, there was one woman here earlier who said that she gets paid an extra hour because she's on a 12-hour shift, so that was a good point.

I wanted to clarify, too, because I'm keeping a running tally of everyone. So you're okay with the bill as it is?

Mr. Tattersall: Yes. I would like to see daylight saving time all the time.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Excellent.

Mr. Tattersall: Yeah. That bill was kind of wishy-washy, but, yes, I'm for daylight saving time. But leave it in place all the time.

Mr. Coolahan: Excellent.

Have you been to the new fire station on 4th Street yet?

Mr. Tattersall: I started there in 1967, and it was an old dump of a place. It's like the Taj Mahal now.

Mr. Coolahan: I know. It's really nice.

Mr. Tattersall: It's very beautiful, yeah.

It was a great career, but I'm afraid our health pays for it at the end of the day.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, thanks for your service and your time. Thank you.

Mr. Tattersall: Thank you very much.

Mr. Gill: Thank you very much for your time, sir.

The Chair: Thank you, sir. One thing I always note is that my elementary school was named Cappy Smart, after the first fire captain, so growing up we had a close relationship with the Calgary fire department. I really respect what you do.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Beenish Khurshid.

The Chair: Good evening.

Beenish Khurshid

Ms Khurshid: Hi. I hope you are all having a good day so far. My name is Beenish Khurshid, and I'm presenting to you about how Bill 203, on daylight saving time, affects the Muslim community in Alberta. Muslims conduct daily prayers based on the location of the sun in the sky, so there's one prayer at dawn, one prayer at midday, one prayer in the afternoon, one prayer at sunset, and one prayer at night about one and a half hours after sunset. All five prayers are prayed every day, and prayer times change based on the time of year, and that's what we've provided.

In the summer, as days are long, the night prayer time becomes very late. For example, in Calgary for most of June and July the time of the night prayer is 11:15. This means many Muslims stay up until 11:15, pray their prayers, and then go to sleep. To a lot of people this causes a lot of difficulty in getting enough sleep because then there's also the morning prayer, that's very, very early in the day, especially because it occurs for a few months of the year. The prayer times are very similar in the rest of Alberta, as they are in Calgary. The discussion on daylight saving time provides an avenue to rectify this problem.

If Alberta instituted winter time all year long, all the prayers will be an hour earlier during the summer. So this means that the last prayer of the day will be at 10:15 instead of 11:15. This will allow people to get more sleep on a day-to-day basis. Keeping winter time all year long will also be helpful in dealing with schedule changes that occur due to daylight savings time. When daylight savings time

changes, all our prayers change by an hour, and everyone misses all their prayers.

In conclusion, for most of the public much of the problem regarding daylight savings time is due to the fact that the time changes twice a year, but for the over 100,000 Muslims living in Alberta, the summer daylight savings time negatively affects the patterns for about two to three months. Because of this I would like to recommend that Alberta institute winter time all year long rather than summer time all year long. The handout shows the starting prayer times based on dates throughout the year. It's worth while noting how in the summer it's very, very late.

The Chair: Thank you very much, Ms Khurshid.

Ms Fitzpatrick: First of all, thank you for your presentation. I lived in Yellowknife for almost eight years. One of my colleagues was Muslim, and he prayed. Now, in Yellowknife there are six weeks when there is no legal darkness. In the wintertime there are six weeks where you've got about five hours of daylight. However, in the summertime it's daylight. I can't remember exactly what he did, but he told me that there was something that he did so he could do his prayers. Are you familiar with that?

Ms Khurshid: Yeah.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Because as you go further north, the . . .

Ms Khurshid: It does get different. Yeah. The people up north, where the sun doesn't actually set either, just pick the closest place – a lot of people actually follow the times in Edmonton up in Yellowknife – or they just follow some place like Mecca or something like that.

