

May 1, 2020

MR. RYLUND JOHNSON  
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE NORTH

**Oral Question 171-19(2) Daylight Savings Time**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on March 10, 2020, regarding the potential transition to a fixed time standard for the Northwest Territories.

I can confirm that the Department of Justice has conducted a scan of the activities that provinces and territories may be undertaking with respect to permanent time. As you are aware, Yukon has already enacted legislation to provide for permanent “daylight savings time” while British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario are at various stages in their legislative processes. While several jurisdictions are not actively taking steps to move to a permanent time, the issue is being monitored closely across Canada.

The Department of Justice has engaged with the Province of Alberta to learn more about their plans. We have learned that Alberta has been working on a legislative approach to prepare the province for a shift to a permanent time standard in a timely manner when and if a decision is made to do so.

Based on this research, the Department of Justice is recommending that the Government of the Northwest Territories follow a similar approach to Alberta. This would involve a legislative amendment to the *Interpretation Act* which would be brought into force on order. As the alignment of our time zone with neighbouring jurisdictions will be an important consideration, this proposed approach would prepare our government to move quickly when necessary. With this in mind, I have instructed the Department to prepare a legislative proposal for consideration.

Thank you for your interest in this subject. If you require further information, please contact my office.



Caroline Wawzonek  
Minister of Justice

- c. Ms. Charlene Doolittle, Deputy Minister of Justice  
Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator