

There are some 260,000 authorized stations operating in Canada. A number of these operate on the general broadcast bands used by radio and television, out the vast majority are used for private communications systems serving more than 300 industries, and operate on frequencies not used by broadcasting. To assure that equipment operates on assigned frequencies and that the spectrum is not polluted by stray signals, either from radio equipment or a wide variety of electrical equipment, the department maintains over 250 radio inspectors across the country.

Consequently, the role of the department in this area is largely a technical one. The policing services that the department maintains are analogous to those of a traffic

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control department in a police force. The department is not primarily concerned with the content of information transmitted through the electromagnetic spectrum. It is concerned that signals are transmitted on assigned frequencies.

In relation to the particular case of electronic surveillance, or what is more commonly called electronic eavesdropping, it is a fact that the department has not assigned any specific frequency for this sort of use of the spectrum. Furthermore, the department has not issued any licences or certificates for equipment designed specifically for this purpose.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.