


communications... The Ministry has encouraged the development of public telecommunications services in the north by the commercial communications companies. This has resulted in standard public telephone and telegraph services being provided along the Mackenzie Valley, including modern telephone exchanges, and mobile radio-telephone service, as well as leased-line services at many isolated locations throughout the Northwest. These services are of particular assistance in the development of air transportation.

Metereological Services

Metereology is an indispensable part of air transportation, while communications stations in the North have carried out some weather-observing work for many years. A major advance in this field was the opening, mentioned earlier, of the joint Canadian-U.S. weather stations at Waples Reservoir Bay, Barrow, Alaska, and Resolute in the Arctic Islands. These top-of-the-world stations make a vital contribution in the realm of climatology.

Today there are some 110 Metereological Service staff members employed by the Department at 25 northern airports and observation stations. The observations from these points, as well as from stations operated by other Government agencies under contract with private firms, are channelled into the communication system, which relays the information throughout most of North America and, in certain cases, to much of the northern hemisphere.

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