

Electronic Office Services: A message service providing computer-based features such as time rescheduling, text editing, and access to on-line data banks and telex/teletex services.

Other services include electronic message and mail services such as Telepost, Globefax, Intelpost, Envoy Post, EnvoyCourier and infotex.

14.1.5 International telecommunications

While Canadian telecommunications networks (carrying telephone, data and video signals) interconnect with United States' networks to reach the rest of North America, overseas connections by submarine cables (both copper and fibre-optic) and by satellite networks are provided by Canada's international carrier, Teleglobe Canada.

Established as a Crown corporation in 1949, Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation, renamed Teleglobe Canada in 1975, operates international gateways or interconnection switching centres in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Teleglobe also owns cable stations in Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Hawaii, and earth stations that tie Canada into the international satellite communications system in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. Teleglobe Canada is a major partner in TAT-9, the large capacity transatlantic fibre-optic cable that will connect Canada and the United States with England, France and Spain, beginning in 1991.

A temporary Teleglobe Canada earth station, installed in Calgary, Alta. in 1988, was used to transmit radio and television coverage of the Winter Olympics to countries around the world.

Teleglobe Canada is the country's official representative in international bodies such as INTELSAT and INMARSAT, which maintain and operate a highly sophisticated, globe-girdling international communications network.

Legislation for the sale of Teleglobe to the private sector was introduced in 1987; Teleglobe was sold and ceased to be a Crown corporation.

14.1.6 Telecommunications policy and regulation

Regulatory power over the Canadian telecommunications industry is split between the federal and provincial governments. Federal regulatory control is vested in the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) which is responsible for regulating carriers such as Bell Canada, British Columbia Telephone and Telesat. The primary responsibility of the CRTC is to ensure that the rates charged for telecommunications services are just and reasonable and serve the public interest.

In recent years, technological and economic pressures have forced the CRTC and the federal government to deregulate many segments of the industry such as telephone sets and computer terminals. The CRTC, in conjunction with provincial governments, is currently studying the impact of introducing competition in long-distance telephone service.

14.2 The broadcasting system

Canada's broadcasting system evolved to meet the needs of a comparatively dispersed, multi-cultural population in a vast country. Broadcast service planners have worked to ensure adequate broadcasting services for all Canadians, including those living in the remotest reaches of the country, and to make it possible for broadcasters to offer a rich choice of excellent programming.

Early years. The first Canadian radio broadcast took place in 1919. By 1923, Canadian National Railways, which was publicly owned, began a Canadian programming radio service. This network had grown to 15 stations by 1932, when a national broadcast agency, the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (CRBC), was created which took over and further developed the Canadian National Railways service. In 1936, the Crown corporation, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), was established by an Act of Parliament, and absorbed CRBC staff and stations. CBC built up a national radio network that reached 76% of the country's population by 1937. By 1959, it reached 97% of the population. In the early 1960s, CBC's FM radio service was established.

Television broadcasting made its debut in Canada in 1952. The CBC began constructing its national television network and private television stations spread across the country. In 1958, Canada's first coast-to-coast live television production travelled via the CBC's newly completed microwave network, stretching from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. Canada's first private television network, CTV, began broadcasting in 1961.

Cable television. During the very early 1950s, television and radio signals were broadcast over the airwaves from broadcaster transmitters to viewer antennas. Cable transmission technology developed rapidly and allowed operators to improve service by redistributing high-quality, reliable signals over copper wire cables. By 1954, two years after TV's debut in Canada, operators had set up cable television services in London, Guelph and Kirkland Lake in Ontario, in Grand-Mère, Asbestos, Amos and Magog in Quebec, and in Vancouver, BC.