Service (TWX). Nevertheless, the service continues on behalf of users who are not on Telex or TWX. Telepost, introduced in 1975, is a service provided jointly by CNCP and Canada Post by which messages are transmitted electronically via CNCP facilities and delivered by Canada Post on the next scheduled delivery.

A unique characteristic of the public message service 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 900,000 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 35,000 customers and 160 exchanges throughout the country. It interconnects with Telex and TWX networks in the United States and Alaska, and with networks throughout the world.

TWX has some 6,000 subscribers in Canada who have the capability to reach another 40,000 TWX users in the United States and, through an agreement between TCTS and Western Union Telegraph Company, with 55,000 US Telex users. TWX subscribers connect with overseas customers through International Telex, provided by Teleglobe Canada.

Telex and TWX are now considered universal services, available to some 200 countries and territories, almost half of which are linked to Teleglobe Canada's ELTEX, 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.

Private wire teletype systems. Although private wire services are still significant in the telecommunications industry, the prime communications users are replacing their private wire systems with computer-controlled store-and-forward systems, or by Telex and TWX.

Data communications   16.1.1.3

Member companies of the Trans-Canada Telephone System and CNCP Telecommunications offer a wide selection of data communications services, making available instant information that is vital to the activities of a modern industrial country.

In business, industry, government and education, information systems have become a basic tool. In most cases, the heart of the system is a computer, required to handle vast amounts of information. The telecommunications links make the computer's stored information available anywhere in Canada, or around the world. Typically a computer communications system consists of a central computer, a number of terminals to access the computer and transmission facilities to link the computer and the terminals. The telecommunications carriers provide terminals, communications processing and communications facilities. A wide range of terminals is provided by many of the carriers: teletype terminals that can be used for computer access, cathode ray tube terminals that display information on a screen and a variety of more specialized machines. Customers may also use their own terminal equipment.

To transmit the data, a number of different systems may be used. Many customers have private-line networks linking their scattered locations. Others employ pay-as-you-use data transmission services. A wide range of transmission speeds is available from less than 100 words a minute up to the equivalent of 50,000 words a minute.

A significant development in data communications was the introduction of digital transmission networks in early 1973, the first nation-wide commercial digital systems in the world. Digital transmission permits reduced costs by more