

The development of the Canadian North has required the northward extension of telephone communications. Through the provision of radiotelephone service, once-isolated missionaries, miners, government officials and traders are being linked with the world's telephone networks. In 1961, radiotelephone service was established with the opening of a high-frequency radio station at Alma, Que. In 1964, a new high-frequency radio base station was erected at Frobisher, extending the reach of the system and enabling the establishment of many new exchanges in the Far North, including Resolute on Cornwallis Island, 600 miles north of the Arctic Circle; this is the northernmost commercial telephone exchange in the world. In 1965, a very-high-frequency radio link was provided across the Strait of Belle Isle to give direct access from the national network to communities on the Island of Newfoundland. The British Columbia Telephone Company recently installed a highly sophisticated radio system from Port Hardy to Annette Island. Alberta Government Telephones, in conjunction with Saskatchewan Government Telephones, has placed a similar system in operation to link Uranium City in Saskatchewan and Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories. In Manitoba, radiotelephone service reaches out to a large number of isolated settlements and bush camps and provides communication for aircraft and boats plying Lake Winnipeg.

Recently, the Canadian National Telecommunications (CNT) has made a major entry into the field of public telephone service. In Newfoundland, it provides public telephone service at Gander and at many smaller communities; at the end of 1964 there were more than 11,500 telephones connected to CNT exchanges in that province. CNT also supplies local and long-distance public telephone service to about 7,000 subscribers in the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and northern British Columbia. Some of the points served are Hay River, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Fort Nelson, Watson Lake, Cassiar, Whitehorse, Mayo, Elsa, Kenos, Dawson City, Cambridge Bay, Norman Wells and Fort Simpson.

Telephone Statistics.—The number of telephone systems in Canada has shown a slow but steady decrease over the past decade, dropping from 2,788 in 1954 to 2,296 in 1963. Co-operative systems in rural districts decreased from 2,236 to 1,993 in the period and incorporated companies from 389 to 189. The largest of the incorporated companies, The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, which operates throughout the greater part of Ontario and Quebec and in Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories, served 61 p.c. of all the telephones in Canada in both 1962 and 1963 and the British Columbia Telephone Company, also shareholder-owned, served 9.4 p.c. of the total in both years. The number of telephones in use increased by 84.6 p.c. during the 1954-63 period.

1.—Pole-Line and Wire Milage and Number of Telephones in Use, 1954-63

NOTE.—Figures from 1911 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1938 edition.

Year	Systems	Route Milage	Length of Wire	Telephones in Use			
				Business	Residential	Total	Per 100 Population
				No.	No.	No.	No.
1954.....	2,788	257,444	13,357,289	1,153,806	2,706,463	3,860,269	25.4
1955.....	2,739	259,784	14,758,160	1,236,341	2,915,337	4,151,678	26.6
1956.....	2,661	269,303	16,410,897	1,334,403	3,164,922	4,499,325	28.0
1957.....	2,637	274,334	18,161,444	1,409,446	3,417,689	4,827,135	29.1
1958.....	2,619	280,884	20,250,410	1,486,393	3,631,900	5,118,293	30.0
1959.....	2,605	267,737	22,791,129	1,568,735	3,870,288	5,439,023	31.2
1960.....	2,558	274,855	25,333,802	1,673,915	4,054,252	5,728,167	32.2
1961.....	2,509	306,167	26,986,478	1,729,599	4,284,416	6,014,015	32.6
1962.....	2,430	314,523	28,930,413	1,816,895	4,512,553	6,329,448	33.7
1963.....	2,296	284,202 ¹	31,267,977	1,910,178	4,746,435	6,656,613	34.9

¹ Excludes channel milages sometimes included in previous years; also, in 1963 data were collected for underground cable rather than for underground conduit as previously.