

problems. Modern transportation, however, combined with the increasing value of Alberta's resources, has been a primary factor in the economic transformation of recent years.

There are over 11,000 kilometres of paved highways and roads in the province and 128,000 kilometres of local and secondary roads.

Five railway companies serve Alberta: the Canadian National Railways, Canadian Pacific Railway, Northern Alberta Railway, the Alberta Resources Railway and the Great Slave Lake Railway. There are a total of 11,000 kilometres of line in operation.

Air transportation has been vital in the development of Alberta by providing links to remote or inaccessible areas. Today, the province has 58 licensed airports, 19 heliports, one seaplane base and many unlicensed airports. More than 2,700 aircraft are registered in the province.

Two major airlines, Canadian Pacific and Air Canada, also serve the province with scheduled regional, national and international passenger and air-freight services. Pacific Western Airlines, recently acquired by the Alberta government, is the major regional carrier, especially into the North.

There is river transportation on the Athabasca and Slave Rivers, which, during the summer months, serve mining and exploration compa-

nies in the Arctic. Transportation by barge (1,400-tonne capacity) is possible from Fort McMurray to Tuktoyaktuk on the coast of the Arctic Ocean, a distance of 2,700 kilometres.

### *Communications*

Radio and television, both public and private, reach all parts of the province. There are 109 AM and FM radio stations, 115 television and rebroadcast stations and expanding cable television systems in major centres. Nine daily newspapers and more than 140 weekly newspapers are published in Alberta. The dailies have circulations totalling 450,000 (80 per cent of all households) and the weeklies, over 620,000. In addition, there is a growing magazine-publishing trade.

Alberta Government Telephone is the largest telephone system in Alberta, with 1.5 million telephones in service. Albertans are among Canada's greatest telephone users. Other communications systems include a microwave network, two large teletype systems and a wire service.

The more remote regions of northern Alberta benefit from the communications satellite ANIK, through which the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (the public national radio and television network) is able to broadcast its programs to