



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  
2:03 p.m.

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**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)  
Schneider, David A., Little Bow (UCP)\*  
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)\*\*

\* substitution for Glenn van Dijken

\*\* substitution for Richard Gotfried

**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**

**Participants**

Ida Ehnes .....	EF-986
Connie McKnight .....	EF-987
Hazel Krywolt.....	EF-988
Dan Peters.....	EF-989
Beverly Muendel-Atherstone.....	EF-990
Stephnie Watson .....	EF-990
Bev Lanz.....	EF-990



2:03 p.m.

Friday, September 15, 2017

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

**Location: Lethbridge**

**The Chair:** Good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to welcome everyone and 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 the standing committee. I'd ask that the members of the subcommittee introduce themselves for the record, starting with the member to my left.

**Mr. Stier:** Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Pat Stier. I'm the MLA for Livingstone-Macleod, which is the riding over to the west along the Crownsnest Pass and Pincher Creek, in that area.

Thank you.

**Mr. Schneider:** Dave Schneider, MLA for Little Bow, to the east.

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

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Good afternoon. Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA for Lethbridge-East.

**The Chair:** I'll note for geography that I'm in the south part of Calgary, which means that if it's rush hour, I can get to Lethbridge quicker than I can to Craig's riding.

**Mr. Coolahan:** That's true, probably.

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

Before we hear from our presenters, for those who weren't here this morning, I would make a few comments about Bill 203, the Alberta Standard Time Act, that the committee has been tasked to review. Bill 203, if passed, proposes that 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 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 the review the committee has heard from numerous stakeholders and over 13,000 Albertans through written submissions. On August 8, 2017, the committee established this subcommittee to hold four public meetings with Albertans to gather additional feedback on the bill. The subcommittee has been directed to hold public 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. The decision has also been made to accept additional written submissions until September 15, 2017.

Just as a reminder to presenters, you will have five minutes to make your presentation. If you have supplementary materials for the presentation that you wish to present to the subcommittee, please provide them to the committee clerk. The committee clerk will also be keeping track of presentation time and will signal when

you have one minute remaining for your presentation and when your presentation time has expired.

Now, just because in comparison to our morning schedule we're a little bit lower on the scheduled presentations, similar to what we've done when we were in our other three locations, I felt this would be an opportunity to allow research services the opportunity to hear some of what we've heard today here in Lethbridge and also what we've kind of heard from abroad. What I'll do is start with MLAs Fitzpatrick and Coolahan because they can reflect on the previous meetings. Then MLAs Schneider and Stier can talk about today and some of the stuff they've heard from their constituencies as well.

MLA Fitzpatrick.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I'll begin by saying that when I was elected, the first day I was in my office, I had a number of people come into my office and say: stop changing the clock. Before that, I didn't realize that people felt it was such an issue, but they said it to me, so I realized that there was something behind it. Every time the clock changed, I had a stream of people coming into my office to say that they wanted a law to stop changing the clock twice a year.

Now, after the first time people said it to me, I thought: "Yes, you want it to stop, but where do you want it to land? Do you want it to land to the east? Do you want it to land to the west or, like Newfoundland, be half an hour between? What do you want to do?" I needed people to start telling me where they wanted to be. I had a number of people come in and share their thoughts on it, and it was fairly balanced, and then it rose a little bit on the side of Saskatchewan time.

Anyway, I didn't bring the bill forward; my colleague MLA Dang did. He did after he received many, many people in his office who wanted the clock to stop. He actually did a survey within his constituency, and between 25,000 and 26,000 people responded. That was about a little over half of his constituency. The responses he received were in favour of the Saskatchewan standard time. So that's what he did with his bill because that's what his constituents said, but the reason we're reviewing it is because there are so many sides to this issue.

When we went out and visited and received consultation from different parts of the province and through the survey results and whatever, we heard lots of different perspectives on changing the time, not changing the time, going east, going west. One of the things that probably hit me more than anything else was a woman in Grande Prairie who is in a wheelchair, and her only mobility was her fingers to move the toggle on her chair. She said that she wanted the clock to stop changing because she has medication that she has to take, and she has to take it at a particular time every day. When the clocks changed, she would have to adjust her medication, and for a month, both in the spring and the fall, she was sick. She was miserable. Psychologically it was tough on her, and she said: please stop changing it. There are many other things we have to look at, but to me that really struck me in my heart because she was physically so dramatically affected by the change of the clock.

