



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Third Session

Standing Committee
on
Alberta's Economic Future

Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act

Wednesday, May 10, 2017
6:44 p.m.

Transcript No. 29-3-12

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

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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

Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-Meadowlark (ND)
Connolly, Michael R.D., Calgary-Hawkwood (ND)
Coolahan, Craig, Calgary-Klein (ND)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (ND)
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)
Fitzpatrick, Maria M., Lethbridge-East (ND)
Gill, Prab, Calgary-Greenway (PC)*
Gottfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)
McPherson, Karen M., Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (ND)
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (W)
Piquette, Colin, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (ND)
Schneider, David A., Little Bow (W)
Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (ND)
Taylor, Wes, Battle River-Wainwright (W)

* substitution for Wayne Drysdale

Also in Attendance

Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (ND)

Bill 203 Sponsor

Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (ND)

Support Staff

Robert H. Reynolds, QC	Clerk
Shannon Dean	Law Clerk and Director of House Services
Trafton Koenig	Parliamentary Counsel
Stephanie LeBlanc	Parliamentary Counsel
Philip Massolin	Manager of Research and Committee Services
Sarah Amato	Research Officer
Nancy Robert	Research Officer
Corinne Dacyshyn	Committee Clerk
Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Aaron Roth	Committee Clerk
Karen Sawchuk	Committee Clerk
Rhonda Sorensen	Manager of Corporate Communications
Jeanette Dotimas	Communications Consultant
Tracey Sales	Communications Consultant
Janet Schwegel	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

6:44 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

[Mr. Sucha in the chair]

The Chair: Good evening, everyone. I would like to call this meeting to order and welcome all members, staff, and guests to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future. I'd like to recognize that this committee meeting is commencing on traditional land of Treaty 6. My name is Graham Sucha, the MLA for Calgary-Shaw and the chair of the committee.

I ask that members and those joining us at the committee table introduce themselves for the record, and we'll start with my deputy chair.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you. Deputy Chair Glenn van Dijken from Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock.

Mr. Orr: Ron Orr, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Mr. Taylor: Wes Taylor, Battle River-Wainwright.

Mr. Schneider: Dave Schneider, Little Bow.

Mr. Dang: Good evening. Thomas Dang, Edmonton-South West, the sponsor of the bill's contents, which are under review tonight.

Mr. Piquette: Good evening. Colin Piquette, MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA for Lethbridge-East.

Mrs. Schreiner: Good evening. Kim Schreiner, MLA for Red Deer-North.

Mr. Carson: Good evening. Go, Oilers. Jon Carson, MLA for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

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

Ms McPherson: Good evening. Karen McPherson, MLA for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill.

Connolly: Michael Connolly, MLA for Calgary-Hawkwood.

Mr. Dach: Lorne Dach, Edmonton-McClung, game 7 meeting.

Ms Dotimas: Jeanette Dotimas, communications consultant for the Legislative Assembly Office.

Dr. Amato: Sarah Amato, research officer, Legislative Assembly Office.

Mr. Koenig: Good evening. I'm Trafton Koenig with the Parliamentary Counsel office.

Dr. Massolin: Good evening. Philip Massolin, manager of research and committee services.

Mr. Roth: Good evening. Aaron Roth, committee clerk.

The Chair: For that crack, Mr. Carson, I will read this really slowly.

For the record I'd like to note that Mr. Gill is an official substitute for Mr. Drysdale.

Before we turn to the business at hand, a few operational items. The microphone consoles are operated by *Hansard* staff. Please ensure all cellphones are on silent mode. Audio and video of the

committee proceedings are streamed live on the Internet and recorded by *Alberta Hansard*. Audio and video access and meeting transcripts are obtained via the Legislature website.

Would a member like to move approval of today's agenda? Moved by Member Connolly that the May 10, 2017, meeting agenda of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future be adopted as circulated. All those in favour, please say aye. All those opposed, please say no. That motion is carried.

Approval of the minutes for March 14 and March 15, 2017. We have minutes for our last two meetings prior to the main estimates, March 14 and 15, 2017. Are there any errors or omissions to note? Seeing none, would a member like to move adoption of the minutes? Moved by Mr. Taylor that the minutes for the March 14 and 15, 2017, meetings of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future be adopted as circulated. All those in favour, please say aye. All those opposed, please say no. That motion is carried.

Moving on to the bill review process, hon. members, on April 3, 2017, the Legislative Assembly referred Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future in accordance with Standing Order 74.2. Standing Order 74.2 states:

(1) When a Bill is referred to a standing or special committee after first reading, the committee may conduct public hearings on the subject matter of the Bill and report its observations, opinions and recommendations with respect to the Bill to the Assembly.

(2) Upon the concurrence of a committee report that a Bill be proceeded with, the Bill shall be placed on the Order Paper for second reading.

The motion to refer Bill 203 gave the committee until October 4, 2017, to report the bill to the Assembly. This is the first meeting of the committee to deal with the referral of Bill 203. The committee should consider today what steps it would like to take in order to fulfill its mandate under Standing Order 74.2.

Before we begin, are there any questions or comments about the process of review?

Seeing none, we will move to the presentation by MLA Dang. Hon. members, because our time to review and report to the Assembly on Bill 203 is limited, last week I asked the committee clerk to contact members in regard to hearing a presentation from our sponsor of the bill, Mr. Thomas Dang, at this meeting. As there were no objections raised to hearing the presentation at this time, I would ask that Mr. Dang provide the committee with a brief presentation on Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act. Members will then have the opportunity to ask questions.

Before we begin, I will allow Mr. Gill to introduce himself for the record.

Mr. Gill: Thank you, sir. Hello, everybody. Good evening. I'm Prab Gill, subbing for Mr. Drysdale. Thank you.

The Chair: Excellent.

Mr. Dang, if you'd like to proceed with your presentation.

6:50

Mr. Dang: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good evening, everybody. I will try to keep this brief in the interest of everyone's time.

It's my pleasure this evening to join this committee and present on Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act. As you are already aware, Bill 203 is an act that aims to repeal and replace the Daylight Saving Time Act in the province of Alberta. It was developed in consultation with thousands of Albertans and to create one standard time for all Albertans. Since 1972 Albertans have been changing their clocks twice a year. Forty-five years have gone by, and I

continue to hear from Albertans who think it's time to stop that change.

I've provided copies of a document for this committee that I have already tabled in the Assembly detailing the results of a consultation survey that engaged with nearly 27,000 people and that showed that a very significantly large majority of Albertans do prefer one time year-round. Now, some details around methodology and expected margins of error are provided with that document as well.

This bill is about making lives better for Albertans. The thousands of people that I've heard from expressed concern and strong opinions about the issue of changing their clocks. I know I'm also not alone in hearing about this. Many of the members in this room, I'm sure, have heard about this since the bill was introduced and indeed, I believe, before that as well. In fact, my office received almost 800 phone calls in one day regarding this bill and the consultation. Clearly, this is something that Albertans are interested in.

Now, the concerns that these Albertans have are present and real. Not too long ago Albertans did change their clocks this year and felt the effects of losing one hour. The type of people I heard from included parents, teachers, nurses, nonprofit and sport organizations, and small businesses. This bill was crafted specifically to address their concerns.

