



What We Heard: Seasonal Time Change Public Engagement

March 2020



Background

The Government of Yukon undertook a public engagement on seasonal time change from January 6 to February 16, 2020.

We asked Yukoners to share their thoughts on how we should observe time in the territory. 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.

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

We asked Yukoners their views on seasonal time change and asked for their input on which of the three options they'd prefer:

1. Yukon stays on year-round Pacific Daylight Saving Time (UTC-7).
2. Yukon stays on year-round Pacific Standard Time (UTC-8).
3. No change: Yukon maintains the twice-annual seasonal time change.

Summary results¹

In total, we received **4,829 unique survey submissions**. This is the highest number of responses a Government of Yukon a public engagement survey has ever received. Of the 4,829 survey submissions, the vast majority came from individual citizens (97%). Businesses and other non-profit organizations represented made up roughly 3% of responses.

Yukoners who participated in the engagement were clear: Yukon should stop seasonal time changes. **93% of respondents supported ending the practice**. Of those who wanted to end seasonal time change, **70% indicated their desire to remain on Pacific Daylight Saving Time**. 25% of respondents preferred Pacific Standard Time. 5% did not have a preference for which time to adopt.

In addition to the survey, **we received 38 written submissions, representing the views of 143 Yukon individuals, associations, governments, businesses and organizations**.

Of the written submissions, **92% stated that Yukon should end seasonal time change and 59% supported permanent Pacific Daylight Saving Time**.

¹ Summary results are rounded to the nearest whole per cent.

Engagement methods

We ran a public survey geared to towards individuals and organizations, and invited a wide variety of Yukon associations, governments and organizations to share their thoughts with us via letter. Details on how to participate, either by survey or by letter were posted to our website, EngageYukon.ca.

The webpage was supported by a number of background and information documents. These documents explained the technical terms we used, the history of time in Yukon and included a set of maps that outlined the options Yukon is considering.

To promote this engagement, we sent out a news release, posted and advertised on multiple social media accounts, posted on EngageYukon.ca, sent letters and emails to other local governments and key stakeholders, and ran newspaper, online and radio ads.

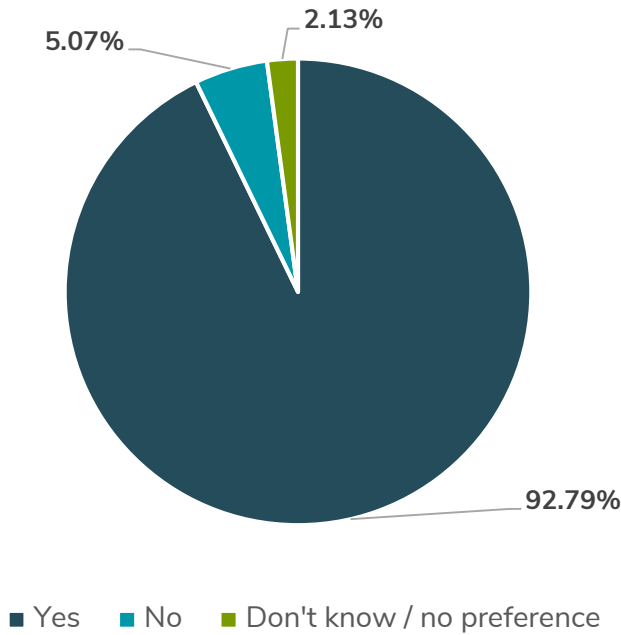
The Government of Yukon thanks all participants who took time to share their input in this public engagement.

What we heard

Desire to end seasonal time change

Yukoners were asked if they supported ending the practice of seasonal time change. 92.79% stated that they would like to see an end to the practice. 5.07% of respondents said that they would prefer to continue with twice annual seasonal time changes and 2.13% did not have a preference.

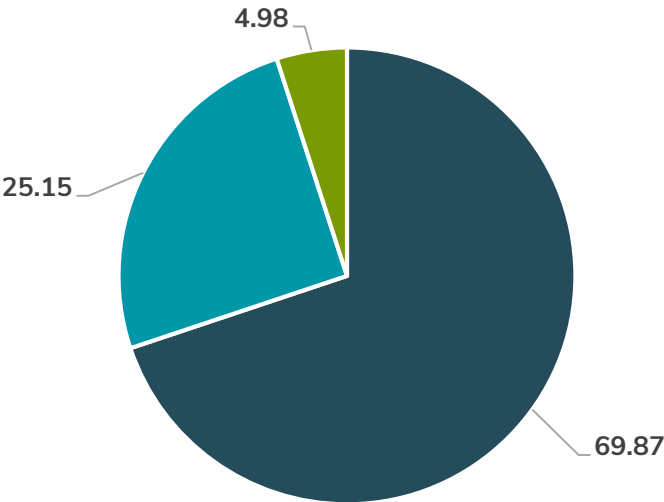
Figure 1: Support for ending seasonal time change



Preferred calculation of time

Those who stated they wanted to end seasonal time change were then asked if they would prefer to remain on permanent Pacific Daylight Saving Time or permanent Pacific Standard Time. 69.87% stated a desire to remain on Pacific Daylight Saving Time.