2:10

We heard lots of other things. We heard things in Grande Prairie that they have a lot of connections with Fort St. John, and because they do – they have business connections; they have family connections – they were opposed to the bill because the bill is recommending Saskatchewan standard time. If the time was going to stop, they wanted it to go to Mountain Standard Time, and they gave some pretty good arguments for that case. There were some people who still said: "Don't change anything. Just leave it the way

it is. I like long evenings in the summer. I like to go back in the fall." I mean, there were certainly lots of perspectives given.

The same thing happened in Edmonton, and before we ever went out to talk to people in the communities, we had presentations from businesses. We had presentations from WestJet, from the CEOs from the Edmonton and Calgary airports. We had the national golf association chapter of Alberta come and talk about the impacts for them if, in fact, we were to go with Mountain Standard Time versus Saskatchewan standard time. They said that they had, basically, empirical evidence that they would lose 85 per cent of their business if that were the case. That's pretty significant in terms of a business. Minor sports provided input because they have lots of minor sports that go on in the evenings in the summertime, so they didn't want that time to change. In fact, I received a submission from the Lethbridge Sport Council. They did a survey, and they had 54 per cent of the people who responded say that they wanted to go with daylight savings, which is Saskatchewan.

As you can hear, there are lots of sides to this issue. It isn't black and white, for sure. To me, I am really happy that so many people had come this morning from Lethbridge. I mean, I tried to get people out as much as I could. I put it in my column on Friday so people would be fresh with the information. I am really happy that you came. I'm really happy that the people came this morning to provide that perspective.

I'm going to let my colleague talk a little bit about what happens now, but those were some of the things that we heard, and we heard from lots of people.

Thank you again for coming this afternoon.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you. Yeah, you know, honestly, I was just listening to Maria and thinking about that when I was first elected, one of the first things my wife said to me was: "Will you guys finally stop changing the clocks now? Can you do that, please?" I didn't really give a lot of thought to it because I don't have an issue with changing the clocks. It doesn't bother me. I kind of like the sleep in the fall and the extra daylight in the summer.

So when Mr. Dang introduced this bill, which I think he rightfully should have with all the responses that came in to him – it's a good private member's bill – I still didn't give a lot of thought in many respects to what was in it. When we started touring this, especially when we hit Grande Prairie in the first round of these hearings, many people were not happy with the fact that the proposal is to move to Central Standard Time. But I can see why Mr. Dang did it, too, because we have many people, even people that have come to my office, who really enjoy the extra daylight in the summer. So that was sort of, I think, the push there.

With that said, I mean, we are explaining to people in these hearings, too, that we will be making recommendations through this subcommittee. So that could be one of the recommendations, that we stop changing the clocks; however, it might be advantageous to go on Mountain Standard Time.

Particularly hearing from, you know, big economic players in this province such as the airports and airlines and our two National Hockey League teams, who suggest that it could lead to loss in revenue, particularly with the fragile economy as it is right now, perhaps that's not the way to go. Then we've heard so many very personal issues on this, too. As Maria said, the unprecedented amount of input on this: it is just phenomenal how many people have participated in this, including in these hearings as well. It certainly has been eye-opening. On this panel – I think that I can speak for everyone – we've learned a lot; that's for sure. Our job has not been made easy by the fact that we have to balance economic stability and, you know, the will of individuals, too, who asked to change this.

Moving forward from here, this is our last hearing, and now we're tasked with going back. We're meeting on Tuesday in the full committee, and we will report back. From that we will develop our recommendations that will come out of here after hearing from many, many Albertans. It's been a great experience. I'm not certain how we're going to fall on this, but I think I'm starting to get a general idea of the direction that we should be going on this private member's bill.

Thank you all for coming, and I look forward to hearing your input.

**The Chair:** Mr. Schneider.

**Mr. Schneider:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not a member of the subcommittee. I'm a member of Alberta's Economic Future Committee, but I am subbing in for somebody today. I'm not sure who but either van Dijken or Gotfried, I think.

