



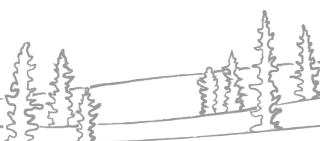
Seasonal Time Change Public Engagement

Government of
Northwest Territories



Table of Contents

Have your say	p. 3
About the survey	p. 3
Take the survey	p. 3
Helpful resources	p. 4
Background information	p. 4
Options for the NWT for time observance	p. 5
Related links	p. 7



Have your say

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is conducting a public engagement on seasonal time changes.

Residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT) are being asked whether they want to continue changing their clocks twice a year or if the NWT should adopt a single permanent time. The NWT currently observes Mountain Standard Time in the winter months and Mountain Daylight Saving Time in the summer.

The public engagement also asks NWT residents whether they would prefer permanent Mountain Daylight Saving Time or permanent Mountain Standard Time if seasonal time changes are ended.

The GNWT will consider the results of the public engagement, as well as scientific research and the decisions of neighbouring provinces and territories, when it determines how the NWT should observe time in the future.

About the survey

The survey is anonymous and should take about 5 minutes to complete. We would like to hear your views on seasonal time changes and which of the following three options you would prefer:

- A. The NWT stays on year-round Mountain Daylight Saving Time.
- B. The NWT stays on year-round Mountain Standard Time.
- C. No change: NWT maintains the twice-annual seasonal time changes we currently observe.

NWT residents can participate in an online survey or share their views by email or mail. Other governments in the NWT as well as businesses, organizations and individuals are also invited to provide their written feedback by email or mail.

The survey will be open until **May 16, 2022, 11:59 p.m.**

Take the survey

- To take the survey online, go [here](#).
- To print out the survey [go here](#).
- To request printed copies of the survey, email us at HaveYourSayDOJ@gov.nt.ca or call 867-767-9250 ext. 82022

Helpful resources

1. Read the background section below to understand the issue in more detail.
2. [Download the maps](#) to see how NWT's time would compare to other parts of Canada for each of the three options.

Background information

1. How does the NWT observe time now?

The NWT is located in the Mountain Time Zone along with Alberta, parts of British Columbia, and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. The NWT and most of North America has been observing seasonal time changes for many years. Seasonal time changes occur twice a year when we:

- Turn our clocks ahead an hour to Mountain Daylight Saving Time on the second Sunday in March.
- Turn our clocks back an hour to Mountain Standard Time on the first Sunday in November.

2. Did the NWT pass a law to allow for the end of seasonal time changes?

Yes. In 2021, the NWT made changes to our *Interpretation Act* that would allow for the end of seasonal time changes. Before any change can happen, however, there must be public engagement with NWT residents to find out how they feel about this issue.

Once the public engagement is completed, a decision about seasonal time changes will be made. For now, the NWT will continue to observe seasonal time changes.

3. What does it mean to adopt a permanent time?

If the NWT adopts a permanent time, this means that after we change our clocks one last time – either in mid-March or early November - we will stay on one time year-round. Depending on what decision is made, the permanent time in the NWT would be either Mountain Daylight Saving Time or Mountain Standard Time.



4. What are the options for the NWT in terms of time observance?

Option A: NWT moves to permanent Mountain Daylight Saving Time

In the summer, time will be the same time as it has been for many years.

In the winter, sunrises and sunsets will occur one hour later than we are used to, so there will be more daylight into the afternoon and evening.

This is how Option A would affect our time relationships with our neighbours:

- During the summer, the NWT would be on the same time as Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. The NWT would be 1 hour ahead of British Columbia and Yukon, and 1 hour behind Manitoba.
- During the winter, the NWT would be 1 hour ahead of Alberta, Yukon and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, and 2 hours ahead of British Columbia. The NWT would be on the same time as Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

[See what this would look like on a time zone map](#)

Option B: NWT moves to permanent Mountain Standard Time

In the summer, sunrises and sunsets will occur one hour earlier than we are used to, so we will have more daylight into late morning and midday.

In the winter, time will be the same as it has been for many years.

This is how Option B would affect our time relationships with our neighbours:

- During the summer, the NWT would be 1 hour behind Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, and 2 hours behind Manitoba. The NWT would be on the same time as British Columbia and Yukon.
- During the winter, the NWT would be on the same time as Alberta and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, 1 hour ahead of British Columbia, and 1 hour behind Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The NWT would be on the same time as Yukon.

