

provinces with a view to preserving and improving the public health; to conduct investigation and research into public health. To carry on this work the following Divisions have been organized within the Health Branch:—

Blindness Control	Narcotic
Child and Maternal Health	Nutrition
Civil Service Health	Proprietary or Patent Medicine
Dental Health	Public Health Engineering
Epidemiology	Quarantine and Immigration Medical Service and Sick Mariners
Food and Drug Laboratory	Venereal Disease Control
Hospital Design	Advertising and Labels
Industrial Health	Laboratory of Hygiene
Industrial Health Laboratory	Tuberculosis Control
Mental Health	

On Nov. 1, 1945, responsibility for the health of Indians and Eskimos was transferred from the Department of Mines and Resources to the Department of National Health and Welfare. This work is administered by the Superintendent of Indian Health Services.

In 1945, a Directorate of Health Insurance Studies was established in the Health Branch for the purpose of studying existing facilities and future requirements in the field of medical, hospital, dental and nursing services and for the purpose of studying various economic methods of providing such services, including health insurance.

**The National Physical Fitness Program.\***—This program is at present administered under the Welfare Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare, although it has very close association with both welfare and health.

The National Physical Fitness Act (c. 29, 1943) came into force by proclamation on Oct. 1, 1943, and by Order in Council P.C. 509 of Feb. 15, 1944, and P.C. 1394 of Mar. 2, 1944. The legislation sets up a National Council on Physical Fitness (composed of not less than three and not more than ten members) of which the National Director of Physical Fitness is Chairman. The Provinces are represented on the present Council either by their Provincial Directors of Physical Fitness, or by representatives from their Provincial Departments of Health or Education, or by persons closely associated with recreation.

Financial assistance is given to any province that has signed an agreement with the Dominion Government as provided in the Act. Within the limits of the National Physical Fitness Fund, set up in the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purpose, the Dominion Government undertakes to pay one dollar for every dollar a province spends on its program of physical education, sports and recreation. Up to Mar. 31, 1946, the amount appropriated by Parliament for the above purpose was \$275,000 and agreements had been signed by Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. In all nine provinces, however, there is great interest in the physical fitness program. The province retains the right to conduct its own program, with no interference from the Dominion Government.

\* Prepared under the direction of Major Ian Eisenhardt, National Director of Physical Fitness, Ottawa.