

## CHAPTER 13

# TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is a vital element in the social and economic structure of Canada. Although the country is second-largest in physical size in the world it is only 28th in population size. Most of the population is concentrated near the southern border, therefore, transportation routes are almost entirely linear. Establishment of the more economic circular routes common in the United States is possible only on a regional basis in Canada. Nevertheless, good transportation services and facilities must be provided to remote areas including the Arctic.

Development of efficient transportation systems in Canada is further hampered by problems inherent in geography and climate. Vast areas of muskeg north of Lake Superior, the rocky terrain of the Precambrian Shield and the paucity of passes through the Rocky Mountains pose difficult problems for the builders of railways and highways. The frequent temperature changes from severe cold to thaw which are characteristic of Canadian winters break up road surfaces prematurely. Removal of snow, not only from roads but also from airport runways and railway and subway tracks, is a costly winter necessity.

### 13.1 Regulation and co-ordination

Regulation and control of transportation is under the jurisdiction of Transport Canada, the Canadian Transport Commission (CTC) and their provincial counterparts. In general, Transport Canada co-ordinates transportation activities under federal jurisdiction, sets safety standards, provides infrastructure and controls navigation. The CTC licenses and regulates commercial carriers. Both monitor and develop aspects of national transportation policy. Since their roles vary from mode to mode, their powers are described under each mode.

#### 13.1.1 Rail

Under the Railway Act, the CTC, through its railway transport committee, has jurisdiction over construction, maintenance and operation

of railways that are subject to the legislative authority of Parliament. In general all railways operating in more than one province or territory, and US railroads extending into Canada, are under federal jurisdiction. Matters regulated by the CTC include location of lines, crossings and crossing protection, safety of train operation, operating rules, investigation of accidents, accommodation for traffic and facilities for service, abandonment of lines and uniformity of railway accounting.

Transport Canada is involved in the provision and support of rail passenger and freight services. The department provides funding and policy direction to VIA Rail Canada Inc. which operates intercity passenger services over Canadian National and Canadian Pacific lines. Involvement in freight services is concentrated on grain transportation, through the provision of hopper cars and terminal facilities, and the rehabilitation of prairie branch lines.

#### 13.1.2 Air

Under the Aeronautics Act, the CTC, through its air transport committee, is responsible for the economic regulation of commercial air services in Canada and abroad and of foreign air services operating into and out of Canada, and participates in bilateral negotiations for the exchange of traffic rights. Regulations deal with classification of carriers and services, licences, tariffs, service schedules, routes and base of operations, and statistical reporting.

The technical side of civil aviation under the Aeronautics Act deals with such matters as aircraft registration, licensing of personnel, establishment and maintenance of airports and air navigation facilities, air traffic control, accident investigation and the safe operation of aircraft. This technical side of civil aviation was administered by the Canadian Air Transport Administration (CATA) of Transport Canada until the beginning of 1986 when Transport Canada underwent reorganization. At that time, CATA was split into two groups, designated as the aviation group and the airports authority group.