

communities, sometimes two competing companies in one place. As a result, in April 1880, The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was established by Act of Parliament and authorized as the official agent for telephone service in thirty-two cities and towns across the country. However, it came to be recognized that, in the existing state of the industry, one company could scarcely develop and organize service over so wide a territory and separate companies were set up in British Columbia. The Bell Telephone withdrew from the Maritime Provinces in the 1880's and installations in the Prairie Provinces were sold to the respective provincial governments in 1908-09. The seven major telephone systems that developed across Canada worked together to establish long-distance service on a national basis and in 1932 they founded the Trans-Canada Telephone System, which now has eight full members including both shareholder-owned companies and provincial government systems. They are as follows:—

Avalon Telephone Company (joined in 1957)
 Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company, Limited
 The New Brunswick Telephone Company, Limited
 The Bell Telephone Company of Canada (serving Ontario and Quebec)
 Manitoba Telephone System
 Saskatchewan Government Telephones
 Alberta Government Telephones
 British Columbia Telephone Company

These eight systems, together with the Island Telephone Company (P.E.I.), Québec Téléphone (lower St. Lawrence), The Okanagan Telephone Company, and the North-West Telephone Company (associated with the British Columbia Telephone Company) comprise the Telephone Association of Canada. This organization was established to ensure general co-operation in telephone matters.

As already mentioned, the steadily rising demand for local and long-distance service has called not only for general expansion of Canadian telephone systems but for the constant introduction of modern facilities and services. A number of Canadian companies have developed what is called "Extended Area Service" in many of the communities they serve. This plan eliminates long-distance charges between the larger centres and their suburbs, or between two or more places with close community of interest.

As part of the transmission facilities needed to carry the great volume of long-distance traffic, the members of the Trans-Canada Telephone System collaborated to build a microwave radio relay network stretching from coast to coast, the longest such network in the world. It was placed in operation on July 1, 1958, and is maintained jointly, each system member being responsible for the section falling within its operating territory. The network is capable of carrying 2,400 long-distance conversations and two television programs at the same time.

For several years operators have been dialing many long-distance calls direct to the wanted telephone. The modern switching system which makes this possible also permits customer dialing of long-distance calls. Telephone-users in Toronto and other Ontario centres are now able to dial many direct long-distance calls. A long-range international plan, developed by the telephone companies of Canada and the United States, will eventually allow practically every telephone-user in North America to dial direct to almost any other telephone on the Continent. Direct dialing, an added convenience for telephone customers, will allow Canadian telephone companies to handle economically the ever-growing volume of long-distance calls.

The northward extension of industry in Canada has, of course, required the northward expansion of telephone communications. The North-West Telephone Company operates a radio chain from Vancouver up the British Columbia coast to Kitimat. Uranium City in northern Saskatchewan, six years ago nothing but muskeg and swamp, is provided with communications through a radio network out of Prince Albert, Sask. In Manitoba, the radio-telephone service reaches out to a large number of isolated settlements and bush camps, and also provides communications for aircraft and for boats plying Lake Winnipeg. Goose Bay in Labrador and the ore-rich Schefferville area are now in immediate telephone contact with the remainder of the world through a radio relay network operated out of Quebec City through Sept Îles.