



# Mobile phone technology



**MOBILE PHONES (OR CELLULAR/CELL PHONES)** are a type of two-way radio communication technology. Calls are transferred through a radio network of base stations (cell sites) as a user travels. As wireless networks increase in speed, Canadians are using their mobile phones to access the Internet and a variety of entertainment and information services.

Children/adolescents have always been particularly keen to grasp the opportunities offered by new technology and as always, parents should familiarize themselves with the associated benefits and risks.

## What mobile phones can do

*Most mobile phones now have features beyond the ability to make and receive voice calls. The following functions are now available in many mobile phones:*

- **Bluetooth connectivity:** Bluetooth technology sends data from mobile phones to other nearby Bluetooth-enabled devices (computers, laptops, other mobile devices, etc.).
- **Email and instant messaging (IM) capabilities:** Many mobile phones and smartphones (e.g. BlackBerry and PDA devices) have integrated email and IM capabilities.
- **Global Positioning System (GPS):** Using satellite technology, GPS-enabled devices can be located and pinpointed within a few metres, and can tell users where they are located on a map.
- **Internet browsing:** Most mobile phones now have the ability to connect to the Internet.
- **MP3 playback:** An MP3 is a digitized audio file, usually uploaded or downloaded through the Internet.
- **Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS):** Developed from SMS technology, MMS enables users to include photos, audio or video files with their messages.
- **Personal organizer functions:** Many mobile phones and smartphones contain calendars, contact lists and address books that are programmed directly into the phone and/or imported from (and synchronized with) a personal computer.
- **Photo/Video capability:** Many phones have built-in cameras capable of both taking pictures and recording video.
- **Push To Talk (PTT):** This service allows mobile phones to be used like walkie talkies with a set number of specific contacts, either locally or long distance, without incurring long distance charges.

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## Mobile phone technology



### What mobile phones can do *cont'd*

- Radio: Some mobile phones have the ability to play FM radio.
- Roaming: The ability to obtain service in areas outside of the home location of the mobile phone.
- Short Message Service (SMS): Also known as text messaging or “texting,” this function allows users to communicate with other users through brief, typed text.
- Speaker phone: Users are able to talk to a caller using a hands-free function that puts the call on a speaker.
- Television: Some newer phones have the ability to play television in real-time.
- Wireless modem: This function allows a mobile phone to serve as a modem for a laptop computer, enabling wireless Internet access.

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