

provincial governments in the Prairie Provinces. Bell Telephone now serves most Ontario and Quebec communities and parts of Labrador and the Northwest Territories.

To establish a medium for the easy interchange of calls from one company's territory to another, seven major companies worked together to form a national long-distance network. In 1931, these same companies founded the Trans-Canada Telephone System to provide a nation-wide long-distance service and to work toward the standardization of equipment and methods; an eighth company later joined the system. Members now are:—

Alberta Government Telephones  
British Columbia Telephone Company  
Manitoba Telephone System  
Maritime Telephone and Telegraph Co. Ltd.  
Saskatchewan Government Telephones  
The Avalon Telephone Company, Ltd.  
The Bell Telephone Company of Canada  
The New Brunswick Telephone Company, Ltd.

This System provides satisfactory long-distance facilities across Canada and also acts as a clearing house to deal with the division of revenues from calls originating in one company's operating territory but terminating in another. In 1956, the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, a Crown corporation which handles the transmission of all overseas calls originating in Canada (see p. 834), joined as an associate member. A management committee, comprising one representative from each of the eight member companies, directs the operations of the System. The committee is advised by various functional sub-committees whose members are similarly representative.

To promote co-operation and the exchange of information within the telephone industry across the nation, the Telephone Association of Canada, a non-profit organization devoted to public service, was founded in 1921. Its members comprise, in addition to the eight Trans-Canada Telephone System companies, the Okanagan Telephone Company, Ontario Northland Communications and Quebec-Telephone. Many of the more than 2,000 smaller independent telephone companies have formed other associations, such as the Canadian Independent Telephone Association, the Quebec Independent Telephone Association, and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephone Companies.

Because of the peculiar distribution of the population of Canada, concentrated narrowly along the lengthy southern border, adequate long-distance communication is of great importance in the social and business life of the country. Thus, the Trans-Canada microwave system, the longest single microwave route in the world, stretching more than 3,900 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is the backbone of the Canadian network. In all, the Canadian telephone industry operates more than 12,000 miles of microwave routes, simultaneously carrying many thousands of long-distance telephone calls, large volumes of data messages and a multitude of television programs for the nation's major broadcasting networks.

Because of constantly rising demand for local and long-distance service, the Canadian telephone industry has expanded and continually modernized its facilities. A number of Canadian companies have introduced Extended Area Service in many of the communities they serve, a plan that eliminates long-distance charges between the larger centres and their suburbs, and between many smaller places with a close community of interest. The cost of this service is included in the flat monthly charge for local telephone service.

Direct Distance Dialing (DDD) by both operators and customers provides faster and better long-distance service and at the same time makes the most efficient use of the industry's manpower and equipment. DDD now makes it possible for users to dial their own long-distance calls to more than 6,500,000 telephones in Canada and more than 90,000,000 in North America. Overseas telephone service is provided over facilities of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation via cable, high-frequency radio