

Microbuses have been replaced by minibuses by renewing concession contracts on a two-for-one basis. The city is now licensing larger buses that take 39 to 41 passengers on premium-fare routes. This is an attempt to provide incentives for better-quality and safer buses, and also to introduce "cross-town" routes without the need to transfer.

The federal government recently announced that *Ferrocarriles Nacionales de México (FNM)*, the Mexican National Railway, is open to an accelerated privatization program. The *FNM* maintenance operations in Monterrey have already been privatized, and concessions for inter-city routes are the next phase. *Ingeniería y Maquinaria Tao*, based in Durango, has applied for a concession to take over more than 1,000 kilometres of *FNM* routes, running from Tamaulipas through Nuevo León and Coahuila, and connecting to Texas and the Pacific Coast. An unnamed Canadian company is reportedly a partner in this venture.

SELECTED CANADIAN COMPANIES ACTIVE IN NUEVO LEÓN

Northern Telecom de México	Produces connectors, telephone handsets and telephone cables.
Trimex International	Joint venture with <i>Constructora Promesa</i> to construct low-cost housing using Canadian interlocking brick technology and steel frame/panel construction.
Pro-Eco Limited	An office in Monterrey is promoting Canadian steelmaking technology, including facilities for galvanizing, cold-rolled finishing and paint lines.
Tecsult International	Consultant to the City of Monterrey regarding urban development plans.
Waste Water Technology Centre	A strategic alliance with <i>Cóndor</i> , and a new company, <i>Environmental Solutions de México</i> , which is promoting Canadian environmental technologies.
Labatt Breweries	Purchased 22 percent of <i>Cervecería Cuauhtémoc</i> and will co-market the two companies' products in Canada, Mexico and the United States.
Thomas Cook	A joint venture between Canadian and Mexican companies provides exclusive travel management services to <i>Cementos Mexicanos (Cemex)</i> .
Groupe Cerveau Inc.	Joint venture with <i>Telekra</i> to market Canadian voice-mail technology.
TV-5, Montreal	Will broadcast TV-5 programming in northern Mexico in association with <i>Televisión Internacional</i> .
Premdor	A joint venture called <i>Multipanel</i> , in partnership with <i>Grupo IMSA</i> , which will manufacture metal and wooden doors in Apodaca.