

Foreword

Telecommunications, a recognized element of the development process, improves efficiency and productivity in other sectors such as agriculture and transport, while simultaneously enhancing our quality of life. To be most effective the telecommunications network must be widely available both in terms of geographic distribution and low user cost.

Canadians understand these imperatives. By applying advanced but proven technologies to extend telecommunications service into the rural environment, they have successfully met these challenges, not only at home but in many countries throughout the world.

This booklet is offered as a guide for planners and engineers who are developing rural telecommunications projects. It outlines the steps and addresses the issues critical to planning in this vital sector. For ease of reference, all the figures mentioned in the various steps, as well as the glossaries for abbreviations and terms, have been placed in the appendices.

Inspiration and information for this guide have been derived from many sources in Canada and in the international community, specifically from telephone administrations in Africa and Asia. Although these sources are too numerous to acknowledge individually, this guide is dedicated to their collective vision of universal global telecommunications service.