

APPENDIX

BRIEF ON BEHALF OF THE
BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA

By N. A. MUNNOCH, K.C., General Counsel and Mr. D. K. MAC TAVISH, K.C.,
Parliamentary Agent

IN THE MATTER of Bill No. 8 (C of the Senate), An Act respecting The Bell
Telephone Company of Canada

History of Telephone Industry in Canada

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, which has petitioned for the enactment of the above-mentioned Bill, was incorporated by Act of Parliament, 43 Victoria chapter 67 which received Royal Assent on April 29, 1880—just 4 years after the telephone was invented. At that time, there were a few small local telephone companies located in some of the larger centres in Canada, such as London, Hamilton, Windsor, Montreal, Toronto and Quebec. These were purely local systems having few subscribers and were not connected with each other. One of the purposes of the incorporation of The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was to bring these small local organizations together into one integrated system permitting of the subscribers in one locality being able to communicate with those in other localities.

To this end, The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was incorporated with power to extend its operations throughout Canada and to purchase existing systems.

By the end of the year 1881, the Company had purchased or acquired "all other existing telephone interests in Canada" (Annual Report Dec. 31, 1881) and had a grand total of 3,100 telephone subscribers.

After 68 years of continuous operation, the Company now serves 1,306,975 telephones.

As already mentioned, under the Company's Act of Incorporation it is empowered to extend its operations throughout Canada. It has never, however, extended throughout the whole of Canada. At no time did the Company ever operate in British Columbia. By the early 1900's, the Company had relinquished its interests in the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and disposed of all of its plant and properties in those provinces. The result is that since 1909 the Company's operations have been confined to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec with, of course, facilities enabling connection to be made with the systems serving the other 7 provinces and the United States and for directly or indirectly connecting with all other systems throughout the world where interchange of telephone communication is permitted by the laws of other countries and by the facilities provided by such other systems. Connection may now be had with the systems in 72 other countries.

The 1,306,975 telephones which The Bell Telephone Company of Canada serves are all located in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.