Research shows that activities such as car accidents, health care claims, and events such as heart attacks or workplace injuries have significant increases after the time change. We also destabilize our agriculture partners and family routines, leading to overall decreases in productivity. In fact, I heard from one poultry farmer who said that her chickens simply wouldn't lay as many eggs if they tried to change the clocks. It could be as much as a 10 per cent difference for her yield.

Now, this bill proposes Coordinated Universal Time minus six hours as a standard time zone. This would allow Albertans to take advantage of our long summer nights, to spend time with their kids playing soccer, enjoying a craft Alberta beer on a patio, or simply having time for a couple of extra rounds of golf this summer. But please do avoid those mosquitoes.

In the recent past two petitions have been tabled in this House regarding the abolition of daylight saving time. One was from Ruby Kassian from the riding of Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and one more recently from Verner Thompson from the riding of Vermilion-Lloydminster. Both of these petitions received hundreds of signatures urging the government to abolish the Daylight Saving Time Act and leave the time on summer time year-round, as this bill proposes.

The type of stories that I heard as a part of my consultation struck a chord on many levels. The people that reached out to me had experiences that go far beyond ordinary inconvenience and issues that I had no idea would actually be affected by the time change. I recently attended a mixer in which a number of long-term care nurses were in attendance. Now, one of those nurses stopped me and told me that every single nurse in her facility wanted me to pass this bill sooner rather than later. The patients in their care depend heavily on their scheduling. That might mean getting a meal at the same time every day or ensuring that medication is taken at the appropriate time every day. The time change throws off their patients, and it can take up to two weeks for those patients to readjust to the change. Now, that leads to poor patient care, and it also leads to increased stress for the staff and the families of those patients, and that's something that I think we should all be working to reduce.

I've also heard from employees like postal workers whose routines are dependent on our sunlight hours. The drastic change

can affect their shift work and how they go about their daily routines.

It's going to make life better for our seniors, who need to follow strict schedules for their personal health, depending on routines for things like their daily drug dosages. I heard about people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers, who suffer not only from memory loss but from deep bouts of anxiety as well, anxiety that can be triggered by a syndrome known as sundowning. Sundowning can severely accelerate and exasperate their anxiety when the clocks fall back. It's these types of changes that I believe can make a difference in the lives of everyday Albertans.

We've heard from hospital staff who spend hours and hours and days and days after the time change updating critical medical equipment, which, if done incorrectly – this is equipment that makes logs or that you read indications for a patient's health from – can lead to a mislabeled chart. A mislabeled chart is a critical legal document that can damage the continuity of care. These are medical documents that we can help reduce errors in by doing something as simple as abolishing this time change.

Now, the consultation and survey performed asked a series of questions regarding not just whether Albertans wanted to not change their clocks anymore, but we also asked when they wanted their daylight hours the most. Two-thirds of Albertans wanted that extra light in the evening, and the Alberta Standard Time Act does reflect that.

I'm confident in the results of my survey. The consultation reached a very large number of people, and I do believe that it is quite statistically significant. It was an extremely engaged piece of legislation, as I'm sure many of you in this room heard in your offices. In fact, I still get stopped in the street today by people who ask me, "What's up with that time change bill?" or "Hey, Thomas, I heard that this was going to committee. What's going to happen next?" That's something that I haven't stopped receiving communications on, and people keep asking me to keep fighting for this bill.

I'm excited by the prospects and the ability of this committee. I believe my consultation was very thorough. I think I reached a lot of people. We did indeed do a town hall alongside our consultation survey. But I also believe that the resources available to this committee are far greater than mine were as a private member and will allow us to reach and engage with more Albertans and hear from many more people from many more corners of this province.

Now, I did table a large number of documents – communications, e-mails, and letters – in the Assembly not too long ago, and you'll note that a lot of those documents do have a question around that they do want one time. But the question is: which time? I believe that there is a good opportunity for this committee to reach out and connect with those people. I believe that my bill proposes what the general will of Albertans wants to see, and I'm excited to see what this committee will be able to find out through their consultation process. We have the opportunity here today to make a time zone that is designed by Albertans for Albertans. I believe we can create one consistent time year-round that will make life better for Alberta families.

Thanks for taking the time to hear from me. I do look forward to seeing how this committee progresses, and I'm happy to take some questions. I think some MLAs will be very happy to hear that I think I only took seven minutes and 30ish seconds.

The Chair: Thank you, MLA Dang.

I'll open up the floor for any members who may have any questions for Mr. Dang.

Mr. Gotfried: I've got one. Thank you, Chair. Thomas, I appreciate the work you've done on this, and I think there are lots

of different comments that all of us are getting from both sides of this. You mentioned at the end that you hope that this will make things better for Albertans, and I want you to maybe think about your definition of better or maybe easier or how you would position the benefit of this in terms of how it's going to benefit Albertans.

Mr. Dang: Well, yeah. I guess, to address that, I did bring up some examples in my presentation here. I think that when we talk about Albertans who are extremely dependent on our teams, people like those who work in long-term care facilities, people like those who experience sundowning from their Alzheimer's, people who have to care for their patients, or if your family is involved in these types of incidents, I think that making life easier for those Albertans is something that we have an opportunity to do. Making life more accessible for those types of Albertans I think is something that we should be able to try and move towards.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you.

The Chair: Mrs. Schreiner.

Mrs. Schreiner: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I'd like to start off by thanking Mr. Dang for his presentation, and I would also like to thank Mr. Dang and his staff for the consultations that have already taken place.

Speaking to the numbers of those who participated in the survey/consultation and also to the number of Albertans who reached out to, I know, my office of Red Deer-North and, I know, Mr. Dang's office and, I'm sure, all the constituency offices or most of them across our great province, clearly, this is a topic that Albertans are very passionate about.

Having said that, I have a few questions. As stated in the House, there are a number of factors in this debate, and while it seems clear that the majority of Albertans do in fact wish to see the practice of changing time on their clocks come to an end, the debate on the year-round time zone of Alberta is quite vigorous. I'd like to ask Mr. Dang about the composition of the responses he received in the online survey. How many different regions of the province did the member receive responses from?

7:00

Mr. Dang: Yeah. Absolutely. The regional breakdowns we did based on self-reporting, so it was what Albertans self-reported their postal codes to be. We did receive quite a significant number of responses from the large metro areas. Edmonton and Calgary: we received well over several thousand responses in each of those particular jurisdictions. I know that in Red Deer we received upwards of, I think, 700 or 800 responses. In places like Lloydminster I believe we received 200 or 300. In different towns throughout the province that covered basically every single riding, we did receive responses. I don't have the exact breakdowns for every single one, but generally speaking, for the larger towns and smaller cities we would receive on average 100 to 300 responses and for smaller towns we would receive somewhere around 30 to 50 responses per town.

Mrs. Schreiner: I have a few follow-up questions if I may.

The Chair: Yeah. Go ahead.

Mrs. Schreiner: Thank you for that.

Based on the methodology of the survey, are these responses and where they come from considered to be representative of the makeup of our province, the entire province?

