

Because of Canada's position in aviation and its geographical location, co-operation with other nations engaged in international civil aviation is essential. Canada therefore played a major part in the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with headquarters in Montreal. By the end of 1978, Canada had bilateral agreements with 35 other countries.

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

**Air traffic control.** The primary functions of air traffic control are to prevent collisions between aircraft operating within controlled airspace or 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 in Ottawa 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. This applies to all Canadian airspace and the Gander oceanic control area.

**Telecommunications and electronics.** The Canadian Air Transportation Administration (CATA) also provides telecommunications electronics and flight service to other components of the department, to other departments and agencies and to civil aviation users in Canada. The branch prepares specifications, designs telecommunications and electronics systems, and procures electronic equipment and systems employed in civil aviation in Canada, and also maintains this highly complex electronic equipment.

Flight service specialists are employed at 113 flight service (radio) stations in Canada. They are responsible for pre-flight weather briefings, flight planning, monitoring of sophisticated aids to navigation, broadcast services, and airport advisory services to aircraft. During a year, this activity involves approximately one million flight plans, 1.6 million air-ground communications and more than 1.5 million landings and take-offs of aircraft at Canadian airports that have no control towers.

**Airworthiness.** To comply with a 1970 CATA policy decision, the airworthiness division of civil aeronautics validates the airworthiness certification of all foreign and domestic manufactured aircraft and components before it issues a type approval or a certificate of airworthiness. It also ensures that manufacturers and repair organizations comply with Canadian airworthiness standards.

### 15.5.2 Commercial air services

The Canadian flag carriers operating international and domestic air routes are Air Canada, CP Air, Pacific Western Airlines and Nordair Ltd., which together in 1977 earned 76% of the total operating revenues of Canadian commercial air carriers. The five regional carriers (Eastern Provincial Airways, Nordair, Quebecair, Pacific Western Airlines and Transair) earned 14% of the total operating revenues. This includes 8% of the total operating revenues earned by Pacific Western Airlines and Nordair which are also included as flag carriers. The remaining 18% was earned by some 600 smaller airlines, many of them operating in areas of Canada which are relatively inaccessible by surface transport. On international routes, the Canadian flag carriers are authorized to provide scheduled services to Europe, the Soviet Union, Japan and Hong Kong, Mexico and South America, Panama, Morocco, the Caribbean, Australia, the United States (including Hawaii), People's Republic of China and Fiji. There are 36 foreign airlines which are authorized to operate scheduled services between Canada and other countries.

The Canadian Transport Commission (air transport committee), in its directory of Canadian commercial air services, classifies commercial air carriers in two major groups, domestic and international.