

These eight systems, together with the Island Telephone Company (P.E.I.), Québec Téléphone (lower St. Lawrence), Ontario Northland Communications, 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 as well as network television programs, the members of the Trans-Canada Telephone System collaborated to build a microwave radio relay network spanning Canada from coast to coast. The longest such network in the world, it was placed in operation on July 1, 1958. It is maintained jointly, each system member being responsible for the section falling in its operating territory. This network, ultimately capable of carrying 2,400 long-distance conversations and two television programs at the same time, is steadily being expanded toward the limit of its capacity. In addition, extensions to the original network have been made, bringing long-distance telephone service and television programs to many more remote areas.

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. Known as Direct Distance Dialing, customer dialing of long-distance calls has been in effect for some time in the Toronto, Windsor and Guelph areas in Ontario. In 1960 it is being introduced in Montreal and Valleyfield in Quebec, and in Cornwall, London, St. Thomas, Fort Erie and Stratford in Ontario. It will also be introduced in 1960 in Nanaimo and Okanagan, B.C. 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, located in a vast area of 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 iron-ore-rich Schefferville area of the Quebec-Labrador boundary 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. A branch of this system, built in 1959, extends long-distance service to the new mining settlement of Gagnon, Que. In the same year, Bell Telephone opened its farthest-north exchange at Frobisher on Baffin Island.

Numerous flexible services are provided by Canadian telephone companies for business and industry. Special conference circuits can be quickly arranged, enabling widely scattered business interests to discuss their affairs without the inconvenience and expense of