Mr. Dang: I would believe so. We did receive upwards of 26,000, almost 27,000 unique responses, so I did do, in the methodology section here, a little bit of a breakdown of what that sort of means for statistical reasons, anyways. I believe that we're within a couple of percentage points of our margin of error within a typical sample. I mean, I admit there may be some self-selection going on here, but it's a large enough sample that I'm very confident in the results.

Mrs. Schreiner: Thank you.

In comparing the different regions like central zone, for example, versus south zone and the responses from these areas, is there evidence to suggest that responses differ from region to region?

Mr. Dang: I would actually say that there isn't much evidence to say that. I would say that overall when I look at all municipalities – and, of course, as you get smaller and smaller responses from some of the smaller towns or cities, it gets harder to sort of break that up. But overall – and the survey results do show that – the results are consistent across the province. People want one time. About 70-ish per cent of the time they want one time across the province, and they want the evening hours about two-thirds of the time across the province. That's consistent, basically, in every jurisdiction that we received responses from.

Mrs. Schreiner: Okay. All right. Thank you.

I was just wondering if the member might be able to provide the committee with some anecdotal evidence of this. For example, do more people in northern Alberta favour one option over the other versus people in southern Alberta?

Mr. Dang: Yeah. Absolutely. There are some regional concerns, and I think that's a big opportunity for this committee to be able to do more consultation. Just anecdotally, there is some information that if you do live further north, where the hours are much longer in both directions – you have either much more darkness in the winters or much more light in the summers. Really, for them it doesn't make as big a difference which way you go as long as you stick with one time because the sun is going to be up when they wake up and it's going to be up when they go to sleep.

In the southern parts of the province you do see some more concerns about that, and you also do see regional differences that go east-west as well, depending on which province you border, whether that's British Columbia or Saskatchewan. For example, if you live in Lloydminster, the entire town and county surrounding it actually stay with Alberta year-round, so that can cause some interesting dynamics.

Mrs. Schreiner: Okay. One last question if I may.

The Chair: Yeah. And then we'll move on to Mr. Orr.

Mrs. Schreiner: Okay. Thank you.

Thank you for that. This might seem a little technical, but from a statistical point, did the proportion of responses from the region provide an accurate regional snapshot of opinion?

Mr. Dang: I think that overall it did. I think that especially for the large urban centres, absolutely. So when we're talking Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, I'm fairly confident in those responses, for sure. We did receive the most responses from those jurisdictions. That's probably, in my best guess, just a population thing. But I think that overall in the rural areas we did hear a lot as well, and we heard a lot from the rural areas but not necessarily reflected in the survey as much. We did hear a lot from things like telephone calls from people who perhaps didn't use the computer that much, or we heard

from people who wrote us letters or faxed us some information, in fact, in some cases. And those types of correspondence that we received from generally, primarily more rural areas: we did see it consistently match up with the type of data we were seeing from the survey.

Mrs. Schreiner: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr: Thank you. I appreciate the detailed drilling into the stats. It's important. My question is different, though. I have to admit that I actually do remember bits of the earlier 1970s conversation about this, and much of the conversation then circled around the issue of energy conservation and reduction of energy use. So I'm wondering if you had the opportunity or are hoping to actually look into that a little bit and get some technical analysis about: has our energy supply or demand changed in the sense that that would be impacted, now versus then, and have you looked into the question of energy consumption and use and cost?

Mr. Dang: Yes. Thank you. For sure. A very important question. I did have the opportunity to speak with a PhD candidate in Calgary who did a paper on this not too long ago, Blake Shaffer in Calgary, and the committee may decide to reach out to some of these people. One of the things that he discovered was that the time change in Alberta, going to summer time in the summer, actually causes as much as a 1, 1.2 per cent energy increase in usage year-round, spread over the year. That can be attributed to things like increased use of air conditioners. Today that can be people using their light bulbs differently. They turn them on more. It could be any number of things. But generally speaking, they actually found an increase in energy consumption from the time change in Alberta.

Now, of course, 1.2 per cent: that's a big number when you look at it on the scale of how much energy is used across the province, but the advantage that we also found was that that's at current energy loads. The government is moving forward with a very aggressive climate leadership plan, obviously, and if the province's stock of light bulbs was switched to LEDs, for example, that 1.2 per cent could very quickly become – let's assume LEDs are 80 per cent more efficient – .3 per cent, right?

Mr. Orr: Okay. Thanks.

The Chair: Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor: Yes. Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Mr. Dang, for all your work that you put into this. One of my questions – I have a couple of questions. Which religious groups did you consult as you went through this, and how did it affect their practices and their celebrations?

Mr. Dang: Yes. Well, I didn't formally have the opportunity to sit down with any religious groups. Anecdotally, I know there were some concerns from some of them, especially religious organizations that are dependent on practising in certain daylight hours or not in daylight hours. I do know there were some concerns about that, and some colleagues in this room, I believe, had heard about that, had raised that. I would say that I think that's a good opportunity for more consultation. I just haven't had the opportunity yet.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Thank you.

Another question if I could. Anyway, my second question is: have you considered the safety concerns that would arise for the

kids going to school, frankly, in the dark? It's going to be black out, you know, if they go to school at 8, 8:30, or whatever. It is going to be dark. So have you put some consideration into that and consulted on that?

Mr. Dang: Yeah, absolutely. That was a question that we brought up. I mean, my riding in particular, for example: lots of young families, lots of home starts, as we were talking about this afternoon. But it's people whose kids – they want them to walk to school, right? When I talked to those families, they said: "We want our kids to walk to school, but we also want our kids to have fun in the evenings, right? We want them to be able to play soccer, go to the baseball diamond, whatever it is." I think that it's something that we just have to balance. It's something that we have to make sure that we are aware of and see what the different types of consequences may be.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Thank you.

7:10

Connolly: Well, first of all, I would like to commend Mr. Dang for taking the concerns of his constituents seriously, introducing this private member's bill. I know I've talked to *Metro*, I think, twice now about daylight saving time. The first time was because I tweeted something out that I had received more comments about daylight saving time than I had about the first budget. It's quite interesting.

Since one of the considerations in this bill is about what time zone Alberta has, this has me doing some thinking sort of in line with what has already been said about regions. I would guess that the feedback I get in Calgary would be quite different from what MLA Schreiner gets in Red Deer. My point is that Alberta is quite a large place. My real question is: how is the research and studying done for this bill? Have you looked into how latitude affects the time that the sun sets throughout the province, and if so, can you tell the committee if there is a large difference if we go from, say, the top of the province to the 49th parallel? I know there is. I just want to see what you have heard from those people as well.

Mr. Dang: Absolutely. I think we distributed a chart as well to the committee a couple of days ago. There's a little table, and it shows what would happen in Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, and High Level. That, I believe, is a fairly good representation of some of the major centres across the province and would give you a ballpark for anything in between as well.

If you look at that, Lethbridge, I believe, is the furthest south. The sunrise in June under the proposal, which is the same as it will be right now, is about 5:30 in the morning. In June this year the sun is going to rise about 5:30 in Lethbridge – I see some nods from the people from Lethbridge – and the sun is going to set at about 9:45. That's a pretty good day that you get in June. In High Level in June right now you would see about a 4:40 a.m. sunrise – that's just under an hour of difference – and you'd see the sunset at about 11 p.m. There's quite a good smattering of time there as well.