Yeah. That's one of the things. This request is more just something that would make things easier for a lot of Muslims in Alberta to practise. We know it's not the biggest and, like, the only concern put forward to make the decision of daylight savings time, but it was just one of those things. People in Alberta do practise following the actual prayer times because the sun does actually set here.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. I have one other question because I don't know the answer. If the evening prayer time is at 11:15 and the sunrise prayer is, you know, 4 o'clock, 5 o'clock in the morning, do people go back to bed and sleep a little while longer?

Ms Khurshid: Yeah. Most people in the summer, regardless of how they pray their night prayer, for their morning prayer, they usually sleep, wake up to pray their prayer, then go back to sleep again, and then wake up to go to work. What happens sometimes for the people who want to pray the night prayer on time is that they will sleep at, like, whatever, 9:30, 10; wake up, pray their night prayer, go back to sleep; wake up, pray their morning prayer, go back to sleep; and then wake up and go to work or go to school or whatever.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation. We actually in Edmonton a couple of weeks ago had a presentation from the Islamic Centre University. It was an imam there, I believe. Maybe this is a generational thing, but he said: it doesn't bother me; the sun comes up, and I pray. So he wasn't concerned about extra sleep, I guess.

Ms Khurshid: Yeah. I guess for people who are devout, it doesn't matter. They'll get up. Like, that's what Alberta Muslims have been

doing for, you know, 40-plus years now. To me, to my family, we see this as an opportunity to at least advocate for a change towards winter if possible because that would make our lives easier. Why not make your life easier if you can, right?

Mr. Coolahan: You're referring to Mountain Standard Time when you say winter?

Ms Khurshid: Yeah.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Yeah. Excellent. Thank you so much.

Mr. Gill: Just a quick question: are you representing any organization, or are you just representing yourself and your family?

Ms Khurshid: Today I'm not representing an organization, no.

Mr. Gill: Just your personal – okay. Thank you very much.

The Chair: Just as a quick question: have you chatted with any members of your mosque in relation to this? Has anyone given any feedback?

Ms Khurshid: I am actually on my mosque board, but I'm not representing it today because I haven't actually had this conversation. We did send it out to get feedback from people. I think some people may have responded in terms of the written feedback, but I'm not sure.

7:20

The Chair: Do you think there'd be any differing of opinion depending on how much more north in Alberta you went or how much more south in Alberta you went?

Ms Khurshid: The more north you go up, the later the prayer times go. So I'm assuming that people would find it more difficult and would prefer winter time more. But at the same time, you know, if you go far north enough, then people just opt for praying their prayers earlier regardless of what the official time is.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much.

Ms Khurshid: Thank you for your time.

The Chair: What we're going to do is use this opportunity to take a brief 10-minute break. Then, when we resume, we'll allow members in the audience and members on the floor to provide any additional feedback and presentations. We'll be recessed until 7:30.

[The subcommittee adjourned from 7:21 p.m. to 7:34 p.m.]

The Chair: Excellent. I'd like to call this meeting back to order. I believe we have another registrant.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Evan Prowse.

The Chair: Before you begin, if you can introduce yourself for the record and for those tuning in at home.

Evan Prowse

Mr. Prowse: My name is Evan Prowse. Well, thank you for hearing me. I didn't plan to speak today, but I just wanted to come down and share some of my thoughts about this bill.

I actually would speak in favour of it. I've long somewhat loathed changing the clocks every year. It does mess up people's schedules. I'm sure you've heard all the arguments already. You know, I

believe for people maybe with some depression issues the fact that every evening suddenly plunges into darkness kind of wears on you. For the rest of us it is a bit of a pebble-in-the-shoe issue, I could say, but I would argue that it's a government's job to remove pebbles now and again.

Now that you've decided to stop changing time, which one do you go to? I believe it's right to go to Alberta standard time as opposed to Mountain Standard simply because I know that, with recreation, people enjoy sports outings late into the evening in the summer. As well, the sun starts to get up at 4 a.m. The sky starts to lighten as it is. I think that with 3 a.m. that's a wasted hour in the summer.