Honestly, I've had about 10 e-mails. My riding is straight east of Lethbridge. Feedlot Alley pretty much resides in there. Lots of business done, lots of commerce done. Agriculture, basically. On my own initiative I put a questionnaire on my website this spring asking about this particular bill. I asked my assistant yesterday. I think we had 255 respondents, and she said between 75 and 80 per cent were happy with the status quo. I'd kind of forgotten we did that. It was seven or eight months ago.

It's clear from the presentations in Edmonton that businesses that we haven't heard from probably have an opinion on having a time change that would leave us two hours different from the west coast, north and south. A lot of business happens in the western United States as well.

The one thing I didn't hear my colleague Mr. Coolahan say is that it might be advantageous to stay with the status quo as well. He had two options; I'm throwing out a third. I have no opinion. What my opinion is doesn't matter. We're here to hear what your opinion is.

That's all I really have to say.

**Mr. Coolahan:** That is a possibility. That is one of the possibilities that could be a recommendation. Absolutely.

**The Chair:** Mr. Stier.

**Mr. Stier:** Well, thank you, Mr. Chair. I think we've heard a significant amount from the board. I have nothing further to add today.

Thank you.

**The Chair:** Excellent. All right. We'll open it up for presenters.  
Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Ida Ehnes.

**The Chair:** Good afternoon.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Good afternoon.

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

**Ida Ehnes**

**Mrs. Ehnes:** I wasn't even going to be a presenter, but I am totally frustrated with this because I grew up in Alberta. I grew up on Mountain Standard Time; then we had to go to daylight saving time. As you get older, your body does not adjust to daylight saving time as well as it used to. In fact, I say that when they first change to daylight saving time, people are more prone to having accidents and

everything else, and I know some diabetic people that have trouble controlling their insulin because it throws their whole schedule out.

2:20

Now, I've never seen an option here; it's daylight saving time or Saskatchewan time. This is Alberta. Why can't we have Mountain Standard Time and just stay with it?

For other people I know that that's why they put in daylight saving time, because some people want longer hours at night so they could go out golfing and whatever. Well, tell them to get up earlier in the morning because the number of daylight hours is the same. It doesn't matter what the clock says, so they can adjust their time accordingly. But why? I really am opposed to going on Saskatchewan time. That's just, I think, ludicrous.

Thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Sorry. She didn't state her name. I don't know her name.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Ida Ehnes.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay. I just wanted to respond to what you said about options in the bill. The bill is proposing that we stop changing the clocks and go to Central Standard Time, Saskatchewan.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Yeah.

**Mr. Coolahan:** However, I mean, when this bill was in the Legislature in second reading, it was unanimously voted on that it go to committee, and then the committee unanimously voted on it to come to this subcommittee. So this subcommittee now will make recommendations. This is not necessarily how it will end. I mean, we're going to present recommendations, and one of those recommendations could be to go on Mountain Standard Time or, as Mr. Schneider said, to stay status quo, don't change anything at this point.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Well, I checked on the website. It didn't say anything about Mountain Standard Time at all.

**Mr. Coolahan:** No, it didn't. I'm saying that we're gathering information in order to give feedback to the Legislature and the committee, so one of our suggestions could be to stay on Mountain Standard Time. You're certainly not alone; we've heard that from many people.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Oh, good.

**The Chair:** To provide some clarity to what the website says, because committees operate as sort of a nonpartisan entity, they're not part of the government at all. We even have a committee that is chaired by an opposition member, and even my deputy chair is an opposition member. Because of that we have to be very careful of the wording, so there's caution about: how do we ask for feedback without leading people? So one of those ways that we can't really do that is to say that this is an option that's on the table. But as we start soliciting feedback, members will start to pick up on some of those comments and then start asking those questions pertaining to it. Unfortunately, the way the questions are phrased and then trying to get people to provide feedback, we can't lead people to certain things, but they can provide us with those analyses.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Like, we're close to the B.C. border, and, you know, you can drive there in an hour and a little bit and then to have a two-hour time change just doesn't make any sense. So I really vote for Mountain Standard Time, period. Cut the daylight savings time.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. Like I said, you're certainly not alone.

I believe that the bill was written this way because Mr. Dang had heard from his constituents who didn't want to lose the extra daylight in summer. You know, there's logic to that, but then you don't think about being two hours away from B.C.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Yeah.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. I mean, this exercise has been great. We've heard from so many people so many different reasons why we should, why we shouldn't, what we should do, and those things.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Have you ever travelled down south and tried changing all your clocks to all the time zones as you go through?