On the flip side of the spectrum, if we were to stay with Mountain Time year-round, or UTC-7 year-round, I guess, you would see sunrise, instead of at 5:30, at 4:30 in June, and you'd see it set at 8:45. So you'd get that hour's difference. Then for people in High Level the sun would rise at 3:40 a.m. and set at 10 p.m. I mean, that's quite a big difference. It's a bit of a long day for some people.

In December you get quite short days across the province. In December in Lethbridge the sun doesn't rise until about 8:30 right now as is, under Mountain Time. It sets at about 4:30. In High Level it's about 9:30 and 4 o'clock. So you get a very short day right there

anyway. At 8:30 a lot of people are already either at or going to work.

If it was UTC-6, the proposal, in Lethbridge right now the sun would rise, instead of at 8:30, at 9:30 – there's an hour's difference – and it would set at 5:30. So people would have the opportunity to drive home in the light or walk home in the light. And the same thing for High Level. The sun would rise at 10:30 and set at about 5 o'clock, which is still right about when you get off work.

Connolly: So it's obvious that there's quite a large regional disparity, I think.

Mr. Dang: There is quite a large regional disparity. I'd encourage you to look at the chart. It makes a lot more sense when you see a chart than when I try to explain it to you in words. But there is regional disparity, and it's about an hour's difference from north to south of the province.

Connolly: Right.

Just one more quick question before we can move on to somebody else. Prior to the introduction of this bill, did you notice an uptake in constituents contacting you around daylight saving time changes, whether that be in March or in November?

Mr. Dang: Yeah, I definitely noticed. Before I introduced the bill, about twice a year, when the time changed, this was one of the things that people would contact me about the most. I would get a number of e-mails or phone calls about the issue. People had concerns about it. They said: the government should change this.

Actually, I'll give an anecdote. Right after the election, when we were setting up constituent meetings – and we met with a lot of people right after the election – one guy came up to me, in particular, and he said: "New government; big opportunity. You know, make one change, and I'll vote for you for the rest of my life. Get rid of that DST." I wasn't sure what to make of it at the time. It'd been, like, a month in. That's just an anecdote, that I think that people do care about this issue. It's something that I heard about before the introduction, and I brought it forward with that in mind.

Connolly: I think I talked to the same guy.

Anyway, the next person.

The Chair: Excellent.

MLA Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick: Thank you very much, Chair. A similar thing happened in Lethbridge. When I moved into my office on 6th Avenue and 13th Street and had my signs up, people started walking through the door, and it was the very first thing that people asked me about, changing it so that it didn't change ever again. As you said, it's probably the most consistent item that people talk to me in my office about.

But what I'd like to know is: did you find there was a difference from before you put the bill forward to after you put the bill forward in terms of kind of the numbers of people that spoke to you about it?

Mr. Dang: Absolutely. Before I put the bill forward, throughout the year every month you'd get a couple of e-mails about it, right? And when it changed, you'd get a bit of a spike. After we introduced it, the response was frankly overwhelming. My office couldn't keep up with it for quite a bit of time, and a lot of time was spent emptying the voice mails every day. We actually had to bring in an extra staffperson to assist in replying to all the DST e-mails, and we received thousands of them. That's in addition to the things we saw

in the survey. I did table those e-mails for the most part, so they are available on the record there.

But it's something that I think strikes a chord because every single Albertan can relate. Every single person, if you go knock on their door, is going to give you an opinion on it, and I think that that's something I'm happy to be able to bring forward on their behalf.

Ms Fitzpatrick: There's just another comment that I'd like to make if I may, Chair. I lived in the north for a number of years. Of course, in the summertime up there it was 24 hours of daylight, and in the winter we actually had five hours of daylight. It was something that people talked about up there many years ago, when I lived up there.

The other thing that I wanted to mention was the issue of safety. Our mayor in Lethbridge has spoken to me numerous times – and, in fact, every time that the time changed since we've been elected, he's spoken to me – because, as you know, in Lethbridge we've got the river valley, and about half the city is on the west side, and the other half is on the east. The increase in the number of accidents actually happens twice in the spring and then twice in the fall, when the clock would change, because you'd get to that point where you're coming up the hill, and the sun is right in your face. Then the time changes, and you've got to go through it again. So there were, like, four times that accident rates increased on both Whoop-Up Drive and highway 3. Certainly, I'm really happy that you've brought this forward.

The final part is that I do a lot of public events, and people speak to me. I did kind of a little minisurvey. I started with my choir. There are 35 people in the choir. Thirty-four people wanted it at a fixed time and never to change again; one person said that they didn't care. That's kind of indicative of what I've seen at public events, so again thank you for putting this forward.

Mr. Dang: For sure. Thank you.

If I may, Mr. Chair, that ties in. I think I did mention that I do believe there is some research that shows that car accidents actually do increase immediately post both time changes. On top of that, we actually have some research showing workplace injuries increase as well. So especially on job sites where people are using heavy equipment or machinery, there can actually be a marked increase in injuries and perhaps fatalities as well.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

7:20

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Dang, thank you for the chart that you gave us. I think that was very illustrative. I didn't realize there was that big a time difference from north to south in our province, but it reminds us. Being fairly numbers driven and a bit anal in the numbers, I did up a chart, which I circulated as well. I like the fact that you use the solstices, the June and December dates, but it seems to me that a lot of the time is actually closer to the equinoxes, where we actually have been changing. There's a reason why we change at those periods rather than at the far ends of it. I did a bit of an analysis there, which everybody can have a look at.

I think that the real key is: how many hours of sunlight after 5 p.m., when people get off work, and how many hours of darkness after 7 a.m., give or take, when people go to work. That's where I sort of did my illustration. I think we owe it to ourselves and to the people we're talking to to force them, if that's the right word, or at least provide them with information which allows them – my jury is out, but I think a lot of what we're hearing from people is, "Yeah; I don't want to do this anymore," or whatever it is. I'm not sure that they've taken the time to do this analysis, because they're probably

not as anal a Virgo as I am, so that they understand what those implications are, not just on June 21 and December 21 but on March 15 and October and those different dates.

I would just encourage us as we go forward – this is probably too complicated – maybe to do some illustrative things so that we really talk to people about how it's going to affect their lives in October and in March and in June or May or whatever the time is, whether they're willing to give up that extra hour on one end or the other.

I appreciate the work you've done, and I think that if we go forward with this, with the experts in various fields – also, I think we owe it to ourselves to talk to the person on the street because that's who we're going to be affecting at the end of the day. Give them as much information as we can on how it's going to affect them, you know, every month of the year, not just at the far margins of it, which I think is easier to get your heads around, but, you know, I think that their thinking is: "It's still September, and I want it to feel more like summer still" or "It's March and, boy, it's sure nice to have that sun coming up early" and just those little implications.

I thank you for your work on this, and I hope that we'll have some very interesting information and very informative information through this process.

