

CN Telecommunications covers an area that runs north through British Columbia from Fort St. John and includes all of the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories west of longitude 102°. Bell Canada serves points east to, and including, northwestern Ontario and from the Quebec border east. Ontario Northland Communications serves northeastern Ontario.

Within the vast expanses of the North, both CNT and Bell Canada automatic telephone exchanges are connected to the Canadian networks, through them to the North American networks and through Teleglobe Canada to overseas networks. Tropospheric scatter and the domestic satellite systems are used to penetrate the heart of the Arctic and connect to the North American continental telecommunications network. It is also possible to communicate within the coverage area through HF equipment with mining camps, oil and gas exploration sites, construction camps, outposts and other centres.

The basic network of satellite, microwave, radio and land line facilities together with the switched telephone and telegraph networks can be expanded to meet the growing needs in those areas for some time to come.

Telephone and telegraph statistics

16.1.2

Telephone statistics. In 1975 Canada had an estimated 860 telephone systems compared to 937 in 1974; of these, 850 filed returns with Statistics Canada compared to 904 in 1974 (Table 16.1). Although the number of cooperative systems declined from 815 in 1974 to 737 in 1975, growth in the telephone industry was particularly evident in the large telephone companies. The largest incorporated telephone company, Bell Canada, operates in Ontario, Quebec and the Northwest Territories. In 1975 it owned and operated 7.9 million of the approximately 13.2 million telephones in Canada. The BC Telephone Company, also owned by shareholders, operated 1.5 million of the total telephones in 1975.

Table 16.2 shows the distribution of telephones by province in 1974 and 1975. Of the 1975 total, 70.2% or 9.2 million were residential telephones and 3.9 million were business telephones. Alberta had the most telephones per 100 population with 62.4, followed by Ontario at 61.4 and British Columbia at 59.9. As Table 16.3 shows, each Canadian averaged 914 calls in 1974 and 922 in 1975.

Table 16.4 shows the capitalization, revenue and expenditure of telephone companies together with the number of employees, salaries and wages paid for the years 1970-75. Provincial figures for 1974 and 1975 are given in Table 16.5.

Telecommunications statistics. Nine telecommunications companies operated in Canada during 1974. This was the second year of commercial operations of Telesat Canada which added over \$28 million in revenue to the operation of commercial telecommunications carriers. The operating revenues of telecommunications companies increased from \$190.7 million in 1973 to \$230.1 million in 1974 or 20.7% while expenses for the same period increased from \$140.1 million to \$172.6 million or 23.2% (Table 16.6). The property and equipment for these nine telecommunications companies increased by \$66.7 million to \$856.0 million in 1974, from \$789.3 million in 1973. These figures include the investment in property and equipment by Telesat Canada, which in 1974 was reported at \$108.8 million.

Federal regulations and services

16.1.3

The Department of Communications. The department, established in April 1969, is responsible for ensuring that all Canadians obtain the best possible access to a rapidly expanding range of communications services. Fulfilling this task involves not only technological research and planning, but also exploration of the complex social, human and economic issues which result from changing patterns of communications. The department protects Canadian interests in the realm of international telecommunications and manages the radio frequency spectrum to permit the development and growth of radio communications.