Yeah. I'd just like to say that I think that this is a great idea, and I really hope the committee goes forward and recommends it.

Thank you very much.

The Chair: Excellent.

I'll open it up for any questions from members.

Mr. Coolahan: I'll just ask: are you alone in this feeling in your group of people, or do you have consensus?

Mr. Prowse: Yeah. This is one thing that other members of my family – I don't know if I can technically speak for them – echo, these sentiments of: "Why do you have to go through it? I hope they leave it year-round."

Mr. Coolahan: Great. Thank you.

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

Mr. Prowse: Yeah. Thank you.

Mr. Gill: Thanks a lot.

The Chair: Excellent. I'll use this opportunity to invite any members within the audience who may wish to provide us with any feedback or information.

Mr. Coolahan: We're hoping it's another poem.

Miss Schaller: Oh, sorry. I only have the one poem.

Anita Schaller. I just wanted to reiterate again that basically what we're talking about is just a change on the clock. Physically changing the clocks has, as you've mentioned, health repercussions for people on medications, people with SAD, you know, everything. Like, how well you sleep: it's detrimental to that when you change the clocks all the time. Economically, I've heard, they said that it was supposed to save energy, that we didn't use as much electricity, and perhaps that was true for a short time. However, these days, the way that our world is, we still use the electricity. We still have our lights on. We're still using our computers. We're watching our TVs, sometimes maybe more because we're thinking, "Oh, we've got an extra hour," either when you change back to sleep or when you're getting up."

As far as being out of sync in the business world, we really live in a world of instant communication these days, where once you program the initial, "Okay, Alberta is at this time all the time," the computers, the phones all adjust to: "Okay; this is happening at this time." It's not like you have to plan to travel for an hour or two hours to get someplace.

In reality, I don't think it's the terrible thing economically that people are saying. I think that Alberta can be strong enough and is capable enough to take this step on their own and let people see that Saskatchewan and Arizona have the right idea. Like, why keep changing?

Again, personally, I don't have a preference for which time, but if the bill won't pass because more people are happier staying on daylight savings time so that their clocks are earlier and they have more light after their work day, let's stay on daylight savings time.

Thank you.

7:40

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Please go ahead.

Dave Lachapelle

Mr. Lachapelle: Sorry. I didn't register, but do you need my name? Dave Lachapelle.

I came here to listen, mostly, and I was listening on the website before I came up here. At first I was prepared to suggest or be in favour of retaining daylight saving time, quote, unquote, all year round. Having talked to Mr. Caldwell back there, who, I understand, gave a very good presentation – I got the miniversion of it, personally – I believe we should retain the current system, but it seems that it causes a lot of problems for people who have illnesses or have sensitivities to the changing clock, medications, that kind of thing.

I could live with keeping the same time all year round, but I think it would be more beneficial overall to retain the standard time throughout the year. We get extra long days here. I used to live in Montreal. We used to enjoy the summers there, but when I came out here, it was even better in terms of after-hours recreational enjoyment. However, I think that on balance I'd hate to see the kids going to school in the dark. I live on a street where all the parents park and take their kids to school, and I wouldn't like to see them going to school at 8 o'clock in the dark, which is approximately when it would be dark if we switched to Mountain Daylight Time.

That's all I have to say. Thank you for holding these hearings. I appreciate it.

The Chair: Excellent. Any other questions from members? No?

Thank you very much.

I'll provide for an opportunity for any other members within the audience. Excellent. Good evening.

Brenda Bann

Mrs. Bann: My name is Brenda Bann, and I am for going back to Mountain Standard Time all year round as are many of the seniors that I am associated with. It gives a better balance. Everybody gets some sunlight at the end of the day. You get some sunlight in the evening and in the morning. I've heard people say that Saskatchewan is on daylight saving all year round. They're not. They're on Central Standard Time all year round, so their history is different than ours. I mean, when we first started with daylight time, it was six months and six months, and then it was seven and five, and gradually now it's eight and four, but I don't want my grandchildren getting up and going to school at 10 o'clock in the morning, when the sun is coming up.