Mr. Dang: Absolutely. Thank you. I do appreciate that. I just want to mention that I got a lot of complaints about the format of my survey. "Lot" is the wrong word. I got some complaints about the format of my survey and how some of the questions were phrased, but those were made in careful consultation with some people that I've worked very closely with in stats and polling. The type of questions that we asked were very outcome based. We asked them: in the winter how much do you value light in certain hours, or in the summer how much do you value light in certain hours? That's the type of question we were trying to ask. I think the committee has a good opportunity to reach more people and to ask perhaps more specific questions than I did in my survey, but I did try to keep that in mind. I look forward to seeing what you come up with.

Mr. Gotfried: Just one more comment. We were talking about some workplace safety. Having worked outdoors in some earlier parts of my life, I'm probably a little more worried about darkness in the morning than I am at the end of the day in some respects because people are getting up and they're sort of getting moving. That extra hour of darkness does concern me, and I think we really need to talk to the front-line workers and say: "When are you at your worst, where you could have a lack of attention or diligence? Is that in the morning, before you've had your second cup of coffee, or is that later in the day, when you're tired?" I think we need to talk to organizations that represent them but also talk to individuals and maybe do some test drives ourselves with it as well.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Chair. The discussion around the nuances here is fascinating. I'm just wondering if the committee is open to moving on to the points of discussion that we have to cover tonight. We can discuss nuances all night. You're welcome.

The Chair: I'm seeing nods here, so I'll take that as a consensus to move on to the next item on the agenda here.

Mr. Dang, thank you for joining us here as well today.

Right now we'll move on to draft stakeholder lists, continuing with setting up a review, hon. members. The common practice in consulting the public on matters under review by the committee is to identify stakeholders who may provide important information for

our work. Prior to the meeting I asked research services to draft a list of possible stakeholders. Of course, the committee shall decide whom they would like to hear from in relation to the review. However, it is hoped that this draft list will assist members in determining individuals or organizations for interest.

Dr. Amato, do you wish to comment on the draft stakeholder list?

Dr. Amato: Sure. I can say just a couple of words. This was intended primarily to get the committee started. The organizations and companies that appear on the draft stakeholders list are ones that potentially have a direct interest in the issue, in this case Bill 203, the Alberta Standard Time Act. We were also attendant to debates in the House and the types of organizations that were discussed during the introduction of Bill 203. I also want to say that in some cases instead of listing individual companies or organizations, we included umbrella organizations with the idea that they are likely to disseminate the call for submissions to their membership.

I'll turn your attention to the table of contents. You'll see that it shows the categories into which organizations that were included on the stakeholder list are grouped. These include agricultural organizations, chambers of commerce of border communities, indigenous communities, labour unions, municipal organizations, National Hockey League teams, television corporations, and transportation organizations.

I also want to say, in conjunction with the list, that I see that under agenda item 4(c)(2) the committee may decide on public written submissions. I just wanted to sort of emphasize that the public call will also broaden out in some ways, with anyone who might be potentially missing from any given stakeholders list that the committee generates should it agree to decide on these public written submissions, and then all of these other groups may potentially send in their submissions.

I'm happy to answer any questions about the list and, of course, take additional suggestions, which I'm sure are forthcoming.

The Chair: I'll open up the floor to any questions or comments in relation to the stakeholder list. Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to Dr. Amato and the team for putting forth a very thoughtful list, which I think probably stimulates further conversation. I think we've had some discussions around the table here today which helped, for me, identify some missing groups in the conversations with some of my constituents.

I think we need to make sure that the schools and school boards are in there and possibly the postsecondary institutions as well would be my suggestion. I see that the Alberta Motor Association is not represented. I think that they would be a wonderful organization in terms of some of the safety, particularly their support of the school safety patrols program, which I think might be very helpful. In terms of the bus transportation I see that we have Greyhound lines, but Southland Transportation or PWT would be a good addition as well. Student First, I think, would be another organization. I don't know if there are others serving other parts of the province as well. Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association and/or Calgary Hotel Association and similar groups would be good. Some cycling groups or organizations might be helpful. The Canadian Mental Health Association. We've all heard about Blue Monday and those sorts of things, and whether that's true or not, I think, is something we could do.

Also, we've talked about the power consumption, so I would think organizations like EPCOR, Enmax, TransAlta, ATCO might be positive as well as some organizations – for instance, Wind

Energy Association and some of the solar power association groups because that will affect our ability to use solar power during peak demand times. I think Mr. Dang mentioned some academic groups, so it sounds like we've also got some connections in there.

Those were ones that just came to my mind very quickly looking at this list, and I'm sure many other people have others. Thank you.

The Chair: Member McPherson.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the list. It's amazing how many people are affected. We go through this process. I know I have my whole life and never really thought about the scope of people, organizations that are impacted. It's amazing to see the list and then to hear more ideas. I have a couple myself.

It was mentioned earlier: religious organizations, religious communities. The Jewish and the Muslim community: I don't believe they're on the list, and I think that it would be important to include any community of faith that may be affected by time change.

7:30

The Chair: Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr: Thank you. I appreciate the additions to the list. I would also add that we should maybe be approaching the Alberta Association of Police Governance or maybe the RCMP. They may have insights on the whole thing which we should be thinking about.

I also think that we should be talking to some of the construction industry, whether it's the contractors associations or Construction Owners Association, Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, the petroleum producers associations. These guys will all be impacted by time of day to start work.

Also, I'd like to see some of the amateur sport groups, the golf association in there. And we have some of the professional sports, but I noticed the Eskimos are not in there and the Stampeders. I wonder if we should include them. They may have an interest in it.

Another area that we haven't talked about is the Folk Festival, Fringe Festival, some of those kinds of things, if they have an opinion.

Lastly, some additional health. I know mental health was mentioned, but I just wonder if Covenant Health or Alberta Health Services would have any input on all of that.

Those are my additions. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Orr.

Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor: Yeah. A couple of more religious groups I suppose we could look at. The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton and evangelical groups are what I was kind of thinking of as well.

The Chair: Yeah, I know. Member McPherson kind of underlined, I think, an overarching aspect of that as well.

Ms McPherson: Something else that occurred to me, like, in terms of investigating the impact of time change: the Alberta Medical Association may be a group that we want to consult with to understand more of the physical impacts of changing time. I know that people that work shift work, there is quite an impact on them. They may have something salient to add to the conversation.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to speak?

Mr. Gotfried: I think it was mentioned by one of the other members here, but Alberta Construction Association specifically. I

think it's the outdoor work that we need to watch out for. Merit Contractors Association might be another good one as well. I'm sure we can do a little bit of work around those groups that represent outdoor workers that are going to be more affected.

Thank you.

The Chair: Member McPherson.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think what we've shown in the last few minutes is that it's hard to make sure that we've got everybody. Maybe in order to give us some time to make sure that we have a really fulsome list, we could set a deadline, and then after that deadline that would be the end of adding more stakeholders to the list because it could get to be something that just keeps going and going and going.

The Chair: Sure. I do have a draft motion that would set a deadline for all committee members to propose any additions to the stakeholders list by May 15. Would you care to move that motion? Then what I would seek is final approval from the chair and deputy chair following that time.

