



Broadcasting

The first radio transmission was made in Montreal in 1918 ; the world's first French-language radio station was founded there 50 years ago ; the first radio network in Canada was a 12-station-network operated by the Canadian National Railways for its customers travelling across Canada ; the first public broadcasting agency (CRBC) was founded in 1932 ; and the first Canadian national radio news network was originated by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in 1941.

Today there are 722 AM and 323 FM radio stations (including rebroadcasters) of which 167 are operated by the CBC. Four national groups of private stations subscribe to common news and sports services. They are Canadian Contemporary News System, Standard Broadcast News, BN Voice, and News-Radio. Each distributes reports from U.S. or international news services, together with Canadian news.

Television reaches more than 96 per cent of the Canadian population which is served by five networks : two CBC (one English language, one French) and three private networks – two English language (CTV and Global Television), one French (TVA Television). There are 933 television transmitting outlets in Canada – including 102 "originating" stations producing programs ; the others are rebroadcasting or repeater stations. The 8,000-km microwave network linking St. John's, Newfoundland to Vancouver Island is believed to be the world's longest and most modern.

In 1976 the private broadcasters (both radio and TV) earned about \$506 million from advertising (the CBC earned about \$58 million ; the remainder of the budget comes from the public purse).