

CHAPTER 14

COMMUNICATIONS

Numerous elements in the lives of Canadians are shaped and reshaped by the remarkable progress of science and technology. Work, leisure and educational, health care and social services are all influenced by the technical revolution, a revolution propelled by the convergence of two of the most powerful technological forces in the world today: telecommunications and information technology.

New applications of combined computer/communications technologies are changing Canada's workplaces. "Information workers", who create, process, store, distribute, analyze and otherwise handle information, comprise a major portion of Canada's workforce. Automated

tellers, point of sales terminals and inventory control systems have provided numerous conveniences.

Canada's strength as a world leader in telecommunications provides a solid basis for realizing countless applications of innovative technologies, and the country's excellent telecommunications system, its "electronic highway" for moving information, keeps pace with new technologies and incorporates new services as they become available.

In the current "information age", knowledge and information resources underlie economic, social and cultural prosperity — resources to be fostered and applied in solving such challenges

Chart 14.1

Canadian households with and without telephones