I didn't really have a presentation. I just disagree with the whole idea. I mean, I don't think the issue is whether I have to go change my kitchen clock, my VCR, or whatever. Well, newer items than VCRs, I guess. But it should be: what is good for Alberta? What it does is put us out of sync with the rest of Canada. It puts us out of sync with sports. I've heard sports. It puts us out of sync with safety. We have more darkness in the morning. Maybe there will be more crime. I don't know. But I think that we should be proud of what we had before, and it was Mountain Standard Time.

I have phoned my MLA, I've written, and I wanted to come here and just say: no, don't put us all on daylight because of one group of people who want daylight. I don't think it's right. Or keep it the way it is and keep switching.

Yes, I worked at a hospital, and I worked when they hadn't decided that we were – when we worked 13 hours, we only got paid for 12, and when we worked 11, we got paid for 12. Then eventually they decided we should get paid for what we worked. It all comes out in the wash, you know. You work 12; you get paid for 12. You work 11 – and it all works out.

Yeah, I don't think it's fair to some of the sports. Anyway, I'm just rambling, but I'm very passionate. I mean, I don't want to go into Montana and have us in a different time zone. I don't want to be one hour different from Ottawa. It'll affect flying. It affects everything. I think that the people who want daylight in the morning should get their daylight back, you know. That's all I have to say.

As far as the cattle being fed at a certain time, it's not the cattle getting fed. Sure, they get fed at a certain time, but it's the farmers that have to get up at 4 in the morning in the dark and feed. It's not the cows that say: hey, I should be fed now because the sun is coming up. It's the effect on the farmers and all the workers.

That's all I have to say. It's not organized. It's just off the cuff, so I apologize if I'm just rambling.

Thank you.

The Chair: Any questions?

Excellent. Thank you very much.

Any other members wishing to provide feedback or information for the subcommittee?

Seeing and hearing none, we'll use this just as a quick opportunity for a little bit of reflection on what we've kind of heard for this day. Unfortunately, we do not have Mr. Gotfried available for comment, but, Mr. Gill, I know that this is your first time sitting in, so I'll allow you to provide some insight and possibly any feedback you might get from some constituents.

Mr. Gill: Thank you very much. First of all, I would like to thank all the committee staff and especially all the people who have attended and taken time from your busy schedule.

You know, we were talking to different people, and this issue, from what I have come across, is split right down the middle. Some people want it to change; some people want to keep it the same. If you talk to the different industries, they have their own input. They want to keep their interests. So it's important that we actually hear from Albertans, and that's why we're here. It was good to hear from all of you and get all the feedback from individuals rather than organizational outfits. It was very interesting to listen to all of the different aspects you guys all brought in today. Thank you very much.

I also want to thank all of my colleagues for being here. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Sure. Thanks, Chair. You know, when this bill was introduced as a private member's bill – and I've stated before that I think that Mr. Dang did the right thing. There was a lot of interest in this, and it was the right thing to do. Our first meeting in Grande Prairie, although I did, I think, recognize the inherent turmoil in the bill itself, which is to decide which way to go, kind of solidified my feelings on this. I think that was initially because they do so much business with B.C. that most people there were very unhappy with the thought of going to Central Standard Time. I did not expect that as much in Edmonton and Calgary, and actually I don't think that

Edmonton found it as egregious as Calgary has today. That's been kind of interesting.

But, you know, I think this is a good exercise in democracy here tonight and all throughout the day here. Yeah, it's just been wonderful to hear from Albertans about all the different aspects. We've actually had a few brand new positions put forward tonight, so these are more headings that we have to chew on, I guess, in making our recommendation to the committee.

