



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 Lethbridge

Friday, September 15, 2017
11 a.m.

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

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Subcommittee

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Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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Brian Meller.....	EF-976
Doug Hudson.....	EF-977
Patricia Buswell.....	EF-978
Glenn Miller	EF-978
Rena Woss	EF-979
Emil Gundlock.....	EF-979
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11 a.m.

Friday, September 15, 2017

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

Location: Lethbridge

The Chair: Good afternoon, everyone, or good morning, depending on which time you are in. I would like to call this 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. I'm the chair of the subcommittee and also the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future. Before we get to members introducing themselves, I would like to make some brief comments about Bill 203, the Alberta Standard Time Act, that we are here to discuss today and also that the committee has been tasked to review. Bill 203 proposes that if passed, as of November 2018 the Daylight Saving Time Act would be repealed, and Alberta would remain on Alberta standard time. Alberta standard time is defined as being six hours behind Coordinated Universal Time, and that would be the equivalent of Mountain Daylight Time, the same time that we are currently on right now.

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 in four public areas in Alberta to gather feedback for the bill. The subcommittee has been directed to hold meetings in Grande Prairie, Calgary, Edmonton, and Lethbridge and report back to the committee on what it hears. The committee has also heard oral presentations from a number of key stakeholders on Bill 203. A decision has also been made to accept additional written information and submissions until September 15, 2017, so that ends at midnight tonight.

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

I'll note for the record that Mr. Schneider is substituting for Mr. van Dijken. Mr. Stier is the official substitute for Mr. Gotfried.

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

Mr. Stier: Good morning. I'm Pat Stier. I'm the MLA for the area called Livingstone-Macleod, which is most of southwest Alberta towards Fort Macleod and beyond. Thank you.

Mr. Schneider: Dave Schneider, MLA for Little Bow, just outside of the city limits to the east.

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

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

The Chair: Mr. Roth, you can call up the first presenter.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Barbara Vallance.

The Chair: Excellent. Before you begin, if you could introduce yourself for the record after you have a seat.

Barbara Vallance

Ms Vallance: Good morning. My name is Barbara Vallance. I live with my husband on a little acreage east of Fort Macleod, where we raised our two children. I'm retired from the business I owned for more than 30 years, and I keep busy performing wedding ceremonies as a marriage commissioner, managing a few rental properties, and looking after our grandson. I like camping and playing bridge. I tell you all this to point out that I am just more or less an ordinary person with more or less a normal kind of life.

I am here because I hate – no, I detest, I abhor, I loathe – the time change. Plain and simple, it is extremely difficult for me to adjust. I can't just go to bed later and sleep in later. I can't just turn on and off a switch in my head. It sounds like it should be easy but not for me. I hated the time change even more when my children were young and now all over again with my little grandson. The time change just makes things harder.

This is the fourth public session you're having across Alberta. I'm sure you've heard all the positions and arguments on this subject. I just can't imagine that any of the arguments for keeping the time change could possibly outweigh the discomfort, the annoyance, and the actual hardship that it causes. I believe I represent the majority of ordinary people and wanted to be sure that myself and people who feel like me are represented.

Thanks for your time.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much, Ms Vallance. Before you have a seat, some of our committee members have some questions for you.

Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Thank you. Thank you so much for your presentation, Ms Vallance. It was great. You know, like you said, this is our fourth presentation. We've heard all the different positions, and we've certainly heard people who feel exactly the same way as you do. My wife happens to feel exactly the way you do, particularly around our children. I don't mind the time change, so I have a house divided. How is your house? Is it divided? Do you have consensus?

Ms Vallance: I think we have consensus. Yes. I've actually spoken to many of our friends just in preparation of coming here today, and there wasn't anybody who said that they like the time change. Even the odd friend – I will say "the odd friend" with two meanings there – who says that they like daylight savings time says that they can live without daylight savings time. We are in an area where there is already a lot of sun. We're a northern climate.

Mr. Coolahan: Sure. So the big question, then, remains that the bill would propose that we stay on Central Standard Time. The question then becomes: are you okay with the way the bill is proposed? A lot of people don't like changing their clocks, but they also don't like us landing on Central Standard Time. They would prefer us to be on Mountain Standard Time. Do you have a preference there?

Ms Vallance: Actually, not really. I just don't like the time change. That's my biggest complaint. I would have to leave that, which time to stay on, to people who have more experience with that.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you so much.

Ms Fitzpatrick: First of all, thank you very much, Barbara, for your presentation. I think one of the most poignant things that I heard when we were at the presentations in another city was a woman who had severe disabilities. She takes medication. She, like you, was very passionate about saying: do not change the time. Her reason for not changing the time was that she has to take her medication at a particular time every single day, and she said that when the time changes, both in the spring and the fall, it takes her a month, a month of pain and physical difficulty – psychologically, it upsets her – for her to adjust to that time change. She was adamant that we stop changing the time. Certainly, when I hear arguments across the board, that is probably the one that touches me most deeply. So I just want to say thank you for coming and expressing your opinion because every single opinion counts.

Thank you.

Ms Vallance: Thanks.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Brian Meller.

Brian Meller

Mr. Meller: Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation to you today. My name is Brian Meller, and I am a retired hydrologist and college instructor.