The motion that I have drafted would be: moved by Member McPherson that

the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future approve the draft list of prospective stakeholders with respect to the review of Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, as circulated and that members of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future may make additions to the stakeholder list by May 15, 2017, with the final list to be approved by chair and deputy chair by May 17, 2017.

I'll open that motion up for discussion.

Dr. Massolin: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just would like to say that this list as circulated would encompass also the feedback received today at this meeting, right?

The Chair: That's correct. Thank you.

Seeing none, I'll call the question on the motion. All those in favour, please say aye. All those opposed, please say no. That motion is carried.

Mr. Orr: Excuse me.

The Chair: Yeah.

Mr. Orr: You'll have to state the date again. I better write it down.

The Chair: Oh, it's all right. May 15 is when the submissions need to be in by, and then final approval will be May 17.

Mr. Orr: Thank you.

The Chair: Now, following the stakeholder list, this can lead to us seeking feedback, obviously, from stakeholders, so I'll open up any discussions in relation to if there are any feelings of when we would like submissions in from any stakeholders.

Mr. Gotfried: Mr. Chair, I think that some of the processes we've used before have been helpful, where we communicate with the complete list and ask for their written submissions and input on it, maybe with some structure to that, and then if we sort of plan to maybe have a blitz day, where we have, you know, a number of people that may be of elevated interest that we've selected out of that group to have more direct consultation. It seems to have been a good process in the past, so I would certainly recommend and support a process that is similar to what we've used in the past.

The Chair: What I can do right now is that I'll open up the discussion in relation to this to tie in with, because I think they are kind of encompassing of each other, both receiving submissions and public consultation. In relation to that I'll allow members to kind of discuss any views or feelings or questions they may have in relation to any public consultation as well, too.

Member Connolly.

Connolly: Yeah. Actually, to build on what Mr. Gotfried was saying and even when we were talking to Mr. Dang, what Mr. Gotfried brought up is that it's so different everywhere in the province. It's so difficult to understand exactly what the impacts are going to be. I don't want to open the door or close a door on anything at the moment. But is it possible to ask the LAO to develop materials looking at public consultation and bring them back to the committee the next time?

Dr. Massolin: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry; I just caught the tail end of that comment, but I think what was being asked was that you would like us to develop kind of like almost survey questions or questions to ask the members of the public, for approval, ultimately, by the committee, to elicit sort of responses from the public. Is that what you're looking for?

Connolly: Well, kind of looking for a bit more of what our options are to look at whether or not it's viable to and ways to look at the entire province and see how that influences people, whether it be here or even in High Level. So possibly you're looking at costs or anything like that as to what our options are.

Dr. Massolin: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I may continue, I think Ms Dotimas will have information on costs and so forth. But just to clarify, too, I mean, in terms of hitting all corners of the province, obviously, for the reasons that you state and for the obvious reasons that have been stated earlier in the meeting with respect to the bill, are you also talking about sort of tailoring information that goes out to these corners of the province, or are you just talking about sort of advertising to them, getting the word out?

Connolly: A little bit of both. I think it would be helpful for the entire committee to hear a little bit more of what the survey questions are, what we might be asking, however also different ways that we can get to the entire province, whether that's just through social media or radio ads or even if we have to go out as well. Just seeing what the options are for us and what those costs associated would be would be very helpful, I think, to the entire committee.

The Chair: Ms Dotimas, do you care to comment in relation to that?

Ms Dotimas: Yeah, absolutely. Basically, today, depending on the scope that you decide to go to, will direct the information that I include on the communications plan. I do have information here, obviously, on committees that we have done most recently that indicate sort of some of the things that we could leverage. If you'll allow me, I can just go through some of those options quickly to maybe frame some of this information.

The Chair: Sure. Please proceed.

Ms Dotimas: In the most recent committees, the one that we did for agribusiness, for example, we did a province-wide print advertising campaign, if you will, just a very general piece of advertising asking people to go to the online survey that we worked, actually, with Dr.

Massolin's office on to create those questions to garner that information from the public. We can do it province-wide. We can do it daily in the metro papers, of course, in some of the larger markets as well as the smallest market available.

7:40

We can target advertise as well. Obviously, a lot of those target communities would have already been caught, probably, under the stakeholders list, but just in case there are, you know, publications out there that can address the question better or with more detail, I guess, we'll have the availability to do that as well.

We, obviously, always encourage social media given the current sort of commentary around the topic. That's something that is of low cost and certainly has a huge reach, which can be geotargeted as well to the bigger or smaller centres, depending on what we want to do.

Most recently we have been using radio a lot as a means of promoting some of our committee endeavours as well, and we've found that to be quite effective also because there's a lot of coverage across the province, too.

In this case, obviously, media relations is probably going to be something that's going to have a huge impact on reaching folks, so we definitely will work with the chair in order to get some of those key messages out and allow for him to do interviews and things like that to address some of those questions that the public might have. It's just a start.

Connolly: It would be helpful if we could see a comms plan next time we meet, if that would be possible, for the entire committee to take a look at.

Ms Dotimas: Yeah. Definitely. I'll take my direction from the committee.

The Chair: Okay. So you're wishing to see a comms plan if I'm correct, Member Connolly?

Connolly: Yeah. Just to see what our options are to get community feedback.

The Chair: Do you want to move a motion in relation to that? I'm not sure if we have one drafted.

Connolly: Yeah. I think we have to move a motion – don't we? – to get a plan from that.

The Chair: What I'll do, Member Connolly, is defer this to later so we can continue talking in relation to soliciting public feedback and the consultation process in relation to inviting submissions from the public initially. We have it next on the agenda after public consultations, so I'll defer that after we discuss public consultations here as well.

Connolly: Perfect.

Mr. Orr: I was just wondering if we could be reminded what our comms plan for the agrifood-agritrade committee actually cost us when we did that. Do you remember? Do you have it in front of you?

Ms Dotimas: I'm going to defer to the committee clerk.

Mr. Roth: I'm sorry. I'll have to get the full costs back to you.

Mr. Orr: I don't remember it. I know we approved it, but I don't remember. Does anybody remember what it was?

The Chair: I'll gear us back to the public consultation end of things.

Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor: Yeah. I was kind of curious if Mr. Dang could actually tell us how much that survey that he did to find out all this information prior cost.

Mr. Dang: You know what? I actually don't have those numbers on me. I can try to find out. It was done through our caucus, so I'm not sure on the specifics of it myself. It was done mostly through an online portion, so it would have been relatively minimal.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Going back in relation to public consultations, Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr: I'm going to make a comment on that one in terms of trying to set some parameters for the committee. We'll see if everybody agrees or not.

I do think we should allow some public consultation. I totally agree with Member Connolly's comments about trying to somehow include the fringes, if I can put it that way. But I think we should also be somewhat cost conscious. I think it would be extremely expensive if we were to move this whole thing out on the road. I think it's far more economical for us to follow the procedure we've done before, as Mr. Gotfried suggested, and just invite people to come in and speak to us in group. I think that's by far the most economically efficient manner, communicate it out somehow.

