THOMSON CORP /CAN/ Form 6-K May 28, 2004

QuickLinks -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of May 2004

Commission File No.: 1-31349

THE THOMSON CORPORATION

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Metro Center, One Station Place Stamford, Connecticut 06902, United States

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant f	iles or will file annual repo	orts under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.
	Form 20-F o	Form 40-F ý
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is subm	itting the Form 6-K in pap	per as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is subm	itting the Form 6-K in pap	per as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant be the Commission to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Se	, ,	on contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to 1934.
	Yes o	No ý
If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file num	ber assigned to the registra	ant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press release dated May 28, 2004 Press release dated May 28, 2004 Press release dated May 28, 2004
99.2	Prospectus supplement dated May 27, 2004, as filed with the Canadian securities regulatory authorities

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE THOMSON CORPORATION

Date: May 28, 2004

By: /s/ DEIRDRE STANLEY

Name: Deirdre Stanley

Title: Senior Vice President and General Counsel

QuickLinks

SIGNATURES