

Telecommunications

Telesat Canada launched its 12-channel *Anik* (the Inuit word for "friend") domestic communications satellite in November 1972, the first of its kind among western nations. The satellite (with its back-ups *Anik* 2 and 3) is in fixed orbit 35,680 km high and has a life cycle of five years. The satellite provides television, telephone and other services using a system of earth stations. In January 1976 the Communications Technology Satellite (CTS) was launched. The aim of the CTS experiment was to test the technology and applications of a new breed of high-powered orbiting transmitters to meet the needs of the 1980s.

Since the first telephone call by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876, Canadians have made much use of the instrument. Canadians have more telephones *per capita* (ten million) and make more telephone calls *per capita* (an average of 600 calls per resident annually) than any other people in the world. The eight largest companies, the main one being Bell Canada, form the Trans-Canada Telephone System and provide a complete national network. With subsidiaries, they own 96 per cent of Canada's telephones. There are about 1,600 smaller companies.

For its size, Canada has the most complete communications system in the world serviced by two competing common carriers – CN-CP Telecommunications and the Trans-Canada Telephone System. It has three major microwave systems with voice-circuits and message channels.