

And Communications Theme



Parliament Hill, Ottawa – Site of July 1 Celebrations.

low-powered stations linked to a public-switched telephone network and is able to increase telephone service to several hundred times more subscribers than conventional systems.

Canada's domestic communications satellite system has given Canadians in the most far-flung reaches of the country access to advanced telecommunications and broadcasting services. Satellites are used for improved voice, data, facsimile, radio and television transmission, for new services such as pay-television, teleconferencing, tele-education (students and teachers thousands of kilometres apart communicating with one another via satellite) and telehealth (use of satellite communications to extend health services to remote communities).

Cross-Canada communications will play an important role in the celebration of Canada Day. This year a special simultaneous broadcast will link the Governor-General, presiding over ceremonies on Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, with the Prime Minister as he acts as master of ceremonies at the Expo '86 celebrations in Vancouver 4,000 kilometres (2,484 miles) away.

The celebration of Canada Day is not confined to major cities. Since 1977 the emphasis has been on participation by all communities, large and small. The events include everything from torch light parades to triathlon races, family picnics to fireworks displays, rodeos to logging competitions. Many other Canadians simply choose to utilize the holiday for summer recreation, relaxing at a cottage

or park or spending a quiet day by a cool lake.

When the flags are put away, the fireworks are over, the military bands are silent and the celebrants have retired to their homes, the simple words of one of the builders of the C.P.R., Sir William Van Horne, after the last spike had been driven, will still echo across the country, "All I can say is, the work has been well done in every way".



The Prime Minister of Canada Brian Mulroney with his wife, Mila.

Fast Facts On Canada

Geography

Canada is the second largest country in the world and it occupies the northern part of North America, excluding Alaska and Greenland.

It extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and it has two frontiers with the United States.

One is the north-western boundary with Alaska, while the main frontier is the one following the St Lawrence seaway and the Great Lakes, which stretches west along 49 degrees latitude.

Population

The population is about 24.3 million, according to the census results of 1981, spread over about 9.2 million sq km.

More than 98 per cent of the population can speak either English or French.

Government

Canada is a federal parliamentary state.

This means that executive powers lie with the Head of State, Queen Elizabeth II. These executive powers are exercised by the monarch's representative, the Governor-General.

The Governor-General appoints the Prime Minister, the leader having the confidence of Parliament, and on the latter's recommendations, other cabinet ministers. The current Prime Minister is the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney.

The Federal Parliament consists of the Head of State, a 104-member nominated Senate and 282-member House of Commons. A Parliament may not last more than five years.

Canada comprises 10 provinces and two territories. Each province has a Lieutenant-General and a legislature.

Economy

Canada, a major industrial country, is also an exporter of agricultural produce. For instance, it is the world's leading exporter of fish and seafood.

Its other major exports are motor vehicles and spare parts, natural gas, wheat, newsprint paper, wood pulp, softwood lumber and crude petroleum.

The country is also rich in minerals. It is currently the world's largest producer of zinc and uranium and the second largest producer of nickel, asbestos and potash.

Canada's economy is strongly linked with that of the US, which accounts for more than 75 per cent of its exports but trades with the entire world.