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. Absolutely.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you.

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

**The Chair:** Excellent. Our uptake for the morning meetings was pretty significant, and we went through quite a few individuals. The afternoon is not as heavy, so what I'll do is open it up for any people within the audience who may want to provide us with any feedback or present to the subcommittee on Bill 203.

Before you begin, please state your full name for the record, too.

**Connie McKnight**

**Ms McKnight:** My name is Connie McKnight. I have a very strong opinion on staying status quo. Is there any chance of it going to a plebiscite? Is that an option, or is it that we're just going by these forms here? I want to stay in sync with the rest of North America.

**Mr. Coolahan:** That certainly could be one of the recommendations that comes out of this subcommittee. We've heard that from people. Absolutely.

**Ms McKnight:** Oh. Have you?

**Mr. Coolahan:** Especially we've heard that because we ended up here via plebiscite, right?

**Ms McKnight:** Oh, okay. Yeah. I just feel that being completely out of sync with the rest of North America makes no sense at all, for the little bit of adjustment. I mean, I have a heck of a time adjusting, but then once we've adjusted, I like the extra hour of daylight in the morning, and I like the extra hour of daylight in the summertime.

That's my two cents.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Excellent. Thank you.

**Ms McKnight:** Thanks.

**Mr. Schneider:** Who's next?

**The Chair:** Yeah. Sorry. Mr. Schneider.

**Mr. Schneider:** Yeah. There's been discussion. Like, I've been listening online as the committee has been travelling through the other three meetings. This is my first day live, but I've heard lots of comments.

**Ms McKnight:** Okay.

**Mr. Schneider:** Comments were made regarding a referendum, you know, at the next election. There was some discussion as to what that cost would be. I don't know that we've ever nailed that down completely. I think for argument's sake, let's say that at the election – I don't know if everybody at the table will agree, but if it was \$2 million, would you like to see Albertans answer a question in a referendum during the next provincial election? I guess that's the question.

**Ms McKnight:** Absolutely.

**Mr. Schneider:** That would be your preference.

**Ms McKnight:** Yeah. I mean, I've been in various discussions with friends at different events, but very few will come out. The moment I saw the notice, I put it in my calendar so that I wouldn't forget to come out so that I could voice my opinion. Otherwise, how do you get a consensus without asking Americans – or Albertans. I think I've got America on my brain.

**The Chair:** Well, last time we amended it, it was kind of their call.

**Ms McKnight:** Oh. Was it?

**The Chair:** It was in '06. Yeah.

**Ms McKnight:** Oh. That's how it happened?

**The Chair:** Yeah. We amended the time it started. That was to follow suit with America, amending that time.

**Ms McKnight:** Oh, okay. I understood it was because of the war. Is that not correct?

**The Chair:** Maybe.

**Unidentified Speaker:** Some states are going to stop daylight savings time, though.

**The Chair:** Yeah. It is being reviewed by 23 U.S. states right now as well.

**Ms McKnight:** Oh.

**The Chair:** It's actually something that's being explored in other jurisdictions. I was being more tongue-in-cheek with the other statement that I made. I grew up on dry British wit, so I apologize.

**Ms McKnight:** That's good.

**The Chair:** Excellent. Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Hazel Krywolt.

**Hazel Krywolt**

**Mrs. Krywolt:** My name is Hazel Krywolt, and I'll probably pass out. I never speak publicly.

I don't know why you're creating so much, really, disinformation is what it is, because you now have some Albertans in this area thinking that our normal time is central. I try and tell them: no, we're Mountain Time. Sandford Fleming was a pretty smart guy. He divided the world up, and you're trying to put in a cog that doesn't belong in his wheel. I think the reason whoever put this forward is using Central Standard Time is because Albertans hate daylight time, and they won't call it what it really is, Mountain Daylight Time year-round. So you've really created a lot of

confusion amongst people. You didn't with me because I'm a geographer.

**2:30**

**The Chair:** Any members wishing to comment or ask any questions?

**Mr. Schneider:** Hazel, would your preference be to stay status quo?

**Mrs. Krywolt:** You know, I don't care if it's status quo or if we go on permanent Mountain Standard Time or permanent Mountain Daylight Time. But call a spade a spade. Don't try and snow half of the population because they don't know any better.

