

In other parts of Canada, daylight saving was gaining ever wider acceptance. Manitoba had province-wide advanced time under its Official Time Act from 1967. All of British Columbia, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario except Port Arthur and Fort William, and Newfoundland and Labrador apart from a few remote fishing villages, as well as Manitoba and much of Nova Scotia, were using daylight saving in 1969. Start and end dates were the same in nearly all places that used it, from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October. Alberta would soon join those provinces on daylight saving. That would leave Saskatchewan as the only province with year round standard time, except for a few western areas.

Another plebiscite was arranged in Alberta at the August 1971 election and the mood of the electorate had changed greatly over the previous four years. Bill Creighton again led the “yes” drive along with his Yes for Daylight Saving Society, this time against weaker opposition. Unifarm president W. D. Lea indicated farmers were too busy to worry. Support for daylight time carried easily, with 62 per cent voting in its favour. In the election, the Progressive Conservatives were swept into office with a swing of over 20 per cent, replacing the Social Credit Party after 36 years as Alberta moved from a community dominated by agriculture and religious fundamentalism to an industrial society with a burgeoning oil sector, cosmopolitan cities, and daylight saving. The province observed the scheme for the first time other than during the two world wars from April 1972.

Part of British Columbia had a time plebiscite in 1972. Voters in four electoral districts, Columbia River, Kootenay, North Peace River and South Peace River, and part of a fifth, Nelson-Creston, were asked: “Are you in favour of Pacific Standard time, including Pacific Daylight Saving time, as it is applicable now throughout the province?” Most people in this rural mountainous region didn’t want to be on this time schedule, with 65 per cent of voters opposing it. British Columbia was officially on Pacific time but many eastern areas were more economically and geographically tied to large population centres in Alberta and this was confirmed by the results of the plebiscite. These districts likely kept observing Mountain time or UTC–7 in winter and UTC–6 in summer.

New Brunswick didn’t have daylight saving in 1973 after one of the worst floods to ever hit the area. Advanced time was due to start on 29 April, but two days earlier on Friday a large storm hit and by Sunday the Saint John River had risen 25 feet above its usual summer level causing widespread flooding in many areas, including outside the Legislative Building in Fredericton. There was damage to thousands of homes and businesses and people were in no mood for daylight saving, nor was the government.

In late 1973, the United States was considering daylight saving in winter to help ease the effects of the international oil crisis brought on by the embargo that started in October. Canada’s energy minister Donald Macdonald stated that the country had no such plans due to the cooler climate. He said more energy would be used in the mornings with people getting up in the dark at the coldest time of day and using more heating and lighting, offsetting savings in the late afternoon and evening. As the crisis worsened, America went on year round daylight saving on 6 January 1974 (later abandoning it), but Canada didn’t follow. British Columbia had planned in December to put clocks forward on that date, against the advice of the federal government. The move was postponed until 3 February and was then delayed again due to opposition