



Understanding seasonal time change in Yukon

We are asking Yukoners to share their thoughts on how Yukon should observe time. Other jurisdictions in Pacific North America are anticipated to move to a permanent, single year-round time, and Yukon must determine if it wants to do the same.

Definitions

- **Coordinated Universal Time (UTC):** The zero-marker for calculating relative time and time zones around the world.
- **Solar noon:** The point in the day where the sun is highest, usually observed around 12 p.m.
- **Standard Time:** A calculation of time based on a region's distance from UTC. Time zones are typically centred around every 15 degrees of longitude. Yukon is geographically centred around 135 degrees west longitude, putting us in the UTC-9 time zone.
- **Daylight Saving Time:** A calculation of time where a region sets their clocks ahead one-hour relative to their region's Standard Time.
- **Pacific Time Zone (PT):** A time zone that is geographically centred around 120 degrees west longitude, and is eight hours behind UTC (UTC-8). By regulation, Yukon currently defines its standard time as Pacific Time.
- **Pacific Standard Time (PST):** Time in the Pacific Time Zone that is 8 hours behind UTC (UTC-8). Yukon currently observes PST from early November to early March every year ("winter time").
- **Pacific Daylight Saving Time (PDT):** Time in the Pacific Time Zone that is 7 hours behind UTC (UTC-7). Yukon currently observes PDT from early March to early November every year ("summer time").
- **Yukon Standard Time:** Yukon's *Interpretation Act* defines Yukon Standard Time as 9 hours behind UTC (UTC-9). The Act allows that a regulation can change our definition of time. Since 1973 Yukon has exercised that regulatory authority and calculated Yukon Standard Time to be aligned with Pacific Standard Time.

What time zone does Yukon follow?

Yukon has chosen to align with the Pacific Time Zone (UTC-8) since 1973, and has observed the seasonal switch to Daylight Saving Time since 1980.

When does Yukon's solar noon take place?

Under the current practice, our solar noon while on winter time (Standard Time) takes place closer to 1 p.m. During the summer (Daylight Saving Time) our solar noon happens closer to 2 p.m.



What are other jurisdictions doing?

British Columbia recently passed new time zone legislation. They plan to adopt a new permanent Pacific Time, which is the same calculation of time Yukon and BC currently use during Pacific Daylight Saving Time (March to November). This will take effect in March 2020.

Regardless of what Yukon chooses to do, Yukon will remain in sync with BC until at least November 2020.

Other jurisdictions in the Pacific Time Zone (Washington State, Oregon and California) have also enacted or are expected to enact legislation to eliminate seasonal time change.

What are the options?

- **Option A: Yukon stays on year-round Daylight Saving Time (UTC-7).**
 - Winter: Sunrises and sunsets will occur one hour later in the winter than we are used to, so there will be more daylight into the afternoon and evening.
 - Summer: Time in the summer will be the same as it has been for many years.
 - During the summer, Yukon would be one hour ahead of Alaska, and one hour behind Alberta and NWT.
 - During the winter, Yukon time would be two hours ahead of Alaska time, and equivalent to Alberta and NWT time.
 - This is the option BC is pursuing. If BC implements its current proposal, under this option Yukon and BC would follow the same time.
- **Option B: Yukon stays on year-round Standard Time (UTC-8).**
 - Winter: Time in the winter will be the same as it has been for many years.
 - Summer: Sunrises and sunsets will occur one hour earlier in the summer than we are used to, so we will have more sunlight into late morning and midday.
 - During the summer, Yukon would be an additional hour away from the rest of Canada when they are on Daylight Saving Time. Yukon would be on the same time as Alaska, and two hours behind Alberta and NWT time.
 - During the winter, Yukon time would be one hour ahead of Alaska Time, and one hour behind Alberta and NWT.
 - If BC implements its current proposal, under this option Yukon would be permanently one hour behind BC.
 - Currently, no other jurisdiction plans to observe this time zone year-round.
- **Option C: Status Quo**
 - Yukon will maintain twice-annual seasonal time change.
 - Yukon would be aligned with BC during the summer, and would be 1 hour behind BC during the winter.