

century. In many cases, government aid was granted, with official inspection as the natural corollary. As early as 1752 an orphanage was opened at Halifax, N.S., for orphans and deserted children and in Upper Canada an Act was passed, towards the end of the century, to provide for the education and support of orphan children. In the different colonies before Confederation, under various Acts of the Legislatures, houses of refuge, homes for the aged, orphanages and other charitable institutions were provided. The most serious welfare problems, particularly in Upper and Lower Canada, were those connected with immigration. Many immigrants were destitute on their arrival and were dependent on charity. In 1822, an immigrant hospital was opened at Quebec for the care of the indigent sick. Throughout the colonies before Confederation an interest in child welfare found expression in the incorporation of numerous institutions for friendless orphans and physically incapacitated children. These orphanages were largely supported by the philanthropy of societies or individuals and, if grants of public money were received, the management was subject to government supervision. During this period, the orphanage was all that was available to the child who lacked normal home care.

Since Confederation, the principle has become generally recognized that the indigent, aged and infirm, orphans, dependent and neglected children, the deaf and dumb and the blind should be the responsibility of the State. Numerous Acts of the Provincial Legislatures have recognized municipal and provincial responsibility for these classes of the population by establishing institutions, welfare services, or other provisions for their care. In every province of Canada, public welfare organizations now exist to look after their protection and well-being. Child-welfare work as it is known to-day was not recognized as a special field for case work until toward the close of the nineteenth century. Now, noteworthy contributions are being made in this field by the Departments of Child Welfare of the Provincial Governments, the Children's Aid Societies, Juvenile Immigration Societies and Day Nurseries. Even to-day, although government inspection is now universal, much of this work is carried on by other than official agencies. Of the 468 institutions that reported at the Census of 1941, 76 are controlled by provincial and county governments, 61 by municipalities, 104 are under private auspices and 227 are under religious and fraternal organizations.

The field of welfare work is a very wide one and includes the work of many organizations. The Canadian Welfare Council gives national direction to, and co-ordinates the work of, the local welfare agencies; specialized organizations, such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Canadian Federation of the Blind, occupy a somewhat similar role in their particular fields. The various Community Chest organizations and service clubs assist welfare work by helping to finance local organizations, and the great work of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Catholic Youth Organization and the Young Men's Hebrew Association, the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and similar youth organizations in what may be described as preventive, rather than curative, work cannot be overlooked. Day nurseries have proved of increased value under wartime conditions, enabling many mothers to play their part in increasing Canada's output of war material. Most of the activities of these organizations are not susceptible to statistical measurement. In the case of the Canadian Red Cross, the Victorian Order of Nurses, and the Saint John Ambulance Association, their fields of effort are more closely related to public health and are therefore treated in Chapter XXI.