

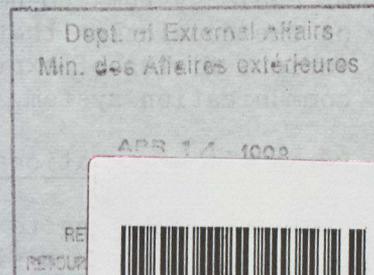
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# REFERENCE PAPERS

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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(January 1970)

## CABLE TELEVISION IN CANADA

(Prepared by the Canadian Radio-Television  
Commission, Ottawa.)



Cable television has become a recognized part of the Canadian broadcasting system, and policies and regulations that concern it must take into account the effects on other aspects of the system.

Cable-television systems, sometimes referred to as CATV, are operated by private companies. A cable company must be approved technically by the Department of Communications and licensed by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission (CRTC).

Basically, cable television is an antenna system linked to the individual subscriber's set by cable through a series of amplifiers. The "head-end", or antenna, apparatus operated by the cable company makes it possible to bring the subscriber signals he could not otherwise obtain. Cable television also brings in local signals more clearly, particularly in urban areas where large buildings interfere with direct television reception. Cable television is particularly useful in bringing color TV signals to the subscriber with clarity.

Originally, cable television systems brought in a signal where none was available by means of ordinary house-top antennas. Now cable systems bring in a greater variety of different television systems, up to a dozen in number.

### Question of Microwave Cables

Lately, the CRTC had to make a major decision regarding the use of microwave or other techniques for the development of cable television. It had to decide whether the use of additional techniques such as microwave should be authorized to enlarge the coverage area of U.S. networks and U.S. stations and, consequently, their advertising markets in Canada.

The Commission expressed the view that Canadians should not be denied access to the best material available from other countries, and that the efforts of Canadians to maintain an independent broadcasting system can be justified only if this system achieves the high expectation established by Parliament in the Broadcasting Act of 1968.

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