



Information Division  
 Department of External Affairs  
 Ottawa Canada

# Canadian Weekly

# Bulletin

Vol. 24, No. 36

September 3, 1969

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### NEW PARCEL-POST RATES

Communications Minister Eric Kierans has announced changes in Canadian and international parcel-post rates designed to simplify the rate structure and to bring parcel-post revenues and costs into balance.

The major change comes into effect on January 1, when the rates for the 92 million parcels mailed and delivered in Canada each year will be revised. Under the new rates, the minimum charge will be 45 cents for a one-to-two pound parcel within a zone, and the maximum will be \$3.50 for a 25-pound item between the Atlantic Provinces and the western region of Alberta-British Columbia-the Yukon.

### DEFICIT AVERTED

The increase in the domestic surface parcel-post rate is calculated to bring revenues and expenditures into line in this category of Post Office operations, in contrast to an estimated deficit, before the rate changes, of \$8.7 million in the fiscal year 1969-70. The effect of this change, in the fiscal year 1970-71, is calculated at \$14.7 million.

In announcing the revisions, Mr. Kierans noted that parcels weighing up to six pounds made up approximately 80 per cent of Canadian parcel-post traffic and that increases in these weight ranges would vary from 10 to 20 cents a parcel. The impact of this increase, on the basis of an individual who mails a half-dozen one-to-two pound parcels a year, is estimated at \$1 a person a year.

Included in the new rate structure is an adjustment of the surface parcel-post rates to and from Canadian Forces Post Offices and Fleet Mail Offices, which have not been changed since the introduction of that service in 1951. The new rates,

effective January 1970, will be 50 cents for the first 2 pounds and 15 cents each additional pound.

### OTHER CHANGES

Also on October 1 this year, surface parcel-post rates from Canada to countries other than the U.S. will be increased to balance sharply-rising costs. The changes will reduce the number of international rate zones from three to two and the current system of four weight groups will be discarded for a simple pound-by-pound progression.

At the same time, in order to simplify the rate structure, the current Air Parcel Post (Domestic) category will be abolished, since the category became redundant late in 1968 when air-transmission was extended to all domestic first-class mail. Air parcels now receive the same handling, despatch and transportation priorities as first-class mail and Post Office customers will be able to secure air-transmission of parcels by normal first-class postage rates.

Also on October 1, parcel rates to the United States will be increased, to bring an additional \$1.4 million in revenue over a 12-month period. The minimum rate will remain at 15 cents for up to one-half pound, while for items from eight ounces to a pound it will be 75 cents, compared to the present 45 cents. From there on the rates will be applied in a simple progression of 25 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.