

Section 2.—Welfare

Subsection 1.—Federal Government Welfare Services

The National Physical Fitness Program.—The building of an integrated nation-wide physical fitness program was commenced with the passing of the National Physical Fitness Act of 1943. Planned as a basic social measure to improve the physical and mental fitness, and the cultural and social development of the Canadian people, the program is designed primarily to stimulate and assist spontaneous local growth in the community, with government participation being devoted principally to the initiation and provision of services to foster this growth. The National Physical Fitness Act serves as a stimulus to the program in two ways.

Under the Act, Parliament makes available to the Provinces, and to Yukon and the Northwest Territories, through the National Physical Fitness Fund, a sum not exceeding \$225,000 annually, distributed on a per capita basis among those provinces which have signed agreements with the Federal Government to support a program of physical fitness and recreational development as provided in the Act. The maximum amount available for the annual grant to each province is: Prince Edward Island, \$1,858.50; Nova Scotia, \$11,301.75; New Brunswick, \$8,943.75; Quebec, \$65,151.00; Ontario, \$74,063.25; Manitoba, \$14,269.50; Saskatchewan, \$17,520.75; Alberta, \$15,567.75; British Columbia, \$15,993.00; Yukon, \$96.75; and Northwest Territories, \$234.00. At the present time the Maritime and Prairie Provinces, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories participate in the scheme.

The Act also authorized the establishment of the National Council on Physical Fitness, which is composed of not fewer than three or more than ten members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Council, which meets at least semi-annually, acts in an advisory capacity to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and provides an effective liaison between the different levels of government and with the voluntary organizations interested in fitness and recreation. Each province participating in the national program has established its own advisory body.

The National Amateur Athletic Achievement Award, a medal for outstanding achievement in the sphere of amateur athletics in Canada, is presented from time to time by the National Council, the winner being selected by the Award Committee which is composed of representatives of leading Canadian organizations devoted to the advancement of amateur sport and cultural interests. Barbara Ann Scott, of Ottawa, Ont., World and Olympic Champion Figure Skater, was the first winner, in 1947.

Federal administration of the program is carried on by the Physical Fitness Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare which, in addition to administering the grants to the provinces, performs the administrative duties of the National Council on Physical Fitness, co-operates with other Federal Departments and with the national agencies and organizations, collects and distributes information originating in this and other countries, interprets the national program of fitness through publications and reports, and is concerned with the conduct of research, experiments and demonstrations. This Division maintains a preview film library, the material for which is selected from all