



Children have "hands on" experience with today's computers to prepare them for the technology of the future.

CBC reviews its role

The CBC too, will be greatly affected by the advances of technology. In the 1950s, Canadians were talking about FM radio as something for the future, and today it is nearly as widespread as AM radio. Twenty-five years ago, Canadians could receive only a few television channels. Today, thanks to cable, they have a choice of five or even ten times as many, especially in major cities.

Broadcasting legislation is quickly outdated by technological change and by the growing internationalism in communications. New broadcasting legislation is expected in the near future. It will provide Canada with the basis for its broadcasting system in the 21st century.

It is clear that the communication of information will not diminish in significance in the future. An estimated one out of two workers in Canada's labour force are engaged in producing, processing and distributing information. In fact, Canada already has an information-intensive economy and both the public and private sectors are working actively to extend Canadian developments throughout the world.

Major milestones in telecommunications technology

- 1874** Invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell in Brantford, Ontario.
 - 1876** First long-distance telephone call, from Brantford to Paris, Ontario.
 - 1901** The first transatlantic radio signal from England was received at Signal Hill in Newfoundland by Guglielmo Marconi.
 - 1948** First commercial microwave relay system was installed bridging the Northumberland Strait between Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.
 - 1958** Completion of the world's longest microwave relay system stretching 5 400 kilometres from Halifax to Vancouver.
 - 1962** Third country with its own satellite in space — Alouette I.
 - 1969** First domestic communications satellite company — Telesat Canada.
 - 1971** First digital microwave transmission system.
 - 1972** First geostationary domestic satellite communications system — Anik A1.
 - 1973** First public digital transmission network — Data Route.
 - 1976** First demonstration of direct broadcasting by satellite to small earth stations located on or near homes — Hermes.
 - 1977** First packet-switched network.
 - 1978** Most advanced videotex system, Telidon, adopted as a world standard.
 - 1978** First dual-bank commercial communications satellite — Anik B.
 - 1981** First rural fibre-optic broadband subscriber-loop network.
 - 1981** First remote manipulator system for use in space — the Canadarm.
 - 1985** First national cellular radio telephone service initiated in 23 Canadian cities.
 - 1986** Initiation of a nationwide 7 000 kilometre fibre-optics digital network. When completed in 1990, it will be the longest national fibre-optics system in the world.
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