

# Canada Weekly

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## **Anik C-3 most advanced communications satellite launched**

Telesat Canada's *Anik C-3*, considered to be the most powerful and sophisticated domestic communications satellite in the world, was successfully ejected into space on November 12, from the US space shuttle *Columbia* owned by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The Canadian satellite was one of two commercial payloads deployed from *Columbia* by astronauts Joseph P. Allen and William B. Lenoir.

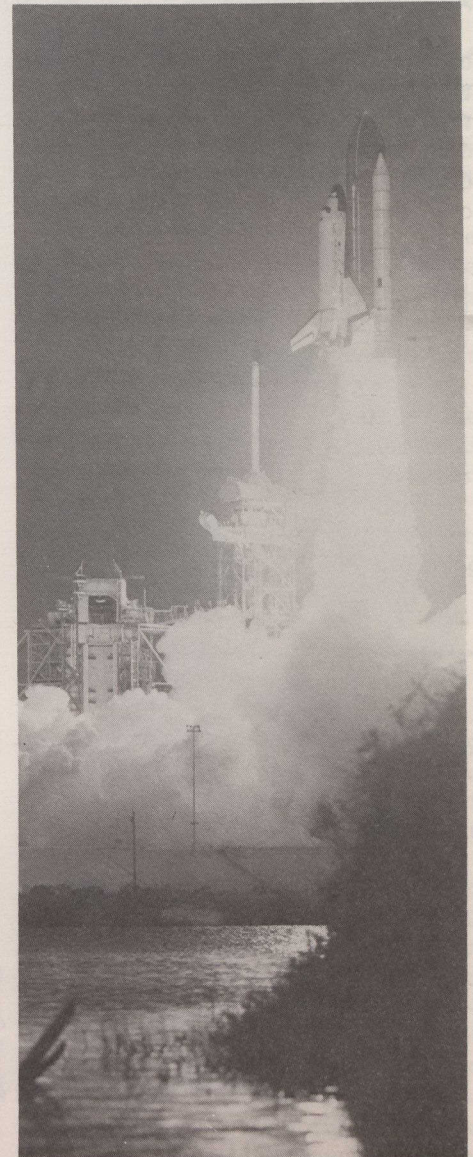
*Anik C-3* is the first of a trio of advanced satellites which will introduce new kinds of broadcasting, business and other satellite communication services to Canadians, using new technology in both spacecraft and earth station design. It will enter commercial service in January 1983 and will be the most powerful communications satellite available to North Americans until at least the middle of the decade.

The satellites are owned by the Canadian commercial satellite communications corporation, Telesat Canada, which is controlled equally by the federal government and major telephone and telegraph companies. The agency's mandate is to establish satellite communications systems on a commercial basis to provide telecommunications services between locations in Canada and elsewhere.

### **Pay-TV services**

The *Anik C* satellites will provide "roof-top-to-rooftop" transmission of integrated voice, video and data communications for Canadian businesses, carry newly-licensed Canadian pay-TV and other broadcasting services and generally help to meet Canada's growing needs for efficient, flexible and reliable satellite communications of many kinds.

The launch of *Anik C-3* all went according to plan with NASA astronauts aboard *Columbia* — commander Vance D. Brand; pilot Robert F. Overmyer; and mission specialists William B. Lenoir and Joseph P. Allen. The astronauts were in Ottawa prior to the launch to discuss



*Columbia, with Canada's Anik C-3 aboard, roars off the launch pad.*

details of the mission and related matters, and to visit Telesat Canada's control centres.

### **Launch pattern**

Prior to the release of *Anik C-3* into space, Robert Overmyer moved *Columbia* into a

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



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