

MAGNETIC DECLINATION CHART OF CANADA 2000

Natural Resources Canada
Geological Survey of Canada



Ressources naturelles Canada
Commission géologique du Canada

CARTE DE LA DÉCLINAISON MAGNÉTIQUE AU CANADA 2000

NOTE TO USER

The red contours on this chart indicate the angle, in degrees, between true north and magnetic north in Canada and adjacent areas. Blue contours depict the expected rate of change, in minutes per year (annual change).

This chart shows the part of the Earth's magnetic field that originates in the core of the Earth, as well as large-scale contributions from the Earth's crust. The value actually observed at a particular location may differ from the chart value for two major reasons. All observations are influenced by both regular and irregular fluctuations of the Earth's magnetic field over the course of a day. During large magnetic disturbances, fluctuations may exceed six degrees in auroral and polar-cap regions, which cover large portions of central and northern Canada. During magnetically quiet conditions, observed values of declination should not normally differ from those shown on this chart by more than 30 minutes in southern Canada. However, these differences are inversely proportional to horizontal field strength and may be extremely large in the vicinity of the North Magnetic Pole. Moreover, magnetic minerals in the Earth's crust produce magnetic anomalies which may be too localized to depict on a chart of this scale. These anomalies can be particularly large in the Canadian Shield.

The chart also shows the best estimate of the annual change at epoch 2000. By applying a correction based on the annual change, the user can compute a declination value for a future year. For example, the declination at Toronto for 2002.3, 2.3 years after the chart epoch, can be estimated in the following manner: $10^0 31 \text{ W} + 2.3 \times (1.7^\circ \text{ W}) = 10^0 35 \text{ W}$.¹ In Edmonton, where the declination and annual change have opposite directions, the updated declination would be: $18^0 22 \text{ E} + 2.3 \times (11.6^\circ \text{ W}) = 18^0 22 \text{ E} + 2.3 \times (-11.6^\circ) = 17^0 55 \text{ E}$.¹ However, the annual change itself does not remain constant but changes with time in a manner that cannot be predicted easily. Therefore, care must be exercised when applying annual change corrections over more than 4 or 5 years from the epoch of the chart. Even greater care must be taken when using declination values and annual change values given on topographical, aeronautical or hydrographic charts, some of which may be issued at infrequent intervals. Using an outdated value of annual change to update the declination given on one of these maps may lead to substantial errors.

Further information concerning the magnetic field in Canada can be obtained by contacting the Geomagnetic Laboratory, Geological Survey of Canada, 7 Observatory Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0Y3.