Thank you, all, for coming this evening, and thanks to my colleagues.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I'll echo my colleagues' thanks to everybody who came. Somebody had said today: well, there are not many people here. The reality is that when this all started – and I'll go back to my reference. The first day I was in my office, people came into my office and said: stop changing the clock. Since that time, every time the clock changes, I get a stream of people, I get e-mails, and I get phone calls to stop changing to clock.

7:50

I had done a little poll with my church choir. There are 39 of us in the choir, and 38 said: stop changing the clock. Now, they were divided on which way it should go but not strongly divided like we saw in Grande Prairie, where they wanted to go to central. There were a few people in the choir who said: well, probably B.C. time. Lots of people said: central time; go with Saskatchewan. For me, it was building on the number of Albertans who engaged in the conversation.

Mr. Dang, when people came to his office and talked to him about not changing the clock, decided to do a little survey with his constituents, and he had 26,000 of his constituents respond to him. That's probably over 50 per cent of his constituency. To me, it really spoke to, first of all, that it's an issue and that people feel passionate one way or the other about it and that people are engaged in the conversation. You came here. You took of your time to come and provide your thoughts on this matter, and I truly appreciate that you did that because when we make a recommendation, the more people that have spoken to us, the stronger our recommendation is going to be.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for coming out and sharing your thoughts on this.

Thank you.

The Chair: As this process has moved forward, it's been quite interesting. As the nature of committee works, once this got referred to the committee that I have the privilege to chair, I had to immediately take a neutral stance on the position and really start hearing a lot of the feedback that's come in. I don't envy the committee members, who are ultimately going to have to vote on this matter. The first presenter we had in Grande Prairie, the first time we were doing this, literally said: "We've polled our members. A third want us to keep it the way it is, a third want us to go to one time zone, and a third want us to go to the other." I think the committee members realize that they're now put to a difficult task.

The one thing I can say, genuinely, is that everyone who's come here wants this bill to do no harm, and they want what's best for Albertans. I think that, genuinely, everyone who's brought us feedback cares for doing what is right for Alberta. The challenge is that everyone has a different viewpoint, a vantage point, and experience that sometimes contradicts another one and is very different than the others. As the deliberation process commences next week, it's going to be a very tough task for the committee members. I don't envy them because I know that no matter where they land on this, someone inevitably may not approve of the

decision they've made. I'm always hopeful that all of the members of this committee are doing it with – and I'm sure they are – best faith and with the best outcome for the province of Alberta as top of mind.

Now, seeing that we don't have any other presenters, we will – oh. Sorry. Go ahead.

Robert McEachern

Mr. McEachern: My name is Robert McEachern. I was just thinking of one thing for all of us. Because the act is going to affect everybody in the province and less than 1 per cent are going to decide it, that's not a fair representation of democracy. This should be up to the people of the province to decide, not a small, select group. Getting 26,000 people to form the basis for this bill: you know, there are – what? – 4 million people in the province. What about the rest of those people? Doesn't their vote count?

You know, you were saying about medication affecting people. My wife went through cancer treatments last year. She had to take medications at certain times, and she went through the spring time change. It didn't have an effect on her; as well, the same with the other people going in for cancer treatments. Yes, it might affect some people, but it's a very small number, again, a small number of people trying to decide the fate of the province. Like I said, it's up to the people to decide. That's what democracy is about. That's what we voted for.

So it's time, you know, if this is going to affect everyone in our lives, to let the people vote. That's the biggest way to know, because then people can't say: I didn't like this, I didn't like that, but I couldn't put any input into these committees. Then they can say, "Yeah, I voted for it" or "I voted against it." Then from there the province can decide, you know, what time frame we work in.

Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for speaking up, Mr. McEachern. I just wanted to note that the 26,000 people that Ms Fitzpatrick was referring to are not making the decision here. What they were doing was, really, driving the private member's bill, to bring it forward. They're not really making the decision; we are. It went to the Legislature, and then it was decided in second reading to send it to committee. Then the committee decided to send it to a subcommittee, and here we are today. So the decision is not being made by that small group of people. It's just, really, the catalyst for bringing the bill forward.

Mr. McEachern: Yeah, but is it a true representation of all the people?

Mr. Coolahan: Well, I hate to say that it's irrelevant, but I think the sheer volume of what was seen in his office drove him to put forward a private member's bill. As I've said here a couple of times today, you know, if you get one issue in your office 10 times, you better pay attention. If you get it that many times, it's a slap in the face. You really better pay attention.

The Chair: Any other questions or comments?

Mr. Gill: Yes. What I'm taking is that you're thinking that the majority of Albertans are not being represented in this process or being heard in this process?

Mr. McEachern: Yeah. I look here, you know, and even if it's on the web, like, when it comes down to it, a lot of people, 90 to 95 per cent of the people, probably aren't aware of this, don't care, or can't

get to it. That's why it's a minority of people whose voices are being heard who are trying to represent everyone.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. I would just reiterate what I said. You know, we're here as a result of those high numbers. That was what drove this. I notice you were saying that they're small, but they are high for people to write in about a specific topic. That's driving the private member's bill. It is driving why we're here today, to hear from more people and to hear what the issues are.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Mr. Coolahan: Oh. Sorry. I just wanted to clarify, too. It sounds like you're suggesting a referendum on the issue.

Mr. McEachern: Yes.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay.

Mr. McEachern: Yeah. That would make sense. You know, a lot of people haven't heard of this. I saw on the news this morning that they were talking about it. It didn't mention where it was or what the times were. I'd heard about this from I think it was the *Calgary Herald* or CBC online, read about it, what it's been. It was in the news when it first came out, and then it sort of faded and became secondary. You know, other things had higher priority than talking about this.

8:00

It should have been that all the MLAs were there when they're having their sessions with the people. I know that, like, in my area she comes out and does a couple of presentations a year. That's where it should have been mentioned, but it wasn't really discussed. It was sort of like: well, we don't really think it's that important. It affects everyone.

I deal with people all across the country and internationally. You know, if we're on one time, then some of the people I deal with I normally deal with at 4 o'clock. With this time change it may be 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock when I stop dealing with them, and I've still got three hours of work to do.

Mr. Coolahan: I would add that, you know, the fact that we're here in this subcommittee travelling the province really demonstrates that it's being taken seriously by the committee – right? – and that we want to hear from more Albertans. A private member's bill has a very short window of debate in the Assembly. It's not like a government bill. It's a very short window. I think there was enough sense from all parties in the Assembly that we did unanimously vote to make sure that we heard from more Albertans.

Mr. McEachern: Yeah. Like I said, from what I saw, it wasn't that well advertised, you know. When I heard the hours from 9 till 9, I thought that was great. Normally I see this, and it's like 8 till 4. Most people work during that time and can't get out. That's probably the reason why the turnout is so low. Most people who heard about it probably thought, "Well, I have to work all day. I can't get out to this." Some people, when they were talking about it on the radio and on TV, weren't putting enough emphasis in to get people out. Like, on the news this morning it was: oh, yeah, by the way, there's a committee on daylight savings time today here in the city. That was it. They didn't say where it was.

Mr. Coolahan: Well, I mean, it's the nature of the ephemeral 24-hours news cycle. But, you know, it's easy to find on the government website, certainly, and many MLAs have talked about it in their newsletters and whatnot.

Mr. McEachern: Yeah. But I don't spend all day, like, going to government websites every day to find out what's happening.

Mr. Coolahan: Right.

Mr. McEachern: You know, that's what the news is there for. If it's something important, then it should be more in the news.

