

The extension of telephone services to rural areas will continue with an investment of C\$695 million. Rural telephone use is projected to increase by 12% annually, while the number of rural pay-phones will increase at an average of 20% a year. A five-year national information systems development program has been announced, which would involve the computerization of 125 district agencies.

Most analysts agree that the real winners of the NTP are the support industries, both domestic and foreign. The NTP encourages the development of local telecommunications components and this is backed up by fiscal and export incentives. The need for foreign participation, in particular technology transfer, is recognized by both the government and existing major players.