I appreciate and applaud the committee's efforts to hold these public meetings to obtain sound information that will clarify both to the government and to the public which is the better time system to adopt and what the full implications of this decision will be. Like the members of the Legislature who voted to hand the issue to you, I hope that come decision time, whether that be by Legislature vote or by public referendum, we will have more to go on than we had before these meetings were held. I feel they are, for the most part, anecdotal comments, and they are more emotional response and speculation rather than substantiated fact. These comments vary widely in their significance from safety issues of children walking to school in the dark in the winter to simply not having to take 10 minutes to change the clocks twice a year, and they're somewhat contradictory in nature.

11:10

At this point in time I and, I suspect, most Albertans don't really know how big the supposed problems are nor the costs of implementation. For example, is it really a problem for farm animals to adapt to daylight saving time in this age of timer-operated lights, milking machines, and feeders or not? I've heard arguments both for and against. Is it only an annoyance for the elderly to have their pill schedule upset, or is it a serious health risk? What's the cost to the province and business of developing Alberta standard time on computers and IT networks? Perhaps small because we're adopting Saskatchewan standard time; perhaps large. But we all know that no matter the decision it will solve problems, but it will create others. I want to be assured that if the decision doesn't go the way I would like it to go, the inconvenience and issues that I have with Alberta standard time are outweighed by tangible and significant benefits to others.

My biggest issue against Alberta standard time concerns elementary schoolchildren walking to school and/or being in the school grounds before the bell rings in the dark in the mornings. I did a quick analysis using the civil dawn and twilight schedules for Lethbridge, where it is not daylight but there is enough light to distinguish objects. I combined that with the start and end times of classes in the school calendar for Lethbridge school district 51 for

the upcoming year. I determined that elementary schoolchildren in that district would spend 34 days in the dark before the bell rang with Alberta standard time. This, I believe, creates a higher risk of injury on the school grounds or from vehicles in the drop-off zone and leaves them more vulnerable to sexual predation and kidnapping. Now, I'm not an alarmist, but if the darkness contributed to a child being hurt or assaulted, it's an inappropriate price to pay just so none of us have to go through the hassle of changing the clocks.

Now, I realize that start times of school can be adjusted in compensation, but that exacerbates problems for working parents in terms of provision of interim child care between their start or end of work and start or end of school. As I said, it solves some problems, but it creates others.

I also have a personal reason to keep the current system for the comparatively insignificant reason that the advantage of my time-shift cable channels drops by half for the third of the year that happens to represent most of the major broadcast season. I recognize that hardly compares to the issue of children walking to school in the dark, but it is on the same side of the argument to keep the current system, and is it any less significant than the hockey game time issue, to which it lends support, or not wanting to change the clocks on the other side?

I'm hoping that when you make your report to the Legislature and to the public regarding Alberta standard time, it gives us very substantive information that includes dollar amounts for the cost of implementation and to ongoing IT, how much it costs or benefits the various sectors of the economy, how much it disrupts or alleviates communications with other regions still on the current system, and what the implications are to the lifestyles of parents and children, seniors, farmers, and the public in general. For me, cavalier arguments that have been put forth in the media such as "It's outdated" or "It's a pain to change the clocks" aren't a sufficient basis on which to make a change.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

The Chair: Excellent. I'll open it up for questions from committee members. [some applause] Sorry. These are the ones where we're getting applause here, so I'm not used to it, but I encourage it nonetheless.

Ms Fitzpatrick: First of all, thank you very much, Brian, for coming and doing your presentation. Certainly, when you bring some background information, that's very helpful for us, but I want to talk about the cows. We had a presentation from a dairy farmer up in the Grande Prairie area, and he said that you're right. Cows operate on the sun and have nothing to do with what the clock says. He said: it's me who's inconvenienced when I change my clock and I have to get up an hour earlier to feed my cows. He made that pretty clear.

You did hear me talk about the person with the medication and the difficulties that she went through. As I said, to me, that probably had the most impact of all the presentations that I heard.

The other thing that you had mentioned was kids going to school in the dark. You checked the times in Lethbridge, and obviously you're giving your responses for Lethbridge. But we have people in this province who are in High Level, and those kids are going in the dark and maybe coming home from school in the dark. I lived in Yellowknife for almost eight years, and that's what my kids did.

Have you any empirical evidence in terms of children being molested or assaulted on the way to school?

Mr. Meller: I have not. I haven't looked at it in that depth.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. There are lots of kids that go to school in the dark.

One of the other things that we had heard was about traffic and about crossing intersections. Every school in Lethbridge has a 30-kilometre zone at the school. I think everybody in Lethbridge knows where every school is because if you've gone through a school zone at all fast, you've received a ticket.

Mr. Meller: Me?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Yes.

Apart from the fact that there are legal issues in terms of the speed – I'm a mom, I'm a grandma, I'm a great-grandma, so I know that worry about kids crossing the street, especially if it's dark. Because I lived in Yellowknife when my kids were little, I made sure I had reflectors on their snow gear. I had conversations with them about crossing the street. When Michelle was little – she was in kindergarten when we first went up there – I walked her to school even though it was only two blocks and all of the kids walked. She was quite upset with me that I was walking to school with her because all the kids were walking to school. But I appreciate that you've shared your concerns about that, and we will certainly take note of that during our deliberations.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Meller: If I could just briefly say that I did look at the times for Edmonton to see how much it varied. Really, you know, it's not a different situation, and the vast majority of this province lives Edmonton south, so I don't think it is just a Lethbridge issue. I believe it's at least Edmonton south.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Uh-huh. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Meller, for your presentation. You know, like you, I don't mind changing the clocks. I like the extra hour of sleep in the fall and being rewarded with extra sunlight at the end of the day. What I think your presentation did, though, is actually hit the nail on the head in terms of what the dilemma with this is. It's more than just stopping the clock; there are ramifications. We heard some big ones, particularly in Calgary and Edmonton, from some major economic players in the province, being the NHL teams, some airlines, the airports, and whatnot, who have great concerns about which way we might land. So my question for you is: has there been any indication in this part of the province as far as economic impact?