Ms Fitzpatrick: If I may say one thing, we have our communications person here, who actually identified how much was advertised in the newspaper, local radio, and, in fact, papers within a radius of the cities where the consultation was occurring. It wasn't just in Calgary that it was put in the news. It was put in other areas around so people could be here. In fact, we had some people from Chain Lakes. We had somebody here from Airdrie. We had people that came in because, in fact, it had been advertised both in print media, radio media, and on social media. I mean, you found out it was on, and you came.

Mr. McEachern: Yeah. I thought it was important to be here. Like I said, I'm just disappointed as to how few people are here. I thought it would have been a bigger turnout.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, I can tell you that the survey that was done online with the 13,500 and something responses was the largest number of responses for any survey ever done by the government of Alberta. Obviously, people did get involved. Do I expect a hundred per cent of people in Alberta to do that? No. Some people, as you said, it doesn't matter to them. It's not an issue. But people who have concerns about it or think about it or listen and pay attention to what's going on, they do have an interest in it, and they've come out or they've sent in their responses to the survey online. Like I said, you came tonight, and I really appreciate that you came and provided your feedback to this. The only way we can do things and continue to make them better is to learn what people are thinking about it, and that's what we're doing. We're getting every bit of information we can get.

Mr. McEachern: Yeah. For that survey, I didn't hear about the survey. I didn't see anything about it until after the results came in. I'd been hearing a little bit, like, long before, when it was first brought out, about it. Then it sort of faded from the foreground. Then all of sudden one day I heard: oh, here are the results of the survey. I went: what survey? You know, I watch the news, both online and on TV. I listen to the radio when I'm in the car for news, but in that time I never heard anything about the survey coming up.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I mean, we certainly have done everything we could do to get that message out. I'll give you an example. I write a column in the local paper in Lethbridge once a month, and every month I indicate the things that we're working on, I indicate any surveys that are being posted, and I put in the links so that people can go in and do that. I certainly have lots of uptake on my newsletter every month. It's available to everybody in the city. I can't make everybody read it. I can't make everybody do something. I can just give them the information, and it's up to them whether they're going to do something about it. Certainly, I've had lots of conversations with people in my riding because people read my column and then they talk to me about it. They come to the office. They see me in the supermarket, on the street, or out at events, and we have a conversation about it. We are certainly doing everything that we can to get that information out so that people will engage.

Mr. McEachern: Okay.

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

Mrs. Goericke: Hello.

The Chair: Good evening.

Lila Goericke

Mrs. Goericke: My name is Lila Goericke. We have an election coming up in 2018, a provincial election. Why can that not be a part of the election?

Mr. Coolahan: It could be. It's 2019, but, yeah, it could be.

Mrs. Goericke: It's in 2019?

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. That's one of the possibilities, one of the suggestions.

Mrs. Goericke: Yeah. I'd like to see it in the election. That way everybody gets to have their say, not just people that are attuned to what's happening in society but everybody that comes out to vote.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you for sharing your comments.

Mrs. Goericke: Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Any others?

Kristin Gudim

Mr. Gudim: Good evening. My name is Kristin Gudim. I would first like to start by saying thank you for the opportunity to hear my voice. Originally I was planning to come and learn – I've learned a lot; I appreciate what I have learned – and then write to the e-mail, economicfuture.committee@assembly.ab.ca, where you would read my opinion. I am still going to send that message as I find that I would be able to better clarify my thoughts on paper.

I really do appreciate this forum. I originally heard about this at the inception when it was first put onto the government website. I've been following the government and all their policies and public review ever since the changes to the occupational health and safety legislation. It was a very straightforward process to find out about this meeting as I had subscribed to the information. The government sent me an e-mail. I had everything available for me. The opportunity for all Alberta citizens, all of Albertans, to speak, to come to these meetings across the entire province: I commend you for your ability to communicate and offer that to all of Alberta.

