

Freight and passenger services on Canadian roads and highways have expanded considerably in recent years, owing to the rapid growth in urban population and the expansion of the trucking industry from rural and local services to transcontinental services, and north and south across the Canada-United States border.

More than 1.4 million trucks and road tractors operate on Canadian roads; and about 64 million passengers use the numerous interurban and rural bus services annually.

Canada has many new roads and expressways, but the most important nationally is the 4,860-mile Trans-Canada Highway, completed in 1962, which makes it possible to drive from St. John's in the east to Victoria in the west.

Water transportation, the earliest form of conveyance in Canada, still commands a most important position in a nation possessing three sea-coasts and thousands of navigable miles of rivers and lakes.

Canada possesses 25 large ports, each of which handles over two million tons of cargo a year. The St. Lawrence Seaway, a 2,280-mile water route from the Atlantic to the heart of the continent, has been operating since 1959, and approximately 61 million tons of iron ore, wheat and other commodities are transported every season through its series of 17 locks, with a total elevation from east to west above sea level of 602 feet.

The National Harbours Board administers seven of Canada's major ports. All Canadian waterways, including canals, lakes and rivers, are open on equal terms to ships of all countries, except for those taking part in the coastal trade.

Of growing importance among Canada's transportation systems are its modern airlines. Beginning in a small way in the 1920s with exploration flights to the northern bushlands and airmail flights on short runs, Canada's civil aviation industry today occupies an important position in the world of transportation.

Fast, powerful jet-liners of the two major lines—Air Canada, owned and operated as a Crown company, and Canadian Pacific Airlines, a subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company—now carry passengers across the continent in from seven to eight hours. Some 8,300 registered civil aircraft operate in and out of approximately 1,593 airports, seaplane bases, "heliports" and military airfields. Canadian air-carriers transport some 7.5 million passengers and over 179,000 tons of freight yearly.

In addition to domestic lines and services, including many serving important northern routes, Canada's international airports serve as landing and departure bases for scores of foreign-operated lines. Montreal is the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association—the world's two most important aviation bodies.

Newly added to the field of large-scale transportation in Canada are over 58,000 miles of oil and gas pipelines of varying diameter, snaking out from the western plains in all directions to feed crude oil to refineries as much as 2,000 miles from the source and carrying natural gas to industries and private homes across the continent.

The oil and gas pipelines were constructed mainly from 1950 on and carry their cargoes over the Rocky Mountains to the west coast, south into the United States and east to the industrial centres along the shores of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.

Roughly 2.3 million barrels of crude oil are moved each day by pipeline and as much as 3.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas are carried in the same way every year to provide energy for gas utilities industries, which, in turn, distribute it to more than 1.6 million consumers, from New Brunswick to British Columbia.