

Each year Canadians place some 2.5 million overseas telephone calls. For a basic monthly charge, which gives them access to the system, most telephone users can place as many calls as they wish in a defined area and talk as long as they like. Originally, flat-rate local service in Canada was restricted to the area served by the customer's own exchange. The expansion of major cities and the merging of small towns created larger communities, bringing demand for more extensive flat-rate calling areas. As a result, most telephone companies have introduced Extended Area Service, which enables customers to place calls in a much wider area without paying long distance rates. For this increased service the customer pays a slightly higher monthly fee, based on the number of telephones within his extended area. Customer response is evidenced by continuing increases in the use of the telephone.

Ownerships and regulatory modes of Canada's telecommunications carriers vary. The majority of telephones in Canada are owned and operated by investor-owned companies such as Bell Canada, the British Columbia Telephone Company, Québec-Téléphone and Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company Limited.

The New Brunswick Telephone Company, Limited, The Island Telephone Company Limited, Newfoundland Telephone Company Limited, Northern Telephone Limited, Téléphone du Nord de Québec Inc., Télébec Ltée and Okanagan Telephone Company are subsidiaries of investor-owned telephone companies.

Alberta Government Telephones, the Manitoba Telephone System and Saskatchewan Telecommunications are provincially owned corporations. Ontario Northland Communications, a division of Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, a provincially owned corporation, provides telephone and telegraph services in the northeastern part of Ontario. Thunder Bay Telephone Department and Edmonton telephones are the country's two largest municipal systems.

Many of the smaller telephone companies are grouped together in the Canadian Independent Telephone Association. Canadian National Telecommunications and Teleglobe Canada are federal Crown corporations.

16.1.1.2 Record communications

Public message. Canada's public message-telegram-service is provided by CNCP Telecommunications. A joint venture of the telecommunications departments of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways, CNCP offers public message service in all provinces of Canada and in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. Messages can be forwarded or received from any point in Canada or throughout the world via cable and satellite facilities of Teleglobe Canada.

There has been a gradual decline in public message volumes and a correspondingly progressive growth in Telex and Teletypewriter Exchange Service (TWX). Nevertheless, the service continues to cater to transactions of messages related to business and social activities for users who are not on Telex or TWX.

A unique characteristic of the public message service in Canada is that the majority of the users file messages at telegraph offices via telephone and Telex. Relatively few telegrams are filed in person at the counter.

Telex and TWX. Each year some 2.5 million Telex and TWX messages and some 1.5 million telegrams to overseas points are switched through the facilities of Teleglobe Canada; the total world-wide complex provides access to more than 500,000 TWX and Telex subscribers.

Telex, the first North American dial-and-type teleprinter service, was introduced in Canada in 1957. Since then, it has grown to more than 30,000 customers and 160 exchanges throughout the country. It interconnects with Telex networks in the United States and Alaska, and with networks throughout the world.

TWX has some 4,600 subscribers in Canada who have the capability to reach another 40,000 users in the United States. TWX subscribers connect with overseas customers through International Telex, provided by Teleglobe Canada.

Telex and TWX are now considered universal services, available to some 180 countries, 70 of them linked to Teleglobe Canada's Comtex, a computer-controlled exchange permitting subscriber-to-subscriber dialing without the assistance of an operator. Computerized switching integrates the Canadian domestic Telex and TWX networks with the overseas network, handling more than 4,000 messages an hour.