The other thing is – I'm going to jump way out on a limb here and see what the rest of you think. Of course, there's been conversation that this was done originally by means of a . . .

An Hon. Member: Referendum.

Mr. Orr: . . . referendum. I was going to say plebiscite, and I knew that was wrong. Referendum: just about the same.

Personally, I don't think a referendum will get us any more than we'll get through consultation. We had some staff do a tiny bit of work on it. That it will cost us in the range of \$2 million is our guess. Personally, I'm not in favour of that, just for the record.

The Chair: Mr. Gotfried.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I like what Mr. Orr was saying here. A couple of points. I think maybe we owe it to ourselves to try and determine what the cost of a referendum would be, that is the ultimate democracy, if we were to push it that way. Maybe we need to understand what that cost would be so that we can decide not to do that if that's the approach.

The other thing that I think is an opportunity for us here – and there are obviously 15 of us around the table here. If something could be built at a constituency level that each MLA – and certainly there's a risk of there being a skew in terms of who you reach out to. But at least if we had a tool – we could mirror, obviously, in a different way but maybe ask some similar questions to what Mr. Dang did. We have 87 constituency offices, which are arms of the Legislature out there. Maybe if we could have something that was kind of customizable, you know, a standard template but customizable, sent out to our own lists – we don't have e-mail addresses for everyone, but we do have those people that have reached out to us – it might give us some more robust feedback from those interested parties. If we support it with our own social media at the local level, I think we'd have a better chance of getting more feedback from more individuals as opposed to just the

representative groups that we've targeted, which I think is healthy and robust in its own way.

But we're going to miss groups. We know that we're going to do that. At the end of the day, it's an individual decision, an individual preference. With the best of information we also, I think, may be able to invoke some good tools that can find out what our own constituents think.

Mr. Orr: That I'm in support of.

The Chair: Ms Dotimas, do you have any comments in relation to some local outreach?

Ms Dotimas: What we did for those folks who were on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Committee is that we actually produced a statistics card that had information about the Alberta heritage savings trust fund and all the sort of relevant information, sort of a brief primer, if you will, for folks who want to find out a little bit more on the study and the bill that's in front of you. So what we would do at the committee is to actually distribute that to the members or directly to your constituency offices. That was a very low-cost way of getting the information out to you, to those folks as well. Something to think about.

The Chair: Mr. Dach.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was getting rot here with my hand up waving, but anyways I appreciate being acknowledged, that I'm here. I did have something to add. My monitoring of the debate here has been quite interesting. I did want to make sure that we ask, basically, for a costing of all the different options with respect to the communications plans that have been proposed or considered or that have been considered in the past so that we get a full and complete picture of what the options might cost us.

It's important that the communication not be a two-way street. A lot of the discussion has been around getting feedback from Albertans and to this committee, but it's more than just those directions that we'll need because the regional differences that Mr. Dang alluded to and others have spoken about and that we've looked at when we looked at the people we might invite to communicate with the committee really highlight the fact that people in this province need to communicate with each other, not just bring their opinions to this committee.

They have to understand the differences because I think there are probably a lot of people in the very far parts of northern Alberta who may not fully understand what the Crownsnest Pass people have as far as concerns about daylight saving time or not because of their proximity to neighbouring British Columbia and the different time zone or the people in Lloydminster with respect to that or the north-south. There are a whole lot of different views with respect to this, that are really close to people's hearts, that need to be communicated to each other, not just flow to this committee.

In that communications plan I'm hoping that that's taken into account. I'm not sure how or what methodology we might use to make sure that Albertans understand what the different opinions are, but somehow we need to communicate it outwardly as well as receive the information so that once the decision is made, we are certain that everybody has understood their neighbours from north, south, east, and west, okay?

That was my two cents' worth, that I was waiting to talk about, although I noticed earlier that the opposition, when we weren't moving on to a topic quickly enough, accused us of skating in circles and wanting to pass on some of the debate. I think we should just, you know, maybe not worry about the farm team getting lost

on the bench and get the debate going as quickly as possible and put the puck in the net.

7:50

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Dach.
MLA Schreiner.

Mrs. Schreiner: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I actually was just going to echo what Mr. Dach was saying. I would like to see the different options, how much it would cost, and I'd like to see it come back to the committee so we can make an informed decision.

Thank you.

The Chair: Member McPherson.

Ms McPherson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My concerns have already been addressed.

The Chair: Okay. MLA Piquette.

Mr. Piquette: Yeah. Actually, I mean, this is a bit of a different issue than what somebody else talked about and, I think, made some good points on. I mean, who are the stakeholders, right? Every person who spends some time outside would be a stakeholder in this. Because of that, I mean, I think that we really need to make this process as accessible as possible, being, of course, cognizant about costs. I know that those of us who are coming from further out areas – I mean, you know, in particular seniors and some people who might have strong opinions about this might find it a bit irksome to travel down here. I'm not proposing that we go there, but I'd like to know what the costs are and what some of our options are to be able to make that choice. I guess I'm kind of echoing what my colleagues are saying here.

The Chair: Kind of hearing some of the comments that I've heard from Mr. Gotfried and Mr. Dach and some of the members that are at the table, while I hate to deviate from the agenda that we have proposed here, especially because there have been some comments made in relation to wanting to have a bit more formal material and even some data to provide to the public when you're doing consultation – and I'd seek maybe a member and potentially some wordsmithing assistance in relation to this – it's sounding like the will of some of the members here that we come back to the committee with some of these ideas potentially about communicating these to the public and moving forward on how we want to proceed with seeking submissions from the public here.

Connolly: I assume you're just trying to think of something. I would move that – I would ask the Legislative Assembly Office to come back to the committee with a costed communications plan.

The Chair: The draft motion that I have – please, first, I'll allow Member Connolly, after I read it out, to concur if this is what his intent is – is that the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future direct the Legislative Assembly Office communications to provide a draft communications plan in support of the committee's review of Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, to be provided to the committee at the next meeting.

Connolly: Yeah. I think that has my idea in it. Also, actually, if we could have it before the next meeting so that each caucus and every member could have a moment to look at it as well, I think that would be the ideal. Then we can come back with some ideas.

The Chair: All right. I will open up this motion for discussion. Do you formally move this motion?

Connolly: Yes, I formally move this motion.

Mr. Orr: My question is: does it represent the full intent of everyone in the sense that a communications plan is one thing but looking at whether or not you go on the road or hold a referendum is a very different thing? Have we hit everything that's meant to be covered here?

Mr. Dach: We could perhaps allude in a general way to public consultation options as well or add that in some way to satisfy your need to broaden it.

Mr. Orr: Well, it's not my need.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: Yes. That's what I was going to say as well. I think that's an umbrella term that we used in that motion so as to include any possible communications like a public meeting. I don't think a referendum would be included in that.

Mr. Orr: Well, I'm just asking; I'm not saying it should be.

Mr. Coolahan: No, no. I'm just talking about communication with the public.

The Chair: Dr. Massolin, do you wish to comment?