**Mr. Schneider:** Thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Okay. I don't think that was the intention whatsoever, but we have heard, certainly, from people other than yourself that there has been some confusion around what the bill actually means. The fortunate thing is that as we're doing these hearings, I think we've actually cleared up a lot of misinformation, and with the media following us to the different cities, it's helped quite a bit. I've seen the coverage be a lot clearer than it's been previously as well.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** Not for some of the people I talked to this morning.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I can't speak for them. I think we've done a good deal to clear it up, actually, with these hearings. Yeah.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** I get to sit down – thank you – if I can make it that far.

**The Chair:** Excellent. Any other members wishing to provide any feedback or questions?

**Ms McKnight:** After going around, what is the consensus? Have you found out what the general feeling is of Albertans?

**Mr. Coolahan:** Maria just reminded me that probably one of the best examples was the Chamber of Commerce in Grande Prairie, who polled their members before they came, and it was a third to keep status quo, a third Central Standard Time, and a third Mountain Time. There you go. I don't think it's very different at these hearings. It's kind of all over the board.

**Mrs. McKnight:** Yeah. Well, I had listened to CBC at noon yesterday, and they asked this question. It sounded like it was very divided, so that makes sense.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. That's pretty much where it's at. I think what's been nice about the hearings, though, is hearing very different perspectives on it and new insight into why one should be considered and one not. It's been helpful, for sure.

**Mrs. McKnight:** Right. Thanks.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** I want to come back for half a second.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Now you've got the bug.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** No. I just forgot to ask a question. Who started this? That's never been stated, where it came from.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Okay. MLA Dang, who's the author of the bill, is the one who brought it forward, and he brought it forward because he had constituents come into his office to say: stop changing the clock. He had so many people come into his office that he thought it might be an issue that he needs to move forward. He did a survey, and 25,000 or 26,000 people responded. I can't remember, but it was a higher number that wanted to go to Alberta standard time than mountain, which is why he put that in the bill. It came to us as a committee. Everybody in the Legislature agreed that it should be referred to the committee so that we could get feedback from Albertans. That's what we're doing.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** Well, I don't understand why you want to call it Alberta standard time instead of Mountain Daylight Time like all the rest of the world.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** I have no idea. I can just tell you how the process happened with him. I don't know what was in his mind that he decided to call it that. I don't know, so I'm sorry that I can't answer the question.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** Yeah. Strange.

**Mr. Coolahan:** This topic I don't think has ever ended, has it? I mean, people talk about this all the time. Every time you change the clock, somebody complains about it at your office or whatever. Not only that, as Ms Fitzpatrick said, but Mr. Dang had so many people come in that I think he made the right decision to put forth a private member's bill. Also, previously, in the fall of 2016, there was a petition tabled by an opposition member from one of their constituents, who we actually met in one of these hearings: 3,000 signatures saying to stop changing the clocks, right? I mean, this has always garnered tons of interest. Again, I think Mr. Dang made the right decision, and I also think we made the right decision not to pass that bill in the Legislature, to get out there and talk to people and see what really needs to be done.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** Well, I'm suggesting that when people say, "Stop changing the clocks," they actually mean: stay on Mountain Standard Time; get rid of daylight saving time. Ever since I was a kid – and that's a long time ago – they don't like daylight saving time.

**Mr. Coolahan:** But not all of them, ma'am. A lot of them, like those minor sports associations, like it. The golf industry likes it. There are arguments on both sides.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** And what about wintertime? It won't get light until 9:30.

**Mr. Coolahan:** That's true. It's true. Absolutely. That's the counterargument for that.

**Mrs. Krywolt:** Call a spade a spade. Call it Mountain Daylight Time year-round, and you'll get a different answer.

Thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I bet we'd get the same disjointed answer.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** My name is Ida Ehnes. I have one more question. This fellow that started this: where is his constituency?

**Mr. Coolahan:** Edmonton.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Humph.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Are you a Flames fan?

**Mrs. Ehnes:** No. No, I'm not. I'm just thinking: why on earth would he even consider calling it something besides – I can see where people come in and say: stop the clocks. What they mean is: drop daylight savings time and go back to Mountain Standard Time. That doesn't mean we want a different time zone.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I'm going to say that that's not necessarily true, as I said to the previous speaker, because some people do mean that. We've been hearing that.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Well, they've got to be scrambled in their heads.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I don't think all the hundreds of thousands of people that play golf are all that scrambled. I mean, it's a boring game . . .

