

The Trans-Canada Highway

Passed by Parliament in 1949, The Trans-Canada Highway Act authorized the Government of Canada and provincial governments to build the highway on a cost-sharing basis. Work began in 1950.

The TCH was officially opened by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker in 1962, although much of it was still gravel at the time. In Newfoundland, for example, some sections were still being paved in the late 1960s.

Finally completed to standards in 1971, the TCH took 20 years and \$1 billion (more than \$8 billion in today's dollars) to build. It stretches almost 8,000 kilometres from St John's to Victoria.

There have been many upgrades since, such as twinning busy sections and adding lanes. Some provinces have also designated additional road links as part of the TCH, even though they were not built under the Act. Today, a total of about 12,800 kilometres of road are classified as Trans-Canada Highway.

One of the longest national highways in the world, the TCH is recognized by its distinctive white-on-green maple leaf markers.