Mr. Meller: Well, I don't speak for businesses that I know nothing about. All I've read in the media, as I said, is basically, you know, or probably provided from CBC and so on, which is a national news agency. Who they consult: I don't know. I don't have any specific concerns, say, that this industry and Lethbridge are going to really suffer or really benefit if we go this way.

Mr. Coolahan: What about your former professions, hydrologist and professor? Is there an impact there?

Mr. Meller: You know, in terms of postsecondary education, in terms of scheduling classes and whether in the light or the dark, no, it makes no impact.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you.

Mr. Schneider: Thanks, Mr. Meller. It's nice to have you here today and make a comment. I really have no question or anything.

I just wanted to say that I think your presentation was well thought out and put together well with good points.

Our job here is to listen to all Albertans and take all comments back. We meet on Tuesday, actually, so I expect it'll all start then. But we appreciate your comments, and I'll make sure we use them when we make the deliberations in Edmonton next week.

Thank you.

11:20

Mr. Meller: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth: Doug Hudson.

Doug Hudson

Mr. Hudson: Good morning. I am a retired citizen of the city of Lethbridge. The last presentation that I can recall making to a parliamentary panel or legislative panel was in 1971 as a student, so I'm a bit inexperienced at this.

I do not support the change, and it is, I think – I concede that some people are inconvenienced by the change, and it is important. However, I think there are unintended consequences to business that are not understood and will not be understood until such time as it's implemented. Now is not the time to proceed, and if you were to proceed, I really do not support Saskatchewan standard time. I'm sure you've heard the argument from business that now is not the time to change anything. I hear that all the time.

I might surprise you that I fully support the government's move to the \$15 minimum wage, and I know that business doesn't support that and won't support it even in good times. That issue is different. I don't think the citizens of Lethbridge or Alberta should be supporting industry in propping up wages with Alberta Works money.

But this will be, I believe, a self-imposed detriment to the economy at this point in time. If Albertans believe that we should get rid of daylight savings time and we come to that conclusion, we should take the time to convince others in Canada to co-ordinate this and to do it as an economic unit. We now believe in interprovincial trade. We believe that we should be working together. I think that if the argument is strong enough, we should be doing this across this country, and that's a more daunting task, I appreciate, but it will cause less dislocation to our economy and to all Canadians if we get our act together.

I just do not see the synergies with Saskatchewan. I don't regard it as the last bastion of progressive thought. I think we have far more – and I'm not trying to be insulting here – synergies with B.C. than we do with Saskatchewan. I do think that we're going to cause ourselves unintended consequences. We don't understand it. This is just being done too independently of the rest of the country, in my view.

You know, I don't have any business interests that I'm trying to protect here or whatever. I just don't think this one has been thought through from the point of view of the economic well-being of Albertans.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Coolahan, you had a question?

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. Thank you so much for your presentation, Mr. Hudson. It's as if you heard my conversation in the hall before we started.

Mr. Hudson: I did not.

Mr. Coolahan: I wanted to ask: can you articulate what you think might be some of those unintended consequences?

Mr. Hudson: You know, I heard the Oilers and the Flames arguing: look, we can't start our hockey games until Toronto is finished. I think that's a minor issue. There will be probably fewer kids that go to the games if they start at 8:30 as opposed to the 7:30 start times. But I think that it's the interprovincial trade, that it's the commerce that goes on on a daily basis. When we're two hours out of whack with Vancouver, I think you're going to find that things we take for granted – air travel, co-ordination of shipping – will no longer function as well as they do today.

Now, will we get used to it? I think we will over time, but I think that there will be a hit to the economy at a time when we're not – we're doing the best we can, I think, in this province to overcome our economic difficulties, and now is not a time to kick it in the pants. There may be a time. Like I say, if this is a solid idea, we should be able to convince Canadians of the righteousness of our path and get it done on a national level as opposed to us just unilaterally saying: look, for our own personal convenience we're going to do this, and hang the costs.

Mr. Coolahan: Fair enough.

I think I'll just use this moment to relay something to yourself and everyone in the audience as well. This is, in fact, a private member's bill. Okay? For many private members' bills the ideas come from people that walk into your constituency office. This is certainly a hot-button issue. Many people walk into our offices and say: I hate changing the clocks. It's that simple, right? Perhaps it's a little emotional, but there are some people that do suffer psychological issues with the changing of the clocks. My point is that I think Mr. Dang, in introducing this, did the right thing. He had several people come into his office, and, you know, when you get even 10 people coming in your office with the same issue, you have to stand up and take notice. He had several hundred, and there were over 38,000 people that responded to surveys over this, which is an unprecedented amount of input to any legislation.

Anyway, I'm glad we're here. I think it's the right forum for this, and I appreciate all your input on this.

Mr. Hudson: I understand the political process. I've worked with it in a different life for a long time. And I don't belittle the issue. I'm quibbling with us doing it alone and at this point in time.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. I agree with you.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I just want to say thank you, Doug, for coming forward and speaking.

