

MOBILE PHONES

Most UVic students use mobile phones to communicate with friends and family. The major mobile phone service providers in Victoria are listed here. Research your options before making a decision.

Bell – www.bell.ca

Chatr – www.chatrwireless.com

Fido – www.fido.ca

Freedom – www.freedommobile.ca

Koodo Mobile – www.koodomobile.com

Rogers – www.rogers.com/wireless

PhoneBox – www.gophonebox.com

Public Mobile – www.publicmobile.ca

Telus Mobility – www.telusmobility.com

Virgin Mobile – www.virginmobile.ca

If you already have a mobile phone and you want to continue using it in Canada, ask one of these mobile phone service providers for advice. You can also ask other students from your home country if they have had success unlocking their mobile phones and using them in Canada.

Some things to consider when choosing a mobile phone service provider and plan:

- How does the service provider define local and long-distance?
- What are the policies and fees for incoming and outgoing calls, including local and long-distance?
- What are the policies and fees for incoming and outgoing text messages, including local and long-distance?
- What are the policies and fees for internet access?
- What are the policies and fees for cancelling a plan?
- What are the policies and fees for upgrading, changing, or repairing your mobile phone?
- How frequently will you use your mobile phone for making and accepting calls?
- What days and times will you most often be making and accepting calls?
- Will you be making and accepting mostly local calls or long-distance calls?
- How frequently will you use your mobile phone for texting?
- How frequently will you use your mobile phone for accessing the internet?
- Do you want a plan with a contract, a plan with no contract, or prepaid service?
- How much money are you prepared to spend each month?

Compare mobile phone service providers and plans:

- Online at www.comparecellular.com/compare-rate-plans
- Online at www.wirelesswave.ca/compare-plans
- In person at large shopping centres

Advantages of a plan with a contract:

- Reduced price for a new mobile phone
- The cost per minute for calls and data is usually less expensive
- More feature options
- Family packages are often available at reduced prices

Disadvantages of a plan with a contract:

- Significant financial commitment
- You may not be able to upgrade or change your phone
- Expensive penalty for cancelling the plan

Information for minors:

In the province of British Columbia (BC), everyone under the age of 19 is considered a minor. Minors are not able to enter into a mobile phone contract without a co-signer. A co-signer is an individual who is at least 19 years old and who is willing to sign a contract, on the minor's behalf, taking full legal responsibility for making sure bills are paid.

A contract with a minor and co-signer is similar to most contract situations. The main exception is that the primary user of the mobile phone is not legally responsible for paying the bills, and any resulting impact to credit score is attributed to the co-signer.

In the absence of a willing and eligible co-signer, the most common solution for minors is to choose prepaid service. Some of the major mobile phone service providers listed on the other side of this handout offer prepaid service. In addition, SpeakOut Wireless is offered by 7-Eleven (www.speakout7eleven.ca) and Petro-Canada Mobility is offered by Petro-Canada (mobility.petro-canada.ca).

If you will make many international calls, consider using calling cards. They are cheap and flexible. You can use them on any phone. You can buy them at a post office, convenience store, grocery store, gas station, or online. Ask other students from your home country for advice about the best long distance calling rates. Another option is to use an internet program such as Skype or Google Voice.