

Sea. A number of Canada–United States conventions and agreements are also in effect: the Convention for the Promotion of Safety on the Great Lakes by means of Radio; the convention relating to the operation, by citizens of either country, of certain radio equipment or stations in the other country; the agreement relating to the coordination and use of radio frequencies above 30 Megahertz; the television and FM agreements; and the agreement relating to the operation in either country of radiotelephone stations licensed in the Citizens Radio Service of the United States and the General Radio Service of Canada. In addition, Canada is a party to the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement.

**The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).** Under the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Act the CRTC also regulates all federally regulated broadcast undertakings in Canada. The CRTC issues broadcasting licences under the Broadcasting Act of 1968. However, licences are not issued unless the Minister of Communications certifies to the commission that the applicant has satisfied the requirements of the Radio Act and Regulations, and has been or will be issued a technical construction and operating certificate under that act. Broadcasting undertakings include radio (AM and FM) and television broadcasting stations, community antenna television (CATV) systems, and network operations. The technical rules and procedures for the allocation of frequency channels and installation and technical operation of broadcasting station facilities are set forth in the department's *Broadcasting procedures and radio standards specifications*. These documents form the basis for determining the acceptability of applications for technical construction and operating certificates and for the control of the technical operation of broadcasting undertakings. The availability of the technical facilities for broadcasting is subject to the terms of the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement, the Canada–US Television Agreement and the Canada–US FM Agreements. The CRTC also regulates the tariffs of telephone and telegraph companies incorporated under federal legislation.

International telegraph and telephone communications are subject to the International Telecommunication Convention and its regulations or regional agreements, or both. Overseas cables landed in Canada are subject to the External Submarine Cables Regulations under the Telegraphs Act.

**Licensing and regulating of radiocommunications.** Licensing is the federal government's method of maintaining control over radiocommunications in Canada. Under the Radio Act, radio stations (other than those used in broadcasting undertakings) employing any form of Hertzian wave transmission, including television and radar, must be licensed by the Department of Communications, unless exempted by regulation. The following general radio regulations provide for six classes of radio station licence: coast, land, mobile, ship, earth and space. Various categories of service may be authorized under each of these classes, e.g. public commercial service, private commercial service, amateur, experimental.

The number of radio station licences in force in the year ended March 31, 1976 was 515,222 compared with 395,614 for the previous year. These figures include stations operated by federal, provincial and municipal government departments and agencies, stations on ships and aircraft registered in Canada and stations in land vehicles operated for both public and private purposes, but they do not include stations in the broadcasting service. Licensing activities during the year ended March 31, 1976 include: authorizations 57,723, licence amendments 98,881, cancellations 25,620, total licences in force 515,222, and net increase in licences 119,608.

A large part of the 30% increase in radio station licences over the previous year was because of the phenomenon of Citizen's Band radio, officially known in Canada as General Radio Service (GRS). More than 200,000 Canadians hold GRS licences, and the figure is increasing rapidly.