

hundreds of co-operating telephone companies, the radio and television companies and federal communications organizations work together with a common purpose—building networks of telecommunications from coast to coast. They provide such familiar services as telephone, telegraph, teletype, radio and television, and many other related means of communication; in addition, mutual co-operation has allowed them to satisfy a variety of defence needs.

Subsection 1.—Government Control over Telecommunications Agencies

Telephone and telegraph companies incorporated under the Federal Government are subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Transport Commissioners in the matter of rates and practices under the provisions of the Railway Act (see pp. 751-753); other companies are responsible to provincial regulatory bodies. International telegraph and telephone communications are handled subject to the International Telecommunication Convention and the Regulations thereunder and/or under regional agreements. Tolls charged to the public for radio communication service are subject to the provisions of the Regulations made under the Radio Act. Overseas cables landed in Canada are subject to the External Submarine Cable Regulations under the Telegraphs Act.

Radio communications in Canada, except for those matters covered by the Broadcasting Act, are regulated under the Radio Act and Regulations and also under the Canada Shipping Act and Ship Station Radio Regulations. In addition, radio communication matters are administered in accordance with the International Telecommunication Convention and Radio Regulations annexed thereto; the International Civil Aviation Convention; the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea; the Inter-American Telecommunication Convention and the Convention between Canada and the United States of America relating to the operation by citizens of either country of certain radio equipment or stations in the other country; and also in accordance with such regional agreements as the agreement between Canada and the United States for the promotion of safety on the Great Lakes by means of radio, the Inter-American Radio Agreement and the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement (see also pp. 830-832).

National radio broadcasting in Canada entered its present phase in 1936 when, with the passage of the Canadian Broadcasting Act, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation replaced the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission. The Act gave the Corporation wide powers in the operation of a national broadcasting system and gave to the Minister of Transport the technical control of all broadcasting stations.

During 1958 the Government established a Board of Broadcast Governors and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Board of Governors was abolished. The Board of Broadcast Governors regulates the establishment and operation of networks of radio and television broadcasting stations, the activities of public and private broadcasting stations and the relationship between them, in the interest of providing a national broadcasting service of high standard, basically Canadian in content and character. While the Minister of Transport is the licensing authority under the Radio Act, the Broadcasting Act requires that applications for broadcasting station licences or for any change in an existing broadcasting station be referred to the Board of Broadcast Governors for its recommendation before being dealt with by the Department.

Subsection 2.—Telephones

Alexander Graham Bell first transmitted human speech through electrically energized equipment in March 1876, and in August of the same year a one-way call from Brantford to Paris in Ontario marked the first successful long-distance test of the new invention. Soon after the instrument was perfected, telephone exchanges sprang up in many Canadian communities, sometimes with two competing companies in one place.