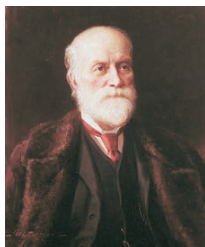


There are six time zones in Canada. From west to east the main time zones are: Pacific, Mountain, Central, Eastern and Atlantic. The island of Newfoundland observes a sixth time: it decided to set its clock at the halfway point of its time zone, or 3 hours and 30 minutes behind Greenwich time instead of four hours (which would be Atlantic time). Finally, many parts of the country do not observe the official hour, choosing instead to adopt the time in a neighbouring time zone in order to facilitate trade between adjacent regions. This is particularly common in eastern British Columbia which often uses Mountain time rather than the Pacific time of the rest of the province.



In 1884, at an international convention in Washington, D.C., Sir Sandford Fleming, a Canadian engineer, proposed that there should be a prime meridian which would be the base geographical line from which all nations would measure time. His plan was based on twenty-four standard time zones for the entire Earth with each zone covering 15 degrees in longitude. Each 15 degree change in longitude corresponds to one hour. The meridian passing through Greenwich, near London, England, was adopted as the 0 degree meridian, and there are 12 time zones of one hour on each side of Greenwich. Within each time zone all clocks would be set to the same time.

Sir Sandford Fleming (1827-1915) by John Wycliffe Lowes Forster, 1892 (1850-1938) in brushpoint and red oil.

Source: Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1951-566-1.



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

Canada