

Canadian National-Canadian Pacific telex service, established in 1956, has had very good public acceptance. At the end of 1962 there were about 5,000 customer installations in Canada, each having access to the other and also to world-wide telex networks in other countries.

In 1962, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific commenced construction of a high-grade microwave radio relay system between Montreal and Vancouver. The new system, to be completed in late 1963, is designed to serve Ottawa, Toronto, Sudbury, the Lakehead, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Kamloops, as well as the terminal points at Montreal and Vancouver. Because of the high value of such a system for national defence, it will be routed to by-pass military target areas. At the outset it will be capable of carrying 600 voice channels which may be used for the transmission of all forms of voice and record communications. The system can be expanded readily by the addition of radio channels to provide network television service or increased circuitry for general communications use. The new system will link up with the system already in operation from St. John's, Nfld., to Montreal, thus providing microwave service across the Continent.

Increased industrial and military interests in the Canadian northwest have created a need for all forms of communications services, and to meet these Canadian National Telecommunications (CNT) undertook several major projects. The first of these was a 1,200-mile microwave system between northern Alberta and the Yukon-Alaska border, which was completed in July 1961. Starting at Grande Prairie, 450 miles north of Edmonton, this network proceeds northward through Alberta, crosses the northeast corner of British Columbia and, following the Alaska Highway through Yukon Territory, joins an interchange system at Mount Dave on the Yukon-Alaska border. At Grande Prairie, the CNT system joins the Alberta Government telephone system running southward through Alberta to the Canada-United States border, where it connects with United States networks.

In the summer of 1961, CNT completed construction of a land-line communications network stretching around Great Slave Lake from Fort Smith on the Alberta-Northwest Territories border to Yellowknife, bringing the full range of communications services to residents of Yellowknife, Fort Rae, Fort Providence, Hay River, Pine Point and Fort Smith. This network is connected to the 'outside' by a microwave system between Hay River and Edmonton; the section of the microwave system within the Northwest Territories was constructed by CNT and the Alberta section by the Alberta Government Telephone Company.

In 1962, approval was given to CNT to construct a 1,020-mile telephone pole-line down the length of the Mackenzie River from Hay River to Inuvik. When completed in 1965 this project will provide simultaneous long-distance telephone, teletype, telex, commercial telegraphs, air operational and weather communications to Fort Simpson, Wrigley, Fort Norman, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope and Inuvik. In addition, Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Arctic Red River will be linked to the system at Inuvik by very high frequency radio communications. Service will be instituted at successive communities as construction of the line proceeds northward.

In late 1962, CNT started construction of a tropospheric scatterwave communications system which will extend from Hay River in the Northwest Territories to Lady Franklin Point on Victoria Island in the Arctic Archipelago. Some channels of this 554-mile system, to be completed by the end of 1963, will be used for defence purposes and, in addition, the system will enable CNT to provide various types of communications services to such outlying communities as Coppermine and Cambridge Bay.

CNT has also made a major entry in the field of public telephone service. In Newfoundland, it provides public telephone service at Gander and at many smaller communities throughout that province. At the end of 1962 there were over 8,000 telephones connected to CNT exchanges in Newfoundland. CNT telephone exchanges also provide service to the public in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and in northern British Columbia. CNT local and long-distance telephone service is available in such northern communities