

# Canada Weekly

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## Canadian government increases funds to market Telidon



Telidon users can retrieve or insert information with calculator-like unit.

The federal government has announced that it will spend another \$27.5 million to help Telidon, Canada's two-way videotex technology, capture a significant share of world markets.

In making the announcement, Communications Minister Francis Fox said the additional funding "will be to assure the existence of a commercially viable videotex industry in Canada with a capability to compete in export markets. With this program and industry co-operation, we expect to see more than 12,000 Telidon terminals in use within a year".

The funding for the Telidon program will be spent over the next two years, \$17.2 million in the first and \$10.2 million in the second.

### Funding for terminals

The increased federal funding will be used to manufacture about 6,000 Telidon terminals in the next year to be loaned to industry to start operational systems or

conduct market trials. The loans will be subject to the purchase of at least an equal number of terminals and to the advantages offered in their proposals for employment of the terminals.

The funds will also go into product research and development to further develop the Telidon technology, reduce the price and expand its capabilities. Examples include completion of the development of the VLSI (very large scale integrated) low-cost terminals, captioning for the deaf adaptors, person-to-person communications hardware and improved software.

Support for certain important national and international Telidon systems, including a national broadcast teletext service in both languages will also be provided.

The fund will also contribute to market development and standards, and public interest initiatives to permit disadvantaged groups lacking resources — minor-



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