

Communications and the Secretary of State and administered by the latter, works through 13 native communications societies to support the production of television and radio programs by aboriginal peoples in their own languages. In 1986, over 500 hours of native-language television and 16,000 hours of radio were produced with the assistance of the program. Native residents enjoyed programming in 27 of the native languages, which total approximately 30.

Another mainstay of northern broadcasting is CANCOM, the private Canadian broadcast satellite service. In addition to delivering eight television and seven radio channels from the South to remote and under-served areas, it also offers three radio services that originate in the North, one in English and two in native languages.

Extension of other services in the 1980s. Ethnic broadcasting is assuming a greater presence within the Canadian radio and television broadcasting systems. For the hearing-impaired, sign-language reporting has been introduced into CBC news reports and into parliamentary coverage. In addition, closed captioned subtitling is available on an increasing number of programs with the assistance of the Department of Communications. Alphanumeric news and weather services and advertising channels are available on most cable networks.

Task force on broadcasting. In 1985, the Minister of Communications announced a fundamental review of Canada's broadcasting policy. As a first step, the government created a task force to develop recommendations for an industrial and cultural strategy to guide the evolution of the broadcasting system. It examined the roles, mandates and relationships among public and private broadcasters. The task force also assessed the role of policy instruments such as regulation and public funding, and investigated means for reducing structural impediments to the broadcasting system's contribution to Canadian life.

The *Report of the Task Force on Broadcasting* was released in September 1986. Extensive consultations and study by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Communications and Culture followed.

14.4 Postal service

Canada Post, formerly a department of government, was set up as a Crown corporation by the Canada Post Corporation Act, passed by the House of Commons on April 14, 1981. The corporation officially commenced operations on October 16, 1981, with the formal proclamation of the act.

Canada Post delivers mail to 10 million homes and businesses across Canada, a process that involves about 60,000 employees and 8,200 retail outlets located in more than 6,000 communities. The corporation has total revenues of about \$2.7 billion and pays out about \$2 billion annually in wages and benefits to its employees.

14.4.1 Products and services

Canada Post provides eight basic services:

Premium and standard mail. First class mail, the basic postal service for letters, postcards, bills, receipts and similar messages.

Publishers' mailings. Second class mail, for newspapers and periodicals.

Admail. Both addressed and unaddressed third class mail, the bulk mailing of advertising material which makes direct mail marketing widely available.

Parcel post. A national distribution service for parcels between 500 g and 30 kg in weight. Parcels are either first or fourth class mail.

Priority post. A courier service offering next-day delivery between major Canadian centres, and linking with other countries having similar service.

Electronic mail. Telepost enables the public to send messages electronically via phone, telex, or any telegraph office for delivery by mail to any address in Canada or the United States in hard-copy written form. Intelpost electronically transmits facsimilies of documents between specially equipped post offices in Canada as well as to certain overseas cities. EnvoyPost enables subscribers of the Envoy 100 service of Telecom Canada to reach any address in Canada by using the mail-delivery system.

Special services. Business reply cards, registered mail, special delivery, money packets, insurance, money orders, certified mail and C.O.D.

Philatelic services. Each year more than a dozen new stamps are issued by Canada Post and are sold, together with a variety of related products, by mail or from philatelic counters in post offices and other locations.

Many post offices also serve as distribution outlets for government forms, such as applications for passports, family allowances, old-age security pensions and income tax returns.

14.5 Newspapers and periodicals

14.5.1 Daily newspapers

Daily newspapers published in Canada in 1985 numbered 115, counting morning and evening editions. Combined circulation was over 5.6