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Telex: 053-3745

Editor-in-chief:  
Richard Bégin

Associate editors:  
Carole Stelmack (English edition)  
Annie Taillefer (French edition)

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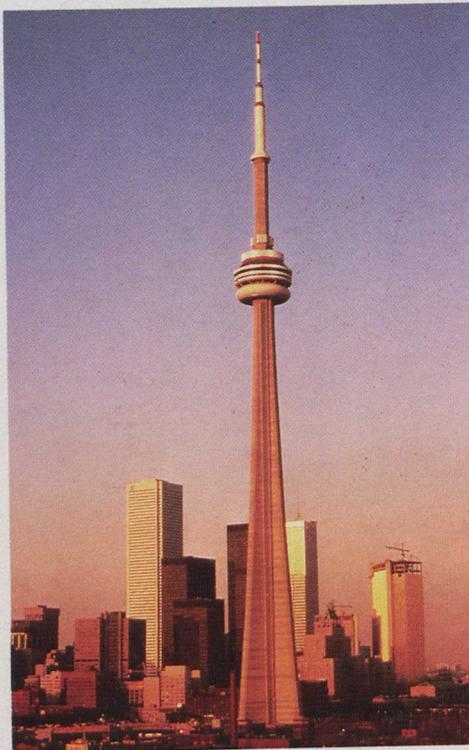
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## Cover page

*Spacotel is a satellite communications system that transmits and receives voice and data communication from virtually any location.*

MICROTEL LIMITED, VANCOUVER



*Toronto's CN communications tower, the tallest free-standing structure in the world, houses microwave antennas and equipment for radio and television broadcasting.*

## The realization of a dream

In the 19th century, many dreamed of uniting Canada and its people from the Atlantic to the Pacific and into the far reaches of the north.

It was a dream that seemed impossible to attain. The land was vast, stretching some 5 500 kilometres from coast to coast, and almost 5 000 kilometres from its southernmost tip to the North Pole. Settlements were scattered, and often a journey to the next community or even a visit to a neighbour, was long and difficult.

Through the efforts of people like Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, railway and telegraph lines soon linked central Canada with the Maritimes. And by 1885, the Canadian Pacific Railway had been completed across the prairies and through the Rocky Mountains to Craigellachie, British Columbia, where eastern and western railway lines joined to form

Canada's first transcontinental railway. With the completion of the CP railway, the first all-Canadian telegraph service was established from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans.

The first part of the dream had come true. Canada was united from coast to coast and its people could now travel and communicate more easily over the long distances across the country. But the challenge of providing the opportunity for all, even those living in the remotest areas, to communicate with each other and the rest of the world, still remained.

Over the past century Canadians have met this challenge and developed communications systems which are second to none. By expanding such services as the telephone, radio and television, even to the most remote areas of the country, Canada has also helped contribute to the development of international telecommunications technology.

In this issue of *Canada Reports* we look at some of Canada's achievements. Broadcasting, satellite communications, fibre optics, videotex, digital transmission and the creation of international standards are reviewed. We also look at some of the projections and programs that will carry Canada into the 21st century as a recognized world-class leader in communications.