

and on the Nelson River at Jenpeg, Kelsey, Kettle and Long Source. The Kelsey plant serves the INCO nickel facility at Thompson.

In northern Manitoba there are a number of potential sites for hydro-electric power stations. Their ultimate development will depend on increases in demand for electricity.

Approximately 65,000 km of transmission and distribution lines carry power to more than 800 Manitoban communities. The province's power grid is also connected to those in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Ontario and in the United States.

#### *Transportation and communications*

In the early days of the Red River Colony, settlers and fur traders relied on the rivers and lakes for transportation. In time, a sophisticated communications system was developed. Today, there are nearly 12,000 km of highways in Manitoba and the province is served by more than three dozen commercial air carriers.

But the backbone of the province's transportation system remains the railway. Both of Canada's transcontinental railways, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP), have extensive holdings in Manitoba. They have a combined total of more than 7,800 km of main and branch-line track and do major repair work on railway engines and passenger and freight cars.

Winnipeg is the major shipping and redistribution centre for goods coming into or leaving western Canada by rail. Its freight yards are among the most modern of their kind in the world. CN and CP not only provide the province with a vital transportation service, but inject hundreds of millions of dollars into the Manitoba economy every year.

Manitoba's port at Churchill on Hudson Bay handles 20 million bushels of grain exports every year. This grain is shipped to Europe during the ice-free months of August, September and October.

There are numerous broadcasting concerns in the province: six television stations, 30 rebroadcasting stations and three cable stations. These are joined by the services provided by 25 AM and FM radio stations and some 35 relay stations scattered around the province. Many of these rebroadcasting and relay stations are located in the north.

There are more than 650,000 telephones in Manitoba and Manitobans make 1.3 billion local telephone calls and approximately 45 million long-distance calls annually. The Manitoba Telephone System is publicly owned.

Three microwave radio networks link northern with southern Manitoba and bring television, radio and long-distance services to northern communities.