Mr. Hudson: Thank you.

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

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Patricia Buswell.

Patricia Buswell

Mrs. Buswell: I'd better begin by saying that I'm nothing like as prepared as the other gentleman. I was told that it would be a good thing if I said this when I came today.

My name is Patricia Buswell. I spent 25 years teaching at Lethbridge Community College, and as a matter of fact I spent the last 16 years living in B.C., so I'm very familiar with the big connections and the transfers that affect these two provinces, not so much with Saskatchewan.

Now, I've always belonged to the school which says that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. If the main reason behind this bill is that people don't like to change clocks – I mean, yeah, I've got a definite choice on this. I love springing forward. I mean, I'd be happy to just leave things the way they are. But I think our personal views have got to take second place to the effects on economics, the commercial people, and the businesses, because it will affect them. I don't blame the airlines and Edmonton airport and Calgary airport saying: what are you doing to us?

11:30

I mean, I currently have a friend who flies from Vancouver Island to Calgary – you change time – in order to go see her daughter in Kelowna, and you change time going back. You're messing around two hours. Why do we need to do this? It just seems an irrational move. I would have loved to have seen an addendum with this from Mr. Dang justifying why so many people – other than that they don't like the time change. It would have helped me see what their point of view was.

You know, in a sort of facetious – not facetious but ridiculous – kind of way, if you have a two-hour change from B.C., you're literally saying, as you drive through the Crownsnest Pass, that the front half of my car is two hours' difference from the back half of my car. I mean, there isn't another place on the planet that's going to deal with these kinds of consequences. I really do think that the business and commercial people in the province most definitely should be heard before our personal preferences.

That's all I have to say.

The Chair: Any questions from panel members? Ms Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: No. I just want to say thank you very much for coming up and saying your piece.

Mrs. Buswell: Okay.

Mr. Schneider: Patricia, could I just ask? There's been some discussion – I don't think anything has been nailed down yet – that if a referendum were held with the next election, that would be the way to get input from more Albertans, businessmen, et cetera.

Mrs. Buswell: If you have a referendum, traditionally the people who want to vote no will always come out more than the people who want to vote yes. I haven't got the stats on that, but that's historical fact. I just feel that – I think this is excellent, because we are able to come and speak to you, but, please, do listen to the businesses. As the one gentleman just said, this province at the moment – I mean, I really am proud of you guys for trying to hold it together given the finances, you know, the problems we have with the oil at the moment. I don't think you need another nail in the coffin to have to deal with when you're trying to resolve problems as it is. But do go to the businesses.

Mr. Schneider: Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth: Glenn Miller.

Glenn Miller

Mr. Miller: Good morning. I'm here as a grandparent, I guess, if anything else. I've got four beautiful granddaughters.

The Chair: Sorry. Can you say your name for the record, please?

Mr. Miller: Glenn Miller.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you.

Mr. Miller: I'm just making an observation. Of course, you've got many concerns before you up to this date regarding the darkness in the winter, particularly for those who are under the graduated licensing, who cannot drive during dark hours. A single young lady who is trying to put her kid in daycare and still trying to go to school so she can look after her own economic future would be somewhat more challenged with the driving in darkness and seniors as well. I just wanted to make that point. Although this is in Alberta right now, I don't see it being a pan-Canadian challenge. If it is, it should be done unified, as the previous speaker has said, to look at the economic impact across Canada and not just in Alberta.

That's my statement.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Miller. I'm going to date myself by saying this right now, but just to do a correction, I have a graduated licence. You legally can drive at night. I double-checked that before I got that, because I drive at night to Edmonton all the time.

Any questions by any member here?

Ms Fitzpatrick: No. I just wanted to say thank you, Glenn, for coming forward and saying your thoughts on this.

Mr. Miller: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Rena Woss.

Rena Woss

Ms Woss: Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks for this opportunity. My name is Rena Woss.

Personally, I like things left the way they are. I love the extra hour in the summer, and as an astronomer I like having extra night so I can get my telescope out earlier. The problem is – and there are problems, and I can really appreciate the economic side of things. I grew up in Lethbridge, and we didn't always have daylight saving time. As a kid I went to school, you know, in the natural rhythms of day and night. Well, then somebody came up with the idea to switch to daylight saving, and here we are.

What I've been studying – and I gave a workshop just a couple of weeks ago in Saskatchewan on light pollution and the impacts of nocturnal lighting on all living things, everything from bees, birds, bugs, butterflies, trees, and us people. What we have come to recognize is that we have emerged in the natural day-night patterns of our planet. As our planet spins on its axis, we get over the course of a year 12 hours of day, 12 hours of night.

Now, today, with lights, which were invented about 140 years ago, we can be immersed under light 24/7. What we're now finding through – it's a part of science called scotobiology. It's the study of darkness: how darkness impacts our physiology, our biology, and how important darkness is to the health of all species, because only in darkness are our bodies stimulated to produce hormones like melatonin, the hormone of well-being, cancer-fighting hormones.

A study back in 2007 – you've got this as part of your handout and also a PowerPoint that I did. One study: 55,000 people in central Europe. It was an eight-week study around the shifts of, you know, day and night and, well, daylight saving. Researchers found that people never fully adjusted their circadian rhythms to the hour shift associated with daylight saving time, or, as it's known in Europe, summer time. Springing ahead by one hour – and that might not seem like a lot – however, was most difficult for the night

owls, people that like to stay up at night, and people prone to wake up and go to sleep late, they found. They've done many studies on the adverse effects of daylight saving time, and I thought that was really very interesting. It seems like a small thing. Often small things have huge impacts.

