

# CHAPTER XXI.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND RELATED INSTITUTIONS

## CONSPECTUS

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### Section 1.—Administration

In Canada public health is administered by Dominion and Provincial Governments through their respective Health Departments.

The Dominion has jurisdiction only respecting such public health matters as are exclusively international, national and interprovincial. The Dominion Government makes grants to Provincial Departments of Health and to voluntary organizations engaged in public health work. Treatment for members and ex-members of the Armed Forces is provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs in veterans, services, and public hospitals.

The Department of National Health and Welfare Act authorized the establishment of the Dominion Council of Health which is responsible for correlating and co-ordinating the activities of Provincial Departments of Health. The Dominion Council of Health was created originally in 1919 and comprises the Deputy Minister of Health of each of the provinces as well as a representative of agriculture, labour, and urban and rural women, respectively. The personnel includes a scientific adviser on public health. The Deputy Minister of National Health is the Chairman.

#### Subsection 1.—Public Health Activities of the Dominion Government

The Act of Parliament (8 Geo. VI, c. 22, 1944) creating the Dominion Department of National Health and Welfare, clearly defines its functions. The Department is divided into two Branches as indicated by the title. The chief functions of the National Health Branch are: to protect the country against the entrance of infectious disease; to exclude immigrants who might become charges upon the country; to treat sick and injured mariners; to see that men employed on public construction work are provided with proper medical care; to set the standards and control the quality of food and drugs; to control proprietary medicines; to control the importation and exportation of habit-forming drugs such as morphine, cocaine, etc.; to care for lepers; to promote and conserve the health of civil servants and other Government employees; to co-operate with the provinces with a view to preserving and improving the public health; to carry on investigation and research into public health; and, through the National Council on Physical Fitness, to assist the provinces in the field of physical fitness.