

Civil aviation

15.5

Administration and policy

15.5.1

Administration. Civil aviation in Canada is under the jurisdiction of the federal government and is administered under the authority of the Aeronautics Act and the National Transportation Act. The first part of the Aeronautics Act deals with the technical side of civil aviation, including matters of aircraft registration, licensing of personnel, establishing and maintaining airports and facilities for air navigation, air traffic control, accident investigation and the safe operation of aircraft; it is administered by the Canadian Air Transportation Administration. The second part deals with the economic aspects of commercial air services and gives the Canadian Transport Commission certain regulatory functions in commercial air services. The third part deals with matters of internal administration.

Federal civil aviation policy. Domestically, the role of the regional carriers and their relationship with the main line carriers (Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Air Lines) remained basically unchanged from 1966. Regional carriers provided regular route operations into the North and operated local or regional routes to supplement the domestic main line operations of Air Canada and CP Air. They had greater scope in developing routes and services. In 1969 the transport minister defined more precisely the regions in which each of the five regional carriers would be permitted to supplement, or authorized to replace, main line operations.

The relative roles of Air Canada and CP Air in the domestic sphere were defined in the transcontinental policy of 1967. These were based on a formula that would maintain Air Canada's pre-eminence on transcontinental services, on the assumption that the carrier might from time to time be called on to perform special services not necessarily in its commercial best interests. In 1973 their international role was defined. The policy assigned specific areas and countries to Air Canada and CP Air which they would serve once bilateral agreements had been satisfactorily concluded. This division was aimed at assisting the airlines in long-range planning for both passenger and cargo services.

The development of air policy continues, with a new focus on the question of third level or local air carriers, whose scope of operation is increasing rapidly.

Canada's position in aviation as well as its geographical location makes it imperative to co-operate with other nations engaged in international civil aviation. Canada therefore played a major part in the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) which has its headquarters in Montreal. By the end of 1977, Canada had bilateral agreements with 32 other countries.

Airports. Transport Canada owns 160 airports in Canada including such major international airports as Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal (2), Halifax and Gander. Of these, 90 are operated by the department and the rest by municipalities and other organizations. Municipal airports, served by scheduled air service, are eligible to receive an operating subsidy from the department, which also assists in the construction of smaller community airports through capital grants.

Air traffic control. The primary functions of air traffic control in Transport Canada are to prevent collisions between aircraft operating within controlled airspace and between aircraft and obstructions in the manoeuvring area of controlled airports; and to expedite and maintain a safe, orderly flow of air traffic. These functions are carried out by controllers in airport control towers, terminal control units and area control centres.

The airspace reservation co-ordination office provides reserved airspace for specified operations within controlled airspace and information to other pilots concerning these reservations and military activity areas in controlled and uncontrolled airspace. The office, in Ottawa, provides the service in all Canadian airspace and in the Gander oceanic control area.

Telecommunications and electronics. The Canadian Air Transportation Administration (CATA) also provides telecommunications electronics and flight service to other