CANADA'S POSTAL SERVICE

A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

From its earliest days, the post office has continually evolved to serve the changing postal needs of Canadians...

1763
The first postal service established in what would later become Canada

Following the Treaty of Paris of 1763, in which Canada is ceded to Great Britain, Benjamin Franklin and John Foxcroft, joint Deputy Postmasters General for British North America, appoint Hugh Finlay as the first Postmaster at Québec. Appointed on June 10, 1763, Finlay established regular weekly delivery service between Québec and Montréal, via Trois-Rivières.

1851
Canada's post office was created, 16 years before Confederation

The Province of Canada is given the official responsibility for the post office, until then administered by the British post office. It became one of the first departments to be formed in the new federal government.

1854
Installation of the first postal cars aboard trains

This greatly accelerated the movement of not only passengers, but mail and parcels as well. Railway delivery service lasted until 1971.

1867
Confederation and the creation of a Canadian post office network

The formal postal system established in each of the British North American colonies of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Upper and Lower Canada and British Columbia became the foundation of the Canadian postal system, establishing the first national network of post offices.

1918
The first official airmail flight in Canada, from Montréal to Toronto

1963
Equipment that automatically segregates, stacks and cancels mail is installed in Winnipeg, the first of its kind in North America

1981
Canada Post becomes a Crown corporation

In that same year, Canada Post launches its national Santa Letter-writing Program. A special postal code was provided to Santa—H0H 0H0—to help sort and deliver his many pieces of mail.