Figure 2: Preferred calculation of time



- Option A: Yukon stays on year-round Pacific Daylight Saving Time (UTC-7)
- Option B: Yukon stays on year-round Pacific Standard Time (UTC-8)
- Don't know/no preference

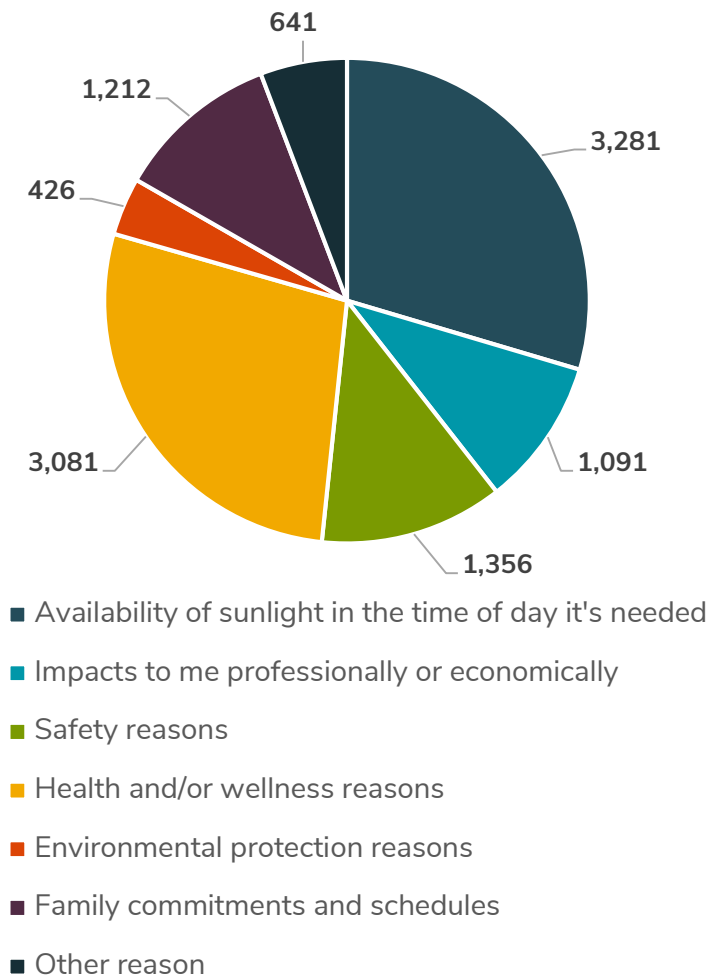
Reasons for a preference

Respondents were asked to identify what issues or considerations influenced their opinion. They were able to choose as many as they felt applied to their situation.

The most cited factors were “Availability of sunlight in the time of day it’s needed” and “Health and/or wellness reasons”.

“Safety”, “Family commitments and schedules” and “Impacts me professionally and economically” were very closely balanced as considerations.

Figure 3: Reasons impacting your views on time (frequency)



Relationships with other jurisdictions

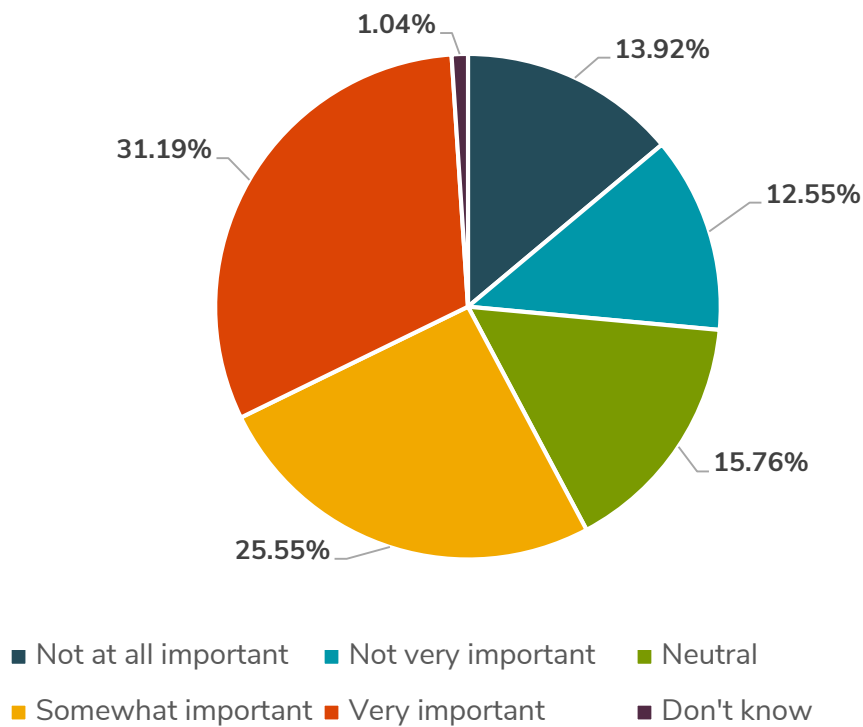
Yukoners were asked how important it was to them that we maintain time relationships with other jurisdictions that are similar to what we have now.

