

201 CELA info.

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ACTION BELL CANADA NEWSLETTER
Box 4286, Station E, Ottawa.

Two Years Ago. It has been two years since Action Bell Canada was formed as a citizen clearinghouse to fight for a more socially responsive telephone utility. Some of the major activities of ABC in that period were:

- . publicizing the unaccountable nature of the Bell Canada corporation
- . opposing Bell's 1973 price increases, trying to get the Canadian Transport Commission to listen to new concerns about telephone management and service.
- . helping form a coalition of consumer, labour, native, poverty and other groups to appeal the CTC rate decision and to express opposition to any automatic rate mechanisms.
- . appearing before the House of Commons Committee on the competition act as it could apply to utilities.
- . trying to get the CTC to change the situation of subscribers paying for Bell Canada's promotional advertising.

Now Action Bell Canada is concerned about more Bell rate applications, the lack of a new telecommunication policy or regulatory agency as yet and helping groups with concerns about Bell policies change them.

News of the Day

- . The Government of Canada has released position papers—one on Communications (April 1975), one on computer data transmission (January 1975) that do not resolve consumer problems with Bell, indeed they entrench dominant Bell's role in communications further.
- . The loss of millions of tax dollars with the so called collapse of Bell's Microsystems has not as yet been subject to any inquiry.
- . Dissident members of the Canadian Telephone Employees Association, A Bell Canada Company union, are, it appears, succeeding in reorganizing.

- . Complaints are being received about the location and number of 10 cent pay phones, delays in getting service, and costs charged for rural service installation without recourse to appeal.
- . The CTC is still going nowhere with the Cost Inquiry (deferred taxation, depreciation method, accounting methods, etc.) and is still planning to proceed with its one sided rate adjustment formula hearing.
- . Bell Canada has raised rates several times already (in the Montreal and Toronto exchanges, in North American long distance rates) and now seeks more money, despite profits being up, on an emergency basis.
- . Bell Canada's main advertising theme these days, which we are paying for, include "If you don't like our telephone monopoly, too bad", "support our need for automatic price increases as part of an inflationary economy" and "long distance rates are great bargains despite continual price increases".

Action Bell Canada would appreciate receiving information and urges groups to take a stand on developing positions for the government on a real public policy for telecommunications.