What we're finding is that we are a society that is starved for darkness. Just like there are corrections in the marketplace and the stock market, maybe this is a correction that we really need. Economics is important, but it might have to take a back seat to the larger issue, and that is the health of all living things.

I hope you will take that into consideration and take a look at the study that I've provided and that PowerPoint presentation. Thanks.

The Chair: Excellent.

Ms Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: I'm just going to say thank you very much, Rena, for providing your presentation and for providing the documentation. Thank you.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation. I just want to ask: are you suggesting, then, that we stop changing the clocks and move to Mountain Standard Time so that the days aren't as long in the summer?

11:40

Ms Woss: Well, I align with science on this point. Personally, it's not a question for me of whether I like it or not. It's a question of how it impacts the larger whole. From what I'm looking at, what I'm studying, it is impacting society in an adverse way overall, and the health of our species is the most important thing. So I think I would rather align with science at this point than economics. I hate to say it.

Mr. Coolahan: Sure. Okay. I guess what I'm getting at is that we hear a lot of arguments about the health benefits of having long summer hours because people get out more, they're more active, active for longer, minor sports teams, all those things. Your argument is that we need more darkness. Is that what you're saying?

Ms Woss: Yeah. We're out of sync with nature. We are not living in harmony with nature. We're out of sync, and that one hour forward, one hour falling back, springing ahead, is ultimately messing up the circadian rhythms of all living things, including us. Dr. Robert McDonald, who is a neuroscientist, one of Canada's foremost neuroscientists, lives right here in Lethbridge, and he could speak on that. He has spoken out on all the adverse effects of light, nocturnal light. He might be someone you might want to contact as well.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you so much.

Ms Woss: Thanks.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Emil Gundlock.

Emil Gundlock

Mr. Gundlock: Hi. My name is Emil Gundlock. Thank you for allowing me to speak, because I didn't preregister.

My biggest concern, folks, is that we read in the media and hear on 770 that 13,000 people have indicated that they'd like to have daylight saving changed. As we were coming over here this

morning, we looked up how many people live in Alberta. Apparently, it's 4.2 million. Now, I didn't work out how big a percentage 4.2 million is in comparison to 13,000, but it doesn't seem to me that that's a really big majority of folks.

I was unaware that this was a private member's bill. How much before the actual vote is this going to cost our province with all of this stuff going on? Am I for daylight saving time? You're damn right. We live in two provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta. You know, like the one lady or one gentleman said, Saskatchewan is a little bit behind us. Well, no. Actually, they're one hour ahead of us.

So, guys, it's a bunch of balderdash and a waste of everyone's time and one heck of a pile of money, I assume; I don't know. Maybe everybody is – like, Maria is here, so of course she's going to cancel a day of her MLA's pay. So she is like the rest of us that are here that are not paid. But, guys, like, think.

That's all I've got to say.

Ms Fitzpatrick: First of all, thank you, Emil, for coming and giving your thoughts on this. I just want to speak about the 13,000. It is the largest response to a survey ever for the Alberta government. I know that it's only a small portion of the population, but it is the largest response ever.

I want to back up a little bit. This whole process started because people came into MLA Dang's office saying: stop changing the clocks. I certainly know what he's talking about because the very first day I was in my office, I had a number of people come in and say the same thing to me. I didn't think that it was a big issue – I thought: okay; so people are upset about changing their clocks – until I started to go through this whole process. Before MLA Dang put his bill forward – and it's a private member's bill; it's not a government bill – he did a survey in his constituency. There were over 25,000 people who responded to that survey, and more than half of them said: stop changing the clock. So he thought: okay; I need to do something about this. His name was drawn for a private member's bill, and this is the bill that he put forward because people in his constituency had come in and spoken about it. When it came to the Legislature, it went to second reading, and in second reading a motion was put forward that it be presented to a committee to study what Albertans thought about this. Unanimously in the Legislature we agreed to send it to committee and find out what Albertans think about this idea.

I have to say that there were so many things that have been brought up that I never even thought about until you really start to delve and listen to what people have to say. Somebody said to me this morning: "Is this already a done deal? Am I wasting my time?" Absolutely, you are not wasting your time. It's important that we hear from as many Albertans as come forward and share with us their thoughts on this. We have to make an informed recommendation back to committee, and to do that we need to hear what Albertans have had to say. Certainly, lots and lots of people have come to my office, and every time the clock has changed, I have a flood of people coming into my office about just this. But just because people come in and say "Stop it" doesn't mean that you can just stop it. You have to look at every side of this question, and that's what we're trying to do.

Thank you so much for coming in and sharing your thoughts on it because that helps inform us in terms of the recommendation we're going to make. Thank you.

Mr. Gundlock: Maria, it's just like saying that if you've got one foot in a bucket of ice and the other in a fire, on the average you're in a pretty dang good shape. Now, you said that this 13,000 was the biggest whatever in Alberta history, yet one constituency says that,

well, we've got 12,500 people; 50-50 of his 25,000 came in. One constituency matched the province. Now, I really, really find that hard to believe.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay. That isn't what I said. What I said is that when he got that information, that's when he decided it was important enough to put his private member's bill forward, okay? To him that was an indication that over half of his constituency responded, and over half of that amount wanted to go one way or the other, but they certainly wanted to stop the clocks from changing.

