

There was no major expansion of the metropolitan bus system operated by BC Hydro, but Richmond bus services were reorganized. Ongoing adjustments were made in the capital region by BC Hydro and by Vancouver Island Transit Ltd., resulting in improved service.

To establish small city transit services a municipality passes a transit enabling bylaw and petitions the province for service. Once approved, the transit services division staff work with local planners to design routes and set service standards. In situations where local government does not operate buses, a purchase-of-service contract is put to open tender and awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. This firm is then provided with buses from the provincial fleet under a lease that controls their use and maintenance. Planning, timetables, bus stop signs, publicity and marketing are provided by the transit services division in conjunction with the municipality. Thus each city has considerable local input, while buses, bus stop signs and timetables throughout the province have identical colours and designs.

Three major service expansions took place in 1977. The bus systems in Trail, Maple Ridge, Penticton and Kamloops were studied, service was improved and productivity increased.

Transit service opened in Kelowna in July 1977, with expansion in bus services in the built-up area of the city. A new bus system in Prince Rupert began operation in August 1977, with three new buses from the provincial fleet. Providing a uniform fleet of vehicles for operations around British Columbia permits economies of volume purchasing, ensures standardization of mechanical elements and offers a consistent quality of service to the public. Transit services division provides technical backup to the operators of small city systems and maintains an inventory of essential parts. Field checks assure that vehicles are well maintained. No new vehicles were ordered in 1977 by the ministry, but BC Hydro acquired 30 diesel buses. The fleet owned by both the ministry and BC Hydro in December 1977 totalled 1,308 units.

Sources

- 15.1.1 Transportation and Communications Division, Industry Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.
- 15.1.2 Canadian Transport Commission, Public Affairs, Department of Transport.
- 15.2 Transportation and Communications Division, Industry Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.
- 15.2.1 Canadian Transport Commission.
- 15.2.2 Transportation and Communications Division, Industry Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.
- 15.3.1 Public Affairs, Department of Transport.
- 15.3.2 Supplied by respective provincial and territorial governments.
- 15.3.3 Transportation and Communications Division, Industry Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.
- 15.4 - 15.4.1 Public Affairs, Department of Transport; Transportation and Communications Division, Industry Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.
- 15.4.2 Public Affairs, Department of Transport; National Harbours Board.
- 15.4.3 The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority.
- 15.4.4 - 15.5.1 Public Affairs, Department of Transport.
- 15.5.2 Canadian Transport Commission and the respective airlines.
- 15.5.3 Transportation and Communications Division, Industry Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.
- 15.6 Public Affairs, Department of Transport and the respective provincial governments.