**Mrs. Ehnes:** I play golf.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I'm just telling you what they said.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Yeah. I know.

**Mr. Coolahan:** I have to be honest. I think that a lot of people who say, "Stop changing the clock" don't necessarily understand the ramifications, that we have to land on one side or the other. I don't think they understand that sometimes.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** I do golf. If you really took the number of people that actually do golf, that would benefit from having the longer daylight time, it's not really worth it making everyone else adjust to it.

**Mr. Coolahan:** The golfing industry told us that their busy time is the after-work crowd. I'm just repeating what they said.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** Eighty-five per cent of their business.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** But just say Lethbridge: how many people in Lethbridge actually do golf? Yes. I understand that the true golfers benefit from it.

**Mr. Coolahan:** You and her, apparently.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** And me.

**Mrs. Ehnes:** Okay. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Mr. Roth.

**Mr. Roth:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Dan Peters.

#### **Dan Peters**

**Mr. Peters:** Good afternoon. I am strongly in favour of continuing daylight saving time. My family and I, my associates, and all my friends are strongly in favour of continuing the status quo. I don't have to go any further than that. We've all heard all the arguments going back and forth. Once again, we are strongly in favour of continuing daylight saving time. It best befits my lifestyle, my family's lifestyle, my golfing associates' lifestyles, and my business.

Thank you.

**2:40**

**The Chair:** Excellent.

Any other members wishing to provide any additional feedback or present to the committee?

**Beverly Muendel-Atherstone**

**Dr. Muendel-Atherstone:** I didn't say that I was going to speak, but I'm here now.

**The Chair:** Excellent. Just make sure you say your name for the record.

**Dr. Muendel-Atherstone:** Bev Muendel-Atherstone. My only concern is that on the weekend when we change the clocks so that people have less sleep, that weekend there are more accidents on the highways. That just shows that people are more sleep deprived. They've got one less hour of sleep, and there are more accidents. That would happen no matter how we change the clocks. The only way to remedy that would be not to change the clocks.

I think that if this government does any change, it'll get crap no matter what they do. For that reason, I think we shouldn't change anything. Just leave it as it is.

**The Chair:** Any other questions?

Excellent. Any other members wishing to provide feedback or to speak to the subcommittee? Sorry. The communication didn't get to the clerk in time. Please state your name for the record.

**Stephnie Watson**

**Watson:** Stephnie Watson. No "a" in Stephnie.

**The Chair:** But an "a" in Watson, right?

**Watson:** Yes, there is an "a" there.

I just figured I'd put my two cents' worth in on this. I have lived here, and I've also lived in Saskatchewan, where we in Saskatchewan have one time. I have to say that it made a huge difference in my life in regard to not having to worry about switching the clocks and adjusting my schedules around that. It was really easy to just keep things going. It was one less thing to worry about. If I have 16 hours in a day that I have to do stuff in, I have 16 hours of the day. It doesn't matter whether it starts at 4 a.m. or if it starts at 6 a.m.

The way I look at it is that businesses can change their times. They do so already. We adjust over time. None of those are set in stone whereas our human cycles with the sun and everything are pretty much a part of who we are. We need to really maybe be looking at the science behind it and keep with the science and stuff. That's kind of my setting on that.

**The Chair:** Any questions from subcommittee members?

**Mr. Coolahan:** Thank you for your presentation, Ms Watson. When you moved to Alberta, did you have difficulty adjusting each time we changed the clocks back or forth?

**Watson:** I actually grew up in Alberta, and then I went and did three eight-month co-ops over in Saskatoon. I've always had a hard time adjusting to it, even as a kid. I don't know what it is, but I've always had a hard time adjusting physically to it. When I was in Saskatchewan, it was awesome. I didn't have to worry about it, didn't have to be worried about alarms not going off because of power outages and stuff and missing work and stuff like that. There was a lot of benefit to just having stuff continuing on and not having to worry about adjusting and changing that way.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Do you have a preference in terms of which way if we were to stop changing the clocks: land on mountain standard or central standard?