Dr. Massolin: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. In order that Ms Dotimas and her group can do the best work possible – I think that she will have direction as to what the communication plan would have in terms of the written component, the written submissions – perhaps the committee can now sort of delve into the area of what might possibly happen in terms of public meetings outside of Edmonton. Like, where, in other words, might you want to go? In other words, if it's just Calgary, that's one thing, but if you want to go to smaller centres – just give a sense or options so she can come back to you with some, you know, costs that reflect that. That would be very helpful.

Thank you.

Connolly: Just to respond to Dr. Massolin, quite frankly, I don't think we can name a number of towns without knowing the cost, how much it would be, whether that be going to High Level or whether that be going to Lethbridge. We don't know if we should have five meetings or we should have 10 or we should have none. I think that's the real issue. We need to know approximately how much it would be before we truly make a decision as to how many. Having all the options available to us, I think, would be the ideal. It's not that we want something that has all however many municipalities there are in the province, because that would be completely ridiculous.

The Chair: Dr. Massolin.

Dr. Massolin: Yeah. Sorry. Just very quickly, all we're talking about is not committing to anything but just saying: what are the possibilities? We're talking about smaller centres, we're talking about, you know, medium-sized cities, that sort of thing. I think we got a sense that you want the options, right?

Connolly: Yeah . . .

Dr. Massolin: Yes.

Connolly: . . . because, in reality, if we do plan on going across the province, the problem is that there aren't very many large cities in

the far north of the province, especially on the sides when we're at the borders of Saskatchewan and B.C. Really having some sort of idea, I think, is what would be the most beneficial. If that's not the way that the committee chooses to go once we have those options, I think that that's the way it goes.

However, also on the idea of the referendum, when we had the Ethics and Accountability Committee, we often asked the Chief Electoral Officer how much a referendum would be, and he gave us – again, I think you guys had the right numbers, which were \$2.3 million or \$2.8 million or something like that. I believe it would be the same answer, to ask it again. So we could also just look through *Hansard* and find the answer.

8:00

The Chair: Yeah. What I'll do before we continue with the speaking list – I have Mr. van Dijken, then Mr. Taylor, and then Mr. Dach – is to pull us back in relation to the communication plan because I think we're deviating from the motion that's on the table. However, as a subtext, the LAO has done some initial work in relation to the costing, so what we can do is to make that available for members to see, and then that can open up for discussion in the following meeting.

With that being said, we'll continue discussing the motion that we have on the floor. Mr. van Dijken.

Mr. van Dijken: Yeah. I believe we actually missed one critical part of what's necessary in order to develop a communications plan, and that's to develop an actual idea of what our public consultation needs to look like and to give staff the ability to understand the scope of the public consultation. There's no ability to actually develop a communications plan without the scope of the public consultation being fully understood.

I think I might be speaking outside the motion, but speaking to the motion relative to the fact that we can't – I have a hard time trying to get an understanding on how staff can come up with a communications plan when we have no body of content that they will develop that communications plan based on. You know, I would encourage the committee to be able to move back into where we actually discuss public consultation and what actually is necessary to get thorough consultation, effective consultation, and how we can best accomplish that in this process.

So I'm not sure if I can vote in favour of this motion based on the fact that we have no understanding of the scope here.

Mr. Taylor: I'm kind of still trying to decide how going to these road shows throughout the province – and we're picking a variety of places, but we're obviously not going to be picking all the places, so we're going to be hit and miss. I think our time would be better spent if we actually did social media and we did telephone call-outs to people. If you use the telephone for town hall meetings, I think you'd probably get as much bang for your buck and with a lot less travel. Actually, you'd get more bang for your buck because it's going to cost you quite a bit less.

So I would be proposing that we would use, like you say, social media and telephone as a means to communicate what the people want and what they would desire.

The Chair: Mr. Dach.

Mr. Dach: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the comments made by the last member are precisely the reason that we do want to get different options costed out, so that we can reliably and with some degree of confidence make an informed decision about which way to go. We're not looking to design the comms plan here. We're looking to actually get costed-out options presented to us before the

next meeting so that we can then make a decision in an informed way about which direction to go. That's all we're asking for right now. We're not asking for the comms plan to be put together right here. We're looking to see what the costed-out options are, and then we can decide upon them, once we have them before us.

Connolly: I was actually just going to say what Mr. Dach said, meaning that I don't want to decide the comms plan without having it costed out. We can't really decide how we're going to get the best bang for our buck when we don't know exactly how much everything costs. Really, even just a per-meeting approximation of how much it would cost to bring it to different towns, also how much it would be to stay here, to do it online, by telephone, like the members across were saying: all those options should be on the table. We just want to see how much they cost in order to figure out what's the best option for all of us here and for Albertans.

The Chair: Mr. Coolahan.

Mr. Coolahan: It's okay, Chair. My points have been covered. Thank you.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to speak on the motion?

Mr. Schneider: I suggest we call the question.

The Chair: Okay. Fair enough. Procedurally I'll ask if there are any other members wishing to speak to the motion on the floor. Seeing none, I'll call the question on the motion. Mr. Roth, if you'd like to read it into the record.

Mr. Roth: Certainly, Mr. Chair. Moved by Member Connolly that the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future direct the Legislative Assembly Office communications to provide a draft communications plan in support of the committee's review of Bill 203, Alberta Standard Time Act, to be provided to the committee for its next meeting.

The Chair: For the motion on the floor I'll call the question. All those in favour, please say aye. All those opposed, please say no. That motion is carried.

From the general consensus that I was hearing from just a lot of the committee members in relation to this – I'll open this up for questions if anyone disagrees – it sounds like ideally we'd like to see the communications plan and a lot of the costing before we proceed with any other matters of business.

Connolly: Yeah.

Mr. Orr: I do have a comment. I really appreciated and think Mr. Dach's comments have great validity. In order for people to make an informed decision on this, they have to understand the issue. In this committee we're going to get a good sense of what that is, but at the end of the day I think that just a suggestion, maybe, for the team to think about, too, is some sort of talking point or brief. There are 60 other MLAs in Alberta who are going to have exactly the same issues that we're going to have, and I think we need to make a point of communicating to the other MLAs the details so that they can actually answer those questions. So I think that needs to be part of our plan.

The Chair: Any other members wishing to speak?

Mr. Gotfried: Just one comment. I think that, you know, we talked about some mechanisms for us. I mentioned about something that all 87 of the MLAs could do. I have some opinions on this, but I'm also really undecided. I really want to know what my constituents

think. I think that if we can put a tool in all the MLAs' hands so that we can find out as best as possible what the people in our constituencies are thinking, we're going to temper that and balance that with some expert testimony, I think, as we go forward. I think that will help us all make the best decisions when we move forward on that. So I would encourage us to try and find some tools that we can share not only in this room but with all 87 MLAs.

The Chair: Any other comments?

All right. We'll move forward with other business. Do any other committee members have any other business?

Mr. Orr: The hockey game.

The Chair: All right. So with that being said, hon. members, what we'll do is that we'll poll for the next meeting to proceed following the drafting of the stakeholders list and the communications plan.

With that, I would like for a member to move a motion to adjourn. Member Connolly is moving to adjourn. All those in favour, please say aye. All those opposed, please say no. That motion is carried.

The meeting stands adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 8:08 p.m.]