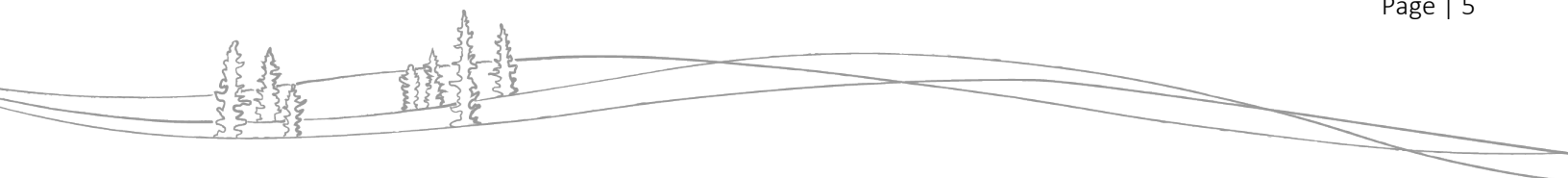
[See what this would look like on a time zone map](#)

Option C: No change – NWT keeps seasonal time changes

This is how Option C would affect our time relationships with our neighbours:

- The NWT would continue to be on the same time as Alberta and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut year-round.
- During the summer, the NWT would continue to be 1 hour ahead of British Columbia and Yukon, 1 hour behind Manitoba, and on the same time as Saskatchewan.
- During the winter, the NWT would continue to be 1 hour ahead of British Columbia, 1 hour behind Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and on the same time as Yukon.

[See what this would look like on a time zone map](#)



5. How does the rest of Canada observe time?

Most of Canada still observes seasonal time changes except for Saskatchewan, Yukon, and parts of Nunavut and Quebec.

In recent years, however, more jurisdictions have indicated they are considering a move to permanent time.

In October 2021, Alberta held a referendum on seasonal time changes. A narrow majority of voters (50.2 per cent) rejected a proposal for the province to end seasonal time changes in favour of permanent Daylight Saving Time. In March 2020, Yukon stopped observing seasonal time changes and switched to permanent Daylight Saving Time.

In 2019 and 2020, British Columbia and Ontario passed laws to allow them to end seasonal time changes and to move to permanent Daylight Saving Time. These laws have not yet gone into effect and both provinces continue to change their clocks twice a year.

6. Why end seasonal time changes?

There has been a lot of discussion about ending seasonal time changes across Canada and residents have a variety of opinions on this.

Some find seasonal time changes disruptive and question why we have them. Others consider seasonal time changes to be a minor inconvenience and do not mind if they continue.

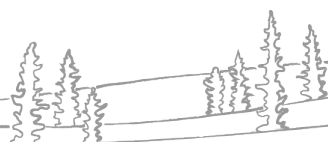
7. What is the GNWT's position on ending seasonal time changes?

The GNWT does not yet have a position on seasonal time changes. Your input is very valuable and will help us to decide how our territory should move ahead.

8. Which permanent time option is better?

There is no clear or obvious answer. Permanent Standard Time allows for daylight earlier in the day, which can be beneficial especially during the fall and winter when there is less daylight. On the other hand, permanent Daylight Saving Time allows for extra daylight at the end of the day to participate in recreational and on-the-land activities after work or school.

People may prefer one of the options based on their situation. For example, their type of work or business, whether they attend school, their hobbies and interests, and the time of day they are most active or like to have the most daylight. It is up to individuals, businesses, and organizations to decide which option will work best for them.



9. If seasonal time changes are ended, will it happen right away?

Any change to time in the NWT will take time. If a decision is made to move to permanent time, a transition period will be needed to notify residents and to help them prepare for the change. Organizations and business could also be affected and will need time to get ready. We estimate that this transition period could take at least a year, perhaps longer.

It will also be necessary for technology and telecommunications providers to make software updates and other changes to ensure that the many electronic devices we use in our daily lives switch over to the new time. For example, smart phones, computers, tablets and applications or operating systems. This process can be complex and time consuming.

Industries that have time dependent links with the NWT, such as airlines and transportation companies, may also have to adjust their schedules and operations if there is an end to seasonal time changes.

10. Is there another way I can share my thoughts on seasonal time changes other than the survey?

Yes. Residents and organizations have the option of writing to us. Written submissions are welcomed and will be given full consideration along with the survey results.

They may be emailed to HaveYourSayDOJ@gov.nt.ca or mailed to:

Policy and Planning Division
Department of Justice
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

The deadline for written submissions is **May 16, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.**

11. When will we find out about the survey results?

The survey results will be shared with the public in a *What We Heard Report* once the engagement has ended and the results have been analyzed. The written submissions received during this engagement may be summarized in the report, but no specific individuals or organizations will be identified.

To learn more about seasonal time change engagements across Canada, visit these links:

Alberta public engagement platform

<https://www.alberta.ca/daylight-saving-time-engagement.aspx>

BC Public Engagement Results

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/impact/daylight-savings-results/>

Yukon Seasonal Time Change website – including [What We Heard Report](#)

<https://yukon.ca/en/seasonal-time-change>