Mr. Gundlock: Well, no, you said right on half of 25,000 people. Was that correct? Is that what you said?

Ms Fitzpatrick: Wait, now, and I'll look at the numbers that they've given me.

Mr. Gundlock: Of course, the general public doesn't hear this, but the point is if this guy can round up 25,000 people to talk about it and nearly match what the numbers were for the province, guys, there's something really wrong here. Either somebody is telling the truth or nobody is telling the truth, but nobody is telling something.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay, there isn't a comparison between the two. I'm telling you the process of how it happened. He felt with that many people in his constituency . . .

Mr. Gundlock: I understand that, Maria. You don't have to tell me things three times. I'm old, and incidentally I am terminally ill. I respect the lady that said about her pills. I have pills that I have to take exactly the same time every day except for the three or four days I forget to take the damn pills, but I don't die. I don't have to go back and forth and take eight months to get back in sequence. I am, like I said, terminally ill, but, guys, I'm also an analyst. I'm also a realist. The stories weren't matching.

11:50

I guess that's what I've got to say, sir. You know, it's ridiculous. Am I for daylight saving time? Like I said once before, yes, I am. I like the extra light at night, so that I can get in my 10,000 steps. I'm already up to 319, so I'm working on it.

The point is that I cannot believe that on the tiny, tiny percentage of the province that's responded, we're going through this process. I cannot believe it.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Would you have preferred that we just went forward with the bill and voted without . . .

Mr. Gundlock: I would have preferred that the bill never ever saw the light of day.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Okay, but he's a private member, and it was an issue for his constituents. That is why he brought it forward.

Mr. Gundlock: Well, there are a whole bunch of issues in this constituency that could be brought forward by a private member.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Uh-huh.

Mr. Gundlock: I don't see them brought forward.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, I have to get my name drawn early enough in the lot, so I can get up with a private member's bill.

Mr. Gundlock: I understand the process, ma'am. I've been around a long time. March 9 was my 60th – six zero – year of campaigning. I've been around politics quite a while and lived in a political

family, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. Some stuff is popular, some stuff is not popular, but some stuff is a waste of the people's time.

You can't ignore the commercial impact of this. I mean, anybody that does that hopefully won't be around the next time, you know.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Well, we're here to listen to everybody.

Mr. Gundlock: Well, I don't think you are because 13,000 people ain't a big percentage of everybody. I don't know how many people total have attended these meetings. The information we get is that it's very few in some cases. I think this is one of your biggest ones from the information we get from across the province.

Do I want a referendum? Well, we saw in the paper how much a referendum is going to cost. We're talking about 20 million bucks for a referendum. It costs \$20 million to print a question on a ballot? I doubt it. Do I want a referendum? No. As one lady said, the noes come out in droves, and yeses say: oh, what the hell; it's going to go anyhow. If it goes ahead, I don't think that we can afford the rest of the economic impact this province is suffering now at the moment.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much for your feedback.

The Chair: Any other questions?

Thank you very much.

Mr. Gundlock: Thank you, sir.

The Chair: Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Knud Petersen.

Knud Petersen

Mr. Petersen: Good morning. My name is Knud Petersen. I basically just have one question. The way that thing was rolled out could have been a lot better communicated if the proposal was that we stay on daylight saving time all year round. That way people would have understood exactly what we're talking about. I think that there are a lot of misconceptions out there, thinking that being on standard time would mean that we don't have daylight saving time. That's my only concern really because it would big time affect the recreational activities, as was mentioned earlier, in the summertime, which is a very important part of life nowadays, especially as kids don't get a lot of exercise other than finger exercise. That's the only thing I really want to say. There's a lot of misconception about what this means.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you, Mr. Petersen. Actually, we've heard that concern as well about clarity, I guess, on this. Fortunately, this has been a good part of helping clarify what is actually meant by the bill. The media has picked up on it a bit and helped explain it as well. I agree that perhaps the wording could have been easier to digest and understand. Yeah. We'll definitely take that into consideration as we move forward.

Thank you.

Mr. Petersen: I don't really have any strong concerns other than that we have daylight saving time in the summertime. I don't have any strong feelings on whether we switch time or not. That's all I have to say.

The Chair: Excellent.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Cindy Suyker.

Cindy Suyker

Mrs. Suyker: Good morning. My name is Cindy Suyker. I don't have any prepared speech, but as I was listening to some of the other people speak, I thought I would put forward a question. I know that there were a lot of comments regarding the economic impact it would have on our province if we did not do the time change. Saskatchewan does not change time. Has anybody done any kind of a survey or a study how they were impacted when they didn't choose to change their clocks? I know that economically it probably would have an impact to start with, but I'm not sure how big of an impact it would be before things just kind of rolled out and carried on.

There was also one point I was going to make. I don't think anybody has made this yet. When you do lose an hour of sleep, there have been studies that have said that the number of motor vehicle accidents increases tremendously for the next couple of days because people lose an hour of sleep and they are definitely impacted that way.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you for your comments. The Saskatchewan economic impact, I have not seen that, but we should probably see if that exists. You know, I think we have to be cautious about what's being said about the economic impacts in Alberta. It could be a possibility. Has any empirical evidence been given to us by these big economic players? No. It's still anecdotal at this point, but I think we have to be cognizant that there could be an impact.

