• Tele-Sante, an interactive health care service that provides information in both English and French on a variety of health problems. Tele-Sante also executes some of the preliminary diagnostic work that is normally carried out by a physician.

• Tele-Université de l'université du Québec, a long-distance education service that will give students on remote campuses in the province of Quebec access to sophisticated educational software *via* Telidon terminals.

• Videopress, a public information service offered by Cableshare Inc. that uses Telidon terminals to deliver advertising, news and information to the public in high traffic areas such as shopping malls.

• the development by the Genesis Research Corporation in Winnipeg, of a presentation of children's stories over cable TV using Telidon graphics accompanied by text. The idea is that parents will read the stories to their children as the graphics are being displayed. "Genesis Story Time" is available in Winnipeg and has been sold to the four US cable operators for distribution *via* satellite to some four million subscribers.

Telidon technology is also being used by several US companies and organizations including:

• a financial institution in Buffalo, New York for an electronic banking service;

• an educational network in Alaska for supplementing distance education courses;

• another electronic publisher, who has successfully tested and is now offering a consumer information service and transactional services such as home banking, teleshopping and electronic mail.

In addition, the Department of Communications recently announced that 27 new projects will be eligible for assistance under the Telidon Content Development Program. The funds will aid Canadian companies and organizations to develop sophisticated software and content for Telidon systems.

Telidon Equipment

Canadian companies have gained experience producing a wide range of Telidon terminals and equipment to serve the needs of various videotex and teletext system users. The basic Telidon equipment includes: user terminals; page creation terminals; decoders which allow the user to interact with the system; modems for videotex systems that operate over telephone lines; and encoders which translate information into television signals for transmission.

Standards Ensure Durability

The special Telidon alphageometric coding scheme for creating graphics has become the basis for a North American videotex standard called North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax (NAPLPS). The NAPLPS standard, which includes some important enhancements to the original Telidon scheme, will mean that a variety of terminals will be able to display the new technology.

Terminals with high, medium or low resolutions and different ranges of colour capabilities, could still decode the NAPLPS signals showing the essential information. The NAPLPS approach ensures both "forward and backward compatibility". Forward compatibility means that existing terminals can receive all future command formats including future enhancements. Backward compatibility means that future terminals will be able to access old data.

The NAPLPS standard received official joint ratification by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in January 1984. This ratification is seen as a boost to the Canadian Telidon industry since manufacturers and content providers can develop products and services confident they will not require modifications due to changed standards.

A standard for teletext called North American Broadcast Teletext Standard (NABTS) is also based on Telidon-style graphics and has been widely accepted in North America.

Agribusiness information on such subjects as wheat marketing, fertilizers and weather, is proving to be a boon for farmers and agriculturalists.