

Date August 6, 2026
Author Shawn Tomlin, CAO
Subject Time Zone Observance Survey Results

REQUEST

Determine Time Observance in the RDEK

OPTIONS

1. THAT the RDEK cease semi-annual time changes and remain permanently on Mountain Daylight Time.
2. THAT following the November 2026 time change, the RDEK cease semi-annual time changes and remain permanently on Mountain Standard Time.
3. THAT the RDEK continue with semi-annual time changes, alternating between Mountain Standard Time and Mountain Daylight Time.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the April Board meeting it was resolved to coordinate a regional survey to seek opinion related to time zone observance in the Mountain Time Zone to inform decision-making by local governments. The survey was open from July 3 to August 3 and received 14,345 responses. Of those responses, 91% were full-time residents or businesses in the area, 7% were part-time residents or non-resident property owners, and 1.4% employees that live outside the area but work in the area.

Overall, the survey showed a strong majority (89%) of respondents would like to stop the semi-annual time changes and stay on a single time all year. Choosing which time to observe was somewhat more divided, but there was a significant majority with nearly twice as many respondents preferring Daylight Time, a split of 66% preferring that option vs 34% in favour of Standard Time.

When asked the reasons for their preferences, the highest ranked responses were 'Better for mental or physical health and well-being' and 'Better use of daylight in the evening', followed by 'Avoids the disruption of changing clocks.' For respondents preferring daylight time, the highest ranked reason was 'Better use of daylight in the evening', and for those preferring standard time, the highest ranked reason was 'Alignment with the rest of BC.'

The survey results have been shared with municipal and First Nations CAOs. The Town of Golden and CSR District Electoral Area A will need to independently decide the time observance in their area.

The following table summarizes the time zone preference by community. Please note that the much lower response rate in rural areas compared to municipalities (6% of population vs 25%) is likely a reflection that some rural respondents identified as part of their adjacent municipality in the survey.

Community	Number of Respondents	Preference	
		Mountain Daylight Time	Mountain Standard Time
ᑭᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ	16	69%	31 %
ᑭᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ	12	25 %	75 %
Shuswap	5	100 %	0 %
Yaqit ᑭᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ	18	50 %	50 %
Canal Flats	146	67 %	33 %
Cranbrook	4,816	63 %	37 %
Elkford	645	84 %	16 %
Fernie	1,796	72 %	28 %
Golden	1,229	56 %	44 %
Invermere	1,185	71 %	29 %
Kimberley	1,746	62 %	38 %
Radium	259	68 %	32 %
Sparwood	1,007	83 %	17 %
CSRD A	107	43 %	57 %
Area A	95	62 %	38 %
Area B	246	82 %	18 %
Area C	275	68 %	32 %
Area E	133	62 %	38 %
Area F	339	72 %	28 %
Area G	118	47 %	53 %
Overall		66%	34%

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Process

Once a decision is made by the Board, it will be shared with the Town of Golden and the CSRD for awareness in making their decision. It will also be shared with RDEK municipalities (who, as per messaging from the Province, still have the ability to establish their time observance independently) and with First Nations. The Province will be notified of the decision and requested to undertake any implementation that may be required.

Time Zone Database

The Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG) is the body responsible for maintaining the public-domain Time Zone Database (TZDB) that is used by the clocks in cell phones and computers worldwide.

Their Time Zone Coordinator advises that the newest TZDB version will be released this fall to capture the Province of Alberta's changes. They are currently awaiting direction whether to put the southeastern part of BC in the Edmonton, Vancouver or Denver database. The decision made here will have potential impacts across cell phones and computers for residents. As our devices in the region are currently set to Edmonton (Alberta) time, if the

RDEK moves to permanent observance of Mountain Daylight Time, residents will not need to do anything and the clocks would update appropriately.

If RDEK does not change its rules (continues changing clocks twice per year), or if we move to permanent Mountain Standard Time, the TZDB will need to be modified to reflect RDEK's change in alignment. The IESG reports that this transition would take sometime, which would mean that auto-updated devices in RDEK will more likely show the wrong times, and would need to their time zones changed manually for a period up to a year.

Attachments:

- Time Observance Survey Results Summary
- March 4, 2026 RFD – Time Zone Observance in the East Kootenay (letters not included)
- April 1, 2026 RFD – Reconsideration – Time Zone Observance in the East Kootenay (letters not included)
- April 7, 2026 – Information Report – Time Observance Feedback Summary