

The telephone companies provide an extension of land telephone service, by radio, to suitably equipped vehicles. This service is available in all major cities in Canada and along many of the nation's arterial highways. Restricted common-carrier mobile radio service (this service to vehicles does not permit interconnection with the over-all telephone system but only with specific dispatchers) is available in most major cities in Canada as well as in a number of smaller urban centres. The latter service is provided by telephone companies as well as by other organizations. Low-power radio stations may be licensed to permit short-distance personal and private business radiotelephone communications; since the inauguration of this service in 1962, more than 36,000 licences have been issued.

Subsection 8.—Radio and Television Broadcasting*

Broadcasting in Canada has developed over a period of some forty-seven years as a combination of public and private enterprise. Since the opening program from the first radio station was beamed into a few Montreal homes in 1918, the role of the radio and television program in the daily life of the Canadian family has grown to startling prominence. Today, radio service reaches 98 p.c. and television service over 92 p.c. of the Canadian population.

To have become such an integral force in the daily life of the nation, broadcasting had to learn the needs of the people and how to serve them. Two 'official' languages forming two distinct cultures had to be served independently but without diminishing the concept of national unity. Dozens of other smaller groups, distinct in culture and frequently dwelling in the same radio or TV coverage area but in separate communities with widely divergent program interests, had to be served. Physical problems of distance and geography had to be overcome. It requires some 360 radio transmitters and 221 TV stations and satellites to reach a population distributed across a 4,000-mile southern frontier, through seven time zones and a variety of topographical and climatic regions, and scattered northwest through thousands of square miles to the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Not only do these people have local service that is a reflection of life in their own districts, but by means of 15,000 miles of land-lines for radio networks and 8,500 miles of microwave circuits for television nearly every Canadian may, at the same time, listen or watch as an event of national interest takes place.

Since 1932, a publicly owned body, now known as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, created to develop a national service, has worked with the private or independent station-owner to establish this service. A more recent addition (1958) is the Board of Broadcast Governors, which consists of three full-time members including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and 12 part-time members; the function of the Board is to "regulate the establishment and operation of networks of broadcasting stations, the activities of public and private broadcasting stations in Canada and the relationship between them, and provide for the final determination of all matters and questions in relation thereto". (See also pp. 827-828.) The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation consists of a president and a vice-president and nine other directors appointed by the Governor in Council. It is accountable to Parliament through a Cabinet Minister designated by the Governor in Council and is empowered to establish and maintain program networks and stations. (See also pp. 842-846.)

The Broadcasting Act also requires that, before dealing with any application for a licence to establish a broadcasting station (private or public) or for an increase in power, change of frequency or change of location of a broadcasting station, the Minister of Transport must receive a recommendation from the Board of Broadcast Governors. The same

* Textual information in this Subsection was revised by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Board of Broadcast Governors and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters: statistical data were prepared by the Public Finance and Transportation Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.