8:10

My concern with the legislation is that it follows a minus six UTC rather than a minus seven, which I would prefer. When I look at a world perspective from the world time zones, Alberta sits at a minus seven UTC. A gentleman brought wonderful math into the equation. My previous career is in the field of surveying, referencing the first-order survey from Manitoba, western Canada, and from Saskatchewan, the third-order survey into western Canada, the placement of the boundaries of the provinces and so forth and the choosing of those locations with time zones. In the history of Canada and the development of those provinces and so on, I find minus seven being a standard time when you look at what states in the United States and other provinces in the country are kind of getting their toes wet and seeing what each other are doing, but they seem to point in the direction towards standard time.

My questions come from a safety risk, an economic risk, and quality of life issues. Safety risk: dusk and dawn travel, the automotive industry. While animal behaviour will not change, human

behaviour will. With the insurance companies having stats – you said that that information is available – on dusk and dawn hours, I will find that having a single time zone, regardless of if it's minus six or minus seven, will result in a safer Alberta. The question is: have the safety risks been assessed, whether or not it is safer at a minus six time zone or a minus seven time zone as it relates to the man-hours and human behaviour worked during those dusk-dawn hours?

For economic reasons. Looking at the initial survey, I found that somewhat ambiguous. I would actually appreciate having a better survey question than what was offered and polled, particularly in the northern part of Alberta. Changing the clocks: everybody wants that to stop. Do they understand that it's changing the clocks to minus six or changing the clocks to minus seven or changing the clocks not at all? A three-way question. That way Albertans have a better understanding of what the legislation is.

Quality of life issues. Again, dealing with human behaviour – the wake-sleep cycle, the end of the day, economically dealing with productivity at the beginning of the day – how will this productivity change affect Alberta and the economic cost to Alberta?

Also, in regard to the legislation I found that section 2 was poorly worded, as another gentleman this evening had previously stated. I would hope that with an examination of that the wording of that legislation may be improved. I can understand how Lloydminster may have Alberta time, even some of Saskatchewan, of course, Fort Nelson and so forth. In British Columbia, using Alberta time, the understanding of that legislation implied is that we don't segment parts of our province to use other time zones for business and so forth. I just found it to be poorly worded.

In regard to changing the time, I'm a young professional. I have a cellphone. Telus and Bell and all of the other sellers change the clock for me. When I have an alarm set, that alarm changes with it, and I'm not late for work, regardless of time zone or the time zone change.

Dealing with time zones in different countries and locales. For instance, my wife is currently in Ukraine. They have different dates that the time zone changes. Again, electronics and computers document and do that math for me. I don't think that there are any inherent issues with the current society and how that happens. I think that the inherent issues are, as people said, dealing with medication, dealing with quality of life issues. Some of those concerns I found to be subjective rather than objective, and I would like to see some of the objective numbers such as the economic numbers and the health and safety numbers.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

The Chair: Any additional questions or comments from members?

Ms Fitzpatrick: I actually don't have any questions. I just want to thank you. If your written presentation is better than that, I look forward to it.

Thank you.

Mr. Gill: You mentioned that you would like an economic impact study before this change.

Mr. Gudim: Well, understanding economics and business productivity, you have better productivity in the morning hours, in the early sunlight hours of business. Extending the day, changing the clocks doesn't change the sunlight, but it does change human behaviour. Are we creating a safer, better economic condition for Albertans by switching to a daylight time rather than maintaining a standard time?

Mr. Gill: Perfect. Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Gudim: Thank you.

The Chair: Any other members within the audience wishing to present to the subcommittee? Excellent.

Seeing and hearing none, thank you, all, for coming. I would like to seek a motion to adjourn.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I so move.

The Chair: All in favour, say aye. All opposed? Thank you, all, very much. The subcommittee now stands adjourned. Thank you to everyone who presented today as well as joined us on the subcommittee.

Our next meeting is tomorrow, September 15, in Lethbridge.

Everyone, have a good night.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 8:16 p.m.]

