

# **TransCanadaNet (TCN) General Operating Procedure**

The TCN is usually opened by the Western net control station (NCS) at 18:00Z with a preamble that describes the net procedure. Usually an opportunity is provided just prior to net for any stations desiring to check-in briefly and then leave early. The following information is provided in the preamble along with possible additional info which may vary from session-to-session:

The TransCanada Net meets on the Canadian 20 Meter Calling Frequency of 14.140 MHz at 1800Z on Sundays and most National Holidays. The purpose of the net is to provide an opportunity for radio amateurs across Canada to make contact via HF radio, exchange signal reports and in general provide any information of interest to others.

All radio amateurs with HF privileges are most welcome to check into this net.

The objective of the net is to have as many check-ins as possible and to hear from every region of Canada.

To fill in the 20 meter skip zone gaps the TCN usually has 3 net control stations, one in Eastern, Central and Western Canada. Each control station will call the net for an approximate 15 minute period depending on check-ins and then pass control over to the next region.

The duration of the net is dependent on the number of check-ins and activity. It is usually less than two hours which is the set maximum thus the net is always finished by 20:00Z. The frequency of 14.140 MHz then reverted back to normal calling frequency use.

The check-in procedure is to give your call-sign using phonetics when the controller calls for check-ins. If the controller does not confirm your call-sign the first time just keep trying.

If you hear another station encountering trouble contacting the net controller you are encouraged to break-in using the single word "RELAY" and then if asked by the NCS provide relay support for the station having difficulty.

Many operators just monitor the net long enough to check-in and then carry on with other priorities (which is OK). To contact a station while it is still on net you are encouraged to break-in just after they check-in by using the single word "CONTACT". If possible the NCS will give you immediate priority to make arrangements with the desired station to shift off net frequency for a QSO.

When called back by net control check-in with your call sign, your name and QTH to let everyone who can copy you know who you are and where you are from. You are welcome to provide any additional information you wish such as signal reports and weather report for your area.

If you are in the USA please do not check in on SSB as the FCC 20M phone band lower limit is 14.150 MHz. To comply with the FCC regulations you are welcome to check in on CW with a 1 KHz USB offset.

After the preamble is completed the NCS will call for check-ins expecting call-signs only. There may or may not be a pile-up. The NCS will compile a list possible calling for repeats. Then the NCS will call each station back one at a time for orderly interference free check-ins.