Yes. Your point on car accidents is actually one of the few empirical data that we have on the impacts of time change. But the Saskatchewan piece is actually very interesting. I think we should try and find that.

Thanks for your presentation.

Ms Fitzpatrick: There was some question in Calgary whether in fact there were more accidents after a loss in Calgary with the Flames than the insurance.

Mrs. Suyker: They should be used to it by now.

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

The Chair: Excellent.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Harold Pereverseff.

Harold Pereverseff

Mr. Pereverseff: Well, good morning. I think it's just about afternoon as well. My name is Harold Pereverseff, and I'd like to just make a comment on Bill 203, the private member's bill. Actually, one time I did shift work, and I had the midnight shifts, right? When that time change came around, it was a yahoo time because you had an extra hour off or whatever. Quite frankly, through my career, through raising my children and that the time change had no impact on us. We just adjusted. You lose an hour's sleep when the kid wakes up and is sick or something like that, so it's not a huge issue at all.

I am totally in favour of keeping things as status quo and not going through with a referendum, which is going to cost upwards of \$20 million. Also, I believe that it's a standard which Lethbridge and Albertans in general are very much used to, and I think we don't

need that change. There are more pressing issues that the government should be addressing at this point.

Thank you.

12:00

The Chair: Excellent. Any other questions from members?

Ms Fitzpatrick: No. Thank you, Harold.

Mr. Coolahan: I'll just comment and say thank you for your comments. See, my wife says that my kids are a bit unruly after the change. I don't notice that, and I hope that's not a reflection on my parenting. I have to take her word for it. You didn't notice any changes in your children with the change?

Mr. Pereverseff: Actually, we had six children. We were as a family quite happy with the change in time because they went on a school bus, and quite often the extra light was good when we had the daylight savings time come in. I think it was a positive effect all the way through, not negative.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent. Thank you very much.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Rick Lee.

Rick Lee

Mr. Lee: Good morning. My name is Rick Lee. I am a one-year resident of Lethbridge and prior to that Calgary. Alberta standard time: first, let's call this what it is. Changing to Alberta standard time is actually moving Alberta to the Central Time zone from the Mountain Time zone, and I'm extremely opposed to this change.

Alberta and approximately 90 per cent of Saskatchewan used to make up Mountain Time in Canada. The remaining 10 per cent, an eastern sliver of Saskatchewan, was in the Central Time zone, with the time change occurring in Broadview, Saskatchewan, on the Trans-Canada highway. In 1966 Saskatchewan passed legislation to bring all of Saskatchewan under one time zone, and by 1972 all but Lloydminster converted to Central Time. Why over 95 per cent of the province changed for less than 10 per cent is beyond me. This effectively eliminated Mountain Time and resulted in most of Saskatchewan being on year-round daylight saving time.

When one looks at the time zone, there's a huge bulge due to Saskatchewan. It comes up, goes all the way over for Saskatchewan, up, back over, and up into the Northwest Territories. Adding Alberta to the Central Time zone is going to create a huge bulge. It's effectively putting two time zones in one. This does not need to be magnified. This would leave only part of the Northwest Territories as the only place in Canada on Mountain Time.

You're effectively eliminating a standard time zone. The standard time zones were set up many, many years before any of us were around so that everybody had a standard time. At noon you could look up and see the sun.

Alberta is the western half of the Mountain Time zone and aligns with the states to the south of us and most of the Northwest Territories to the north of us. The proposed time change to Central Time would in effect place Alberta on permanent daylight saving time, which would be confusing to the rest of North America. We would align with Saskatchewan year-round, align with Manitoba and northwestern Ontario in the wintertime, be one hour behind Manitoba and northwestern Ontario in the summer. We would be two hours ahead of B.C. in the winter and three hours ahead of B.C. in the summer. Plus, we'd have a one- to two-hour difference with

the states to the south of us. This is assuming that they're all still going to continue with daylight saving time.

For these reasons, I'm opposed to the idea that Alberta needs to be on Central Standard Time. We don't need to be the same time as Thunder Bay.

I am very much in favour of eliminating the time change due to daylight saving time. We do not need the loss or gain of an hour due to the time change that occurs twice a year. Many studies suggest this unnecessary interruption in our life increases accident rates and decreases productivity. I believe there was a lady ahead of me who was going on about natural time rhythms being disrupted and put out of sync.

Daylight saving time is a phenomenon mostly unique to North America. I did not realize this before I did some research. The rest of the world does not go on daylight saving time. We have four and a half time zones changing when the other 21 and a half time zones in the world do not change. The reasons provided depend on who you ask. The most common reason given is to conserve energy, but no one can say how much if any. Changing to daylight saving time does not eliminate the need for energy to provide light, heat, air conditioning, cooking, cleaning, et cetera. I doubt that the residents of Saskatchewan use less energy than the residents of Alberta when we go on daylight saving time, so why are we doing that?

Please leave us in the Mountain Time zone and eliminate daylight saving time. That's my opinion. I represent myself only.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your presentation. As part of this committee we will make recommendations, and one of those recommendations could be that if we want to stop the clocks, like many do, we should actually be going to Mountain Standard Time.

Mr. Lee: Year-round?

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah.

Your input is valuable. And you're right. A lot of the world has stopped changing their clocks. We learned recently that Russia stopped. It's such a big country, and they actually reverted after doing it because it didn't work out well.

On the energy-saving piece, I believe you're right. I don't think there are a lot of energy savings.