**Watson:** I would go with whatever the scientific consensus is in regard to world time. Put it in line with all of that. I mean, it kind of makes sense to go with Saskatchewan, but I don't have any data on that. I'd rather go with whatever the data says.

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

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

Any other members wishing to present or provide additional feedback?

**Bev Lanz**

**Ms Lanz:** Hi. My name is Bev Lanz. I wasn't going to speak, but, you know, you kind of get wrapped up in it all. I'm going to say what I think Bev Muendel-Atherstone would have said. I don't know that I have the information. I'm just going to sort of put it out there and ask that you identify, in terms of public health, how we make sure that children in particular and all of us access as many sunlight hours as we can throughout the day. That's pretty important, and I think one of the things that we should be looking at is: how do we make ourselves a healthy population, and how does this affect that?

Personally, when I travel and come home, I don't have a problem with jet lag because, you know, that was fun. I don't have a struggle with daylight savings time. But, yeah, my question or my challenge to you would be to identify what that does mean and how that does affect our overall health.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** If I may. Thanks very much, Bev, for coming and speaking. I'm going to give you an example. I lived in Yellowknife for almost eight years. My kids went to school in the dark and came home in the dark for about six or seven weeks during the winter. What everybody did in the north was come outside at lunchtime. So if you were in Yellowknife at lunchtime, you could hardly walk on the sidewalks because everybody is outside walking.

I think that no matter where you live, you make adjustments to get as much sunlight as you can, unless you're the kids now who are sitting with their devices and spending more time on their devices than we think they should. However, they may disagree with us. But wherever I've lived, certainly, the way the community ran was to try to get the maximum amount of daylight that one could get. For us here in Lethbridge we, actually, in the winter – our days aren't as short as they would be in Yellowknife or in High Level. Certainly, the kids can go outside at school. During their recess time they can get outside, depending on what the weather is like, to get light. If you've got eight hours of daylight, you've got eight hours of daylight, whether school begins at 9 or whether school begins at 10 or 8 or whatever. The number of hours of daylight remains the same, and I think people adjust so that they can get that daylight.

I'm not saying that the school needs to change its hours. There were people who talked about kids going to school in the dark, that it was so dangerous, and they had a number of reasons for why it was dangerous. My kids walked to school in the dark and they walked home in the dark because that's the way it was. I certainly made sure they had reflectors on their clothes. When Michelle was first in kindergarten, I walked her to school during kindergarten, and she was upset with me because all the other kids were walking to school and their parents weren't walking them to school. It was a different time. My grandson, when he went to school, I walked him to school in the morning not because it was dark but because I wanted to spend a little time with him in the morning. People try to adjust.

This came to us as a private member's bill. We're trying to get input from Albertans, and that's what we're getting. I thank you for coming in and, you know, asking the questions.

Thank you.

**Mr. Coolahan:** Yeah. Thanks for your presentation. Certainly, one of the reasons we've heard for either keeping the status quo or moving to the Central Standard Time is that extra daylight, particularly in the summer, right? We've heard from the golf organizations and minor sports. I guess they don't have to start as early as well. You know, trying to rush home from work to get your kids to a sporting event can be quite rough. But then, of course, we hear from a lot of parents, my wife included, who say that our kids are a bit unruly for a couple of days when the clocks change.

**2:50**

We had a really a good suggestion – I don't remember which city it was in right now – that I thought was really smart. Because teachers complain a lot about the kids being unruly, too, after the clocks change either way, why don't the schools and school boards say: let's have a professional development day the day after every time you change the clock? That's not a bad idea, is it? Certainly, I think that this extra light has figured into a lot of people's thinking of around activities and health.

Thank you.

**Ms Lanz:** Am I free to go?

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

Any other members wishing to provide any additional feedback or comments or questions?

Seeing and hearing none and knowing that there may be some additional people, we'll call a recess until 3:30. If we have no other registered speakers at that time, then we'll reconvene to adjourn the meeting following that as well.

[The subcommittee adjourned from 2:51 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.]

**The Chair:** All right. We'll call this meeting back to order.

Now, considering that we do not have any other registered speakers for the day, just procedurally we'll have to have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Ms Fitzpatrick:** I so move.

**The Chair:** Moved by MLA Fitzpatrick. All those in favour, please say aye. All those opposed, please say no. All right. The meeting is now adjourned.

[The subcommittee adjourned at 3:31 p.m.]