56.74% reported that maintaining existing time relationships was “somewhat” or “very” important.

In contrast, 26.47% thought the relationship was “not at all” or “not very” important.

16.79% were neutral on the issue or did not have an opinion.

Figure 4: Importance of maintaining current time relationships

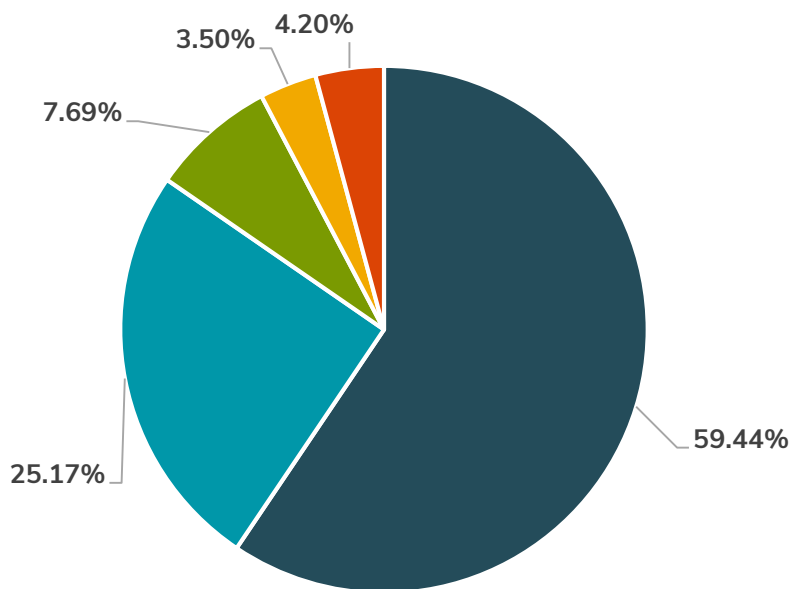


Written submissions

The Government of Yukon received 38 written submissions, representing input from 143 individuals, associations, businesses, governments and other organizations. 132 of these submissions were in favour of eliminating seasonal time change (92%).

Many written submissions noted that Yukon should only make changes to time if British Columbia also does so. Others suggested that the calculation of time did not matter as much as the notion of “pick one and stick with it”. Some responses offered clear evidence to why Yukon should be on UTC-9 and questioned why that was not an option.

Figure 5: Results of written submissions²



- Option A: Yukon stays on year-round Pacific Daylight Saving Time (UTC-7)
- Option B: Yukon stays on year-round Pacific Standard Time (UTC-8)
- Status Quo: Continue with twice annual seasonal time changes
- Return to original Yukon time (UTC-9)
- Don't know/no preference

Social media summary

We promoted the public engagement on several social media platforms and received significant feedback about the engagement from Facebook users. A summary of some of the highlights from users are included below.

Note that the comments received through Facebook only reflect the perspectives of users with Facebook accounts who chose to share them with the Government of Yukon.

- Over 360 comments were posted about the engagement on the government Facebook page.
- 132 users indicated support for ending seasonal time change and sticking to a single time.
- 10 users indicated support for keeping seasonal time change and continuing to change the clocks.
- 23 users supported Yukon moving to year-round Pacific Daylight Saving Time.
- 38 users supported Yukon moving to year-round Pacific Standard Time.
- 15 users commented that they felt the issue of whether to observe seasonal time change did not matter.

Conclusion

Yukoners who participated in the survey and submitted comments are clear: ending seasonal time change is a priority and a move to permanent Pacific Daylight Saving Time is preferred.

Participants indicated they want a time that keeps sunlight available when it's needed and that accounts for citizens' health and wellness. They also noted that our relationships with one another and with other jurisdictions are affected by how we observe time. A decision on the future of time in Yukon will take into account these important factors.

² 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 and has observed Pacific Daylight Saving Time since 1983.