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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS THIS WEEKEND

DST Changes Next Spring To Keep Ontario In Sync With Other Jurisdictions

TORONTO — This weekend will be the last time that Ontario clocks will “fall back” on the last Sunday in October, Parliamentary Assistant David Zimmer announced today on behalf of Attorney General Michael Bryant.

Ontarians should remember to move their clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night. Daylight saving time will end at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Beginning next spring, daylight saving time will start on the second Sunday in March, and end on the first Sunday in November. Similar changes were adopted within the past year by several Canadian provinces and territories as well as by the United States.

“Keeping daylight saving time in sync with the United States is what’s best for Ontario,” said Zimmer. “It means order and lack of confusion in all sectors of our economy, and may help conserve energy, reduce accidents and prevent crime. It just makes sense.”

In July 2005, Bryant created an inter-ministerial committee, led by Zimmer, to look into the advantages and disadvantages of changing daylight saving time. The committee reviewed public safety, energy, trade and other issues, and consulted with stakeholders and other levels of government.

The committee heard from groups representing the agriculture, education, energy, financial, industry, transportation and other sectors. The majority of people supported synchronizing Ontario’s daylight saving time with the United States.

“The results of our consultation were overwhelmingly supportive of staying in sync with the United States,” said Zimmer. “This change will benefit businesses and individual Ontarians alike.”

As a result of the changes announced in the United States, most Canadian jurisdictions now using daylight saving time will also amend their dates. In Ontario, daylight saving time is governed by the Time Act, legislation that is the responsibility of the Attorney General.

“We shone a light on daylight saving time and decided staying in sync with the United States makes sense for Ontario,” added Bryant.

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