

The Health Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare is empowered by the above-mentioned Act to assist Provincial Departments of Health by conducting investigations and research into public health problems, and by co-operating with them in the preservation and improvement of the public health.

The responsibility for the care of the health of Indians and Eskimos was transferred to the Health Branch of the Department in 1945. This involves the operation of hospitals and a field medical staff across Canada and in the Arctic.

Special arrangements, made for the study of existing facilities and future requirements in the fields of medical, dental, nursing and hospital services and for the purpose of investigating various methods of providing such services, including health insurance, are continuing.

To carry on the above-mentioned activities the following Directorates and Divisions have been organized within the Health Branch:—

<i>Directorate of Health Services</i>	Quarantine, Immigration and Sick
Blindness Control	Mariner Service
Child and Maternal Health	Venereal Disease Control
Civil Service Health	Laboratory of Hygiene
Dental Health	<i>Directorate of Indian Health Service</i>
Epidemiology	
Hospital Design	<i>Directorate of Food and Drug Divisions</i>
Industrial Health	Inspection
Mental Health	Laboratory
Narcotics	Proprietary and Patent Medicine
Nutrition	
Public Health Engineering	<i>Directorate of Health Insurance Studies</i>

The National Physical Fitness Program.—This program has a close association with both health and welfare. It is, however, administered under the Welfare Division and is dealt with at pp. 232-233.

Subsection 2.—Public Health Activities of the Provincial Governments

Prince Edward Island.—During the session of the Legislature in March, 1946, the Department of Public Welfare, which administered both Health and Welfare, was reorganized under the title of “Health and Welfare” with one Minister responsible for both Divisions. The Health Division is under the supervision of the Chief Health Officer, who superintends the work of the Central Division, including the Provincial Laboratory, and the Nursing and Sanitary Division. The Province is divided into five Districts: a public-health nurse is assigned to each District and is responsible for the inspection of school children, home visiting, home-nursing classes, immunizing clinics, etc. One nurse specially trained in venereal disease and another specially trained in tuberculosis have the entire Province as their field of operation. The Provincial Laboratory operated by a Laboratory Director and a competent staff, is of great assistance to the practising physicians of the Province.

The compilation of the vital statistics of the Province is handled by the Welfare Division and all births, deaths and marriage certificates are micro-filmed for the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The Provincial Government operates a Provincial Sanatorium of 145-bed capacity under a Board of Commissioners and an annual grant is made to assist ex-sanatorium patients when required and to help other indigent tubercular persons awaiting admission and their families. Field work, in regard to tuberculosis, is a