

Newfoundland and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Newfoundland became the tenth Province of Canada in 1949, bringing with it a rich history and tradition. Human occupation of Newfoundland and Labrador can be traced back 4,000 - 6,000 years. There were the Maritime Archaic People, Dorset Eskimos, Naskaupi and Montagnais and the now extinct Beothuck Indians. The Vikings landed here in the year 1001. John Cabot, who sailed westward from Bristol in 1497, is credited with discovery of the New Founde Isle when he made his landfall at Cape Bonavista. This made Newfoundland Britain's first overseas colony. On August 5, 1583, Sir Humphrey Gilbert reaffirmed Britain's claim to ownership by establishing Britain's first overseas colonial government on King's Beach in St. John's Harbour.

Here, too, were wrought some of the greatest accomplishments in communications. In 1866, the cableship "Great Eastern" landed the first successful Trans-Atlantic cable at Heart's Content. At Cabot Tower on Signal Hill, St. John's,

Guglielmo Marconi received the first wireless signals across the Atlantic on December 12, 1901. From Lester's Field in St. John's, Alcock and Brown took off for the first non-stop flight from America to Europe on June 14, 1919.

The first radio broadcast in Newfoundland was aired over station VOS in St. John's on July 9, 1922. On November 14, 1932, Radio Station VONF - which is still in existence today as CBN in St. John's - became the first outlet of the Dominion Broadcasting Corporation. In 1939, this became the Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland, the BCN, a publicly owned corporation, much like the CBC. In 1949, the BCN and CBC joined together.

Today we have 32 AM radio transmitters in Newfoundland and Labrador ranging in power from 40 W to 10 KW and covering approximately 97% of Newfoundlanders. Our shortwave station, CKZN, broadcasts in the 49 M band at 6.160 MHz and operates out of St. John's carrying the same programs as CBN.

In addition, CBC also operates a number of low power FM transmitters and an extensive network of 84 television transmitters of varying power outputs.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

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