Foreword

This collection of documents is intended to illustrate both the development of broadcasting in Canada and ideas about the role of broadcasting in national life. It is in four sections.

1. *The Pre-broadcasting Era* extends from the beginnings (a chain of stations for "the Marconi system of telegraphic communication" on the lower St. Lawrence River) down to the 1913 Radiotelegraph Act.

2. *The Radio Age* begins with the first regulations for broadcasting stations issued by the federal Department of Marine and Fisheries after the First World War and ends in 1950 on the eve of the Massey Royal Commission report.


Each document is introduced with remarks intended to illuminate the item's significance and to set the historical context. The documents are arranged chronologically and texts, with the exception of part of the 1931 Supreme Court decision (Document 14), are in English only. Some are produced in their entirety and others are edited to eliminate repetition. Original spelling and typographical errors usually stand uncorrected; significant errors are noted in the introduction to the document in question. The collection includes reports of royal commissions and government committees, acts of Parliament and some of their subsequent regulations, legal decisions, Parliamentary debates, and representative statements from broadcasters and regulators.

Debate about broadcasting has been extensive in Canada and the documentary record is consequently bulky. Two principles, utility and availability, have governed the editor's choices. The earlier part of the record is somewhat over-represented, particularly if the reader considers the vast amount of broadcasting activity and debate that has characterized the past 20 years compared to, say, the years from 1922 to 1942. But the older documents are not easily available. Library copies are few or missing or in bad repair, and so a disproportionate selection of such material is included here. On the other hand, some significant documents from the past 20 years are not included because of their wider availability in most libraries.
The book is intended as a reference tool for students of mass communication, broadcasting policy and media history, for broadcasters public and private, and for anyone in industry or the public service who has to deal with questions of broadcasting and culture.

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