

## ***Press release***

For immediate release



**May 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**

# **100 Years of Radio Broadcasting in Canada**

**radio100.moeb.ca**

Short version:

May 20th 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of radio broadcasting in Canada. To celebrate this historic event, the Musée des ondes Emile Berliner and the Société Québécoise des Collectionneurs de Radios Anciens (SQCRA) have co-organized the Centennial of Broadcasting in Canada.

The Centennial is a year-long engaging program that showcases the development of radio technology and content in Canada. Supported by generous grants, the Centennial includes conferences, temporary exhibits, radio broadcasts and events for this celebration which are online accessible at [radio100.moeb.ca](http://radio100.moeb.ca).

Long version:

On May 20th 1920 a group of scientists witnessed the first announced live broadcast in Canada from Montreal to Ottawa. The birth of radio broadcasting did not foreshadow the enormous influence this medium would have on the world. Marconi Wireless Telegraph's experimental station XWA was on William Street in Montreal's district Griffintown. It continued producing radio programs to entice Canada's population to buy radios. More radio receivers led to more programs and soon, radios transformed from small crystal set to fancy tube amplified sound boxes. In 1922, the federal government granted commercial licenses to 61 stations across the country. In 1927, Railway companies set up stations in large cities along their tracks. In 1932, some of these became part of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission network (CRBC). Radio Canada and CBC took over CRBC in 1936. Both aired 6000 hours of programming in French and English each year from Montreal after radio had shown its importance to a fast-growing audience during the Second World War.

To celebrate the centennial of radio broadcasting, the Musée des ondes Emile Berliner joined forces with the Société québécoise des collectionneurs de radios anciens (SQCRA). The two organizations invited several collaborators such as the Polytechnique Montréal, the École de technologie supérieure, the Centre d'histoire de Montréal and others to add their stories to the celebration.

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Polytechnique Montréal held a outstanding 10-day exhibition this past fall. During the past months, the Centre d'histoire de Montreal created a collection of 8 articles on specific moments of radio in Montreal. Today, École de technologie supérieure has launched three podcasts, in French, on the history and the future of radio.

In addition, the SQCRA and the MOEB invite you to a walking tour that can be enjoyed also virtually to see the many buildings and places that brought sports, music, books, news and advertisement into the ears of all Canadians. Also, some factories that supplied the Canadian market with radios of all shapes and sizes is part of this tour. Virtual exhibitions as well as audio and video clips can be found on the [radio100.moeb.ca](http://radio100.moeb.ca) pages.

The online portal was created to have all Canadians join in this celebration, but now, after the Covid 19 Pandemic has led to the cancellation of all public events, the webpage has become the main part of the project. The year-long celebration benefitted from generous grants from the Government of Canada and the City of Montreal. Public activities will resume in the fall, if permitted. The web-page [radio100.moeb.ca](http://radio100.moeb.ca) is accessible throughout the year and will stay active after 2020.

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