Mr. Lee: No. I think that's a false statement that many politicians have been harping on, George W. being a big one.

Mr. Coolahan: He's the reason that we're doing it November 5 now, yes?

Mr. Lee: Yeah. Instead of the six months and six months, it's now changed.

Mr. Coolahan: Thank you for your input. Very valuable. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Alan Ambler.

Alan Ambler

Mr. Ambler: Good morning. My name is Alan Ambler. I didn't come here with a presentation prepared. Just sitting here listening to the rest of the people talk, I felt a desire to punctuate one of the things that the previous speaker had talked about, and that was the

pitfalls with doing this in isolation. I strongly feel we should be doing this in concert with at least the rest of Canada and for the reasons the previous gentleman talked about. It doesn't feel right to do it all alone.

He mentioned time zones. As we all know or should know, the time zones do not follow provincial boundaries. I just drove back from Vancouver on the Crowsnest highway a few weeks ago and was struck by the fact that the Mountain Time zone starts about 50 kilometres west of Cranbrook. Alberta time would then mean I would change my clock in the Crowsnest Pass and then again 50 kilometres west of Cranbrook as that little sliver of Mountain Time exists.

I lived for many years in Lloydminster, so I'm quite in tune with the synergies we have with Saskatchewan. I do not recall there being an issue with the time change as I lived straddling the border.

That was really all I wanted to say, that I feel very strongly that we cannot do this in isolation. We need the input of the rest of the provinces. I recently read that Montana voted in March to stay on daylight saving time. Adopting this legislation would mean I'd be setting my clock travelling north and south, which to this point has been unheard of.

As I said, I didn't prepare anything more than that. It was just thoughts rambling in my head as I sat here listening to the other speakers. I appreciate that you're doing this, and thank you very much for this time.

12:10

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yeah. Thank you for your comments. I'll just make a quick couple of comments from what I know of who's looking at moving forward with this or at least discussion.

I believe that Nova Scotia, as we learned, is looking at it as well as the Northwest Territories, who is actually waiting to see what happens here. Many states are looking at it right now, so, yeah, I agree with you that this is something that perhaps requires a broader discussion nationally, maybe even internationally with the U.S., and I guess that a unilateral move at this point is feeling like it might leave us alone, if you know what I mean.

Thank you for your comments.

Mr. Ambler: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Ambler.

We have gone through all the scheduled presenters. Similarly to what we did when we were in Calgary, Edmonton, and Grande Prairie, since we do have some time left before we recess, I'll allow opportunity for any members in the audience who haven't presented yet to come forward.

Before you begin, please ensure that you state your full name for the record as well.

Ken Knox

Mr. Knox: My name is Ken Knox. I was a little bit surprised. I was applauding the private member's bill until yesterday because I never knew that we were talking about staying on daylight savings time. I thought we'd be going to stay on Mountain Standard Time. I only found that out yesterday listening to the radio, and then I only found out about this meeting from my wife five minutes after it started.

Arizona stays on Mountain Standard Time, and they don't change. California, like B.C., changes to daylight savings time. Now, they're the same time. It doesn't seem to bother anybody, but

if we stayed on daylight and they went to daylight, then there are two hours' difference. I think that would make a lot of difference to people because a lot of people cross the border there to go shopping, so now it is really going to create a lot of headaches.

Like I said, I was completely in favour of stopping the clocks if we were going to stay on Mountain Standard Time and leave our time zones the same and let B.C. say: well, okay; let the time zone in B.C. stay on Alberta time. But I'm definitely not in favour of going to daylight savings time full-time.

My kids conditioned me years ago to get up at 4:30 in the morning, and I still get up at 4:30 in the morning even though I'm retired. You know what? All those sports that started early in the morning – and now, when we switch time, it takes me half of the summer to be able to sleep in until 4:30, 5 o'clock in the morning, which is really 3:30 in the morning, but the worst part is trying to go to sleep because I go to bed at 9, 9:30, and it's still light out, and I hate that.

Thank you very much for your time.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Ken.

The Chair: Thank you very much. Excellent.

Ken Manning

Mr. Manning: Hi. My name is Ken Manning. I live in Lethbridge. I'm retired. I just had a couple of comments.

I moved here with my family in 1949, and not this building but this site was called the Rangeland motel, and we lived in there for a while. My dad was a veteran, and he got a wartime house here in Lethbridge.

Anyway, I remember quite well as a young man when Alberta went on daylight saving time. They didn't have a committee like this, but Lethbridge had a radio show called the Phone Bill Show, and you phoned in, and people that phoned in then mostly were as zealous and as passionate about not going onto daylight savings time as they are on not going off it. The bottom line is that the Chicken Little thing didn't happen. The sky didn't fall, and I don't think that the sky will fall now.

The other thing is that in our more northerly latitudes, I think that probably it's best that we would shift to Central Time, just because we might as well save daylight year-round. I mean, it only really works at the equator. When you get north, like us, I think that if you want to save daylight, do what you guys are planning on doing.

Those are my thoughts.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Ken.

Mr. Coolahan: Just to clarify, you're okay with the bill as is going forward?

Mr. Manning: Oh, yes.

Mr. Coolahan: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Manning, especially for that story as well.

Are there any other members in the audience who wish to provide some feedback or clarification?

Seeing and hearing none, we will take a recess, and we will reconvene at 2 this afternoon.

This meeting is recessed. Thank you.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 12:16 p.m.]

