

Canada Plans for Metric Time (Priceless Addendum)

Garth H. Ketemer

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Abstract

Editor's note: Almost as if there were a little ESP at work, just in time for your editor to include it in the treatment of metrics in this issue of ACE QUARTERLY, a letter came from Garth Ketemer, up Toronto-way, that is not only a priceless addition to this sequence on metrics, but uniquely complements Don Nelson's question at the end of paragraph 5 in his article, which immediately precedes this one.

Priceless Addendum

Canada Plans for Metric Time

Garth H. Ketemer

(Editor's note: Almost as if there were a little ESP at work, just in time for your editor to include it in the treatment of metrics in this issue of ACE QUARTERLY, a letter came from Garth Ketemer, up Toronto-way, that is not only a priceless addition to this sequence on metrics, but uniquely complements Don Nelson's question at the end of paragraph 5 in his article, which immediately precedes this one. The following is a verbatim copy of Garth's letter and contribution for the Quarterly.)

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

INFORMATION BRANCH

November 5, 1976

Mr. James P. Chapman
Editor, AAACE Newsletter
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Jim:

When Ham Kenney wrote his article for the AAACE quarterly a few months ago, he did a masterful job of exposition on the Canadian experience in going metric. However, he neglected to include a section on metric time, or, just possibly, the decision to use this measurement was taken after Ham's magnum opus was sent to you.

In any event, I want to rectify this omission, and am sending you a copy of a recent directive. You may wish to share this with other members of AAACE through the Newsletter.

Bless You!

Garth H. Ketemer

Encl.
/pf

July 7, 1976

SUBJECT: Metric Time

This is to advise you that Cabinet has decided that, from midnight on 1st January, 1977, the whole of Ontario (except the Metropolitan Municipality of Hudson) will be converting to metric time.

This is, of course, another step in the Province's Metrication Program.

From the date there will be 10 seconds to the minute, 10 minutes to the hour, 10 hours to the day, and so on, delineated according to the following table:

Old Time	New Time
1 second	1 milliday
1 minute	1 centiday
1 hour	1 deciday (or millimonth)
1 day	1 day
1 week	1 decaday
1 month	1 hectoday
1 year	1 kiloday

The fortnight will be withdrawn.

We are informed by Management Board and the Civil Service Commission that further details will be forthcoming, but some preliminary guidelines are now available and steps should be instituted immediately through the appropriate Field and Technical Committees, to develop plans for the change-over.

Obviously from the Ministry's standpoint, due to the fact that one hour (deciday) represents 5/12ths of an old one, staff might be expected to work longer hours, viz: 3½ decadays or millimonths per day. However, as this is inconvenient for administration and payroll purposes, it is intended that the luncheon break will be shortened by 1/3 of a new hour, thus making total daily working time of 4 new hours.

It is not expected at this time that adjustments will be made to salaries except in the case of leap kilodays, where an adjustment will be made at the end of the hectoday every 1.46 decamonths. Overtime meal vouchers will be issued to non-management hectodaily casual employees (employees in Groups 1, 2, 4, 7 and 63) for the time worked in excess of 5/6ths of a deciday, provided approval from the Management Board has been obtained beforehand. The Pension Scheme will not be affected but **superkilodayuation** will be adjusted accordingly.

Further details will be issued close to Deciday but, if these arrangements present difficulties or if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact somebody.

VACATION

Vacation will be affected only so far as the change to metric time is concerned and no one shall be worse off than previously. Thus if an employee was entitled to 22 days (old time) he will not be entitled to 220 decadays or one hectoday plus 20 decadays for every hectoday over and above 20 kilodays service since the 10th deciday of the 3rd hectoday of 1954. The Queen's Birthday will accordingly be reduced to 5 decadays (6 south of the French and Mattawa) but 10 demidecadays will be added where relevant to the Christmas break which will be moved, after 27 hectodays, to the Simcoe Day Weekend to take advantage of the longer shopping decadays. The term "a month of Sundays" is not to be used on official documents. The correct term will be "a hectoday of Decadays". The application of these rules to the Spring Break and the Coffee Break remain to be determined.

Your immediate supervisor has been allotted 3 centidays per capita to clarify any points which may arise prior to Deciday.

Management Board has decreed that no additional funds or complement will be provided in this transition, which must be funded from existing allocations with existing staff (if any).

A True Copy:cl
August 30, 1976

This box appeared in the Columbus, Ohio, Citizen-Journal, page 9, Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1976.

Metric system 'Bible' believed hottest-selling secular book yet

LONDON (UPI) — The "Good News Bible," which translates all measurements into the metric system, may be the fastest-selling book in history, its publishers said this weekend.

They said the work has sold 680,000 copies within a month of publication.

"This is thought to surpass the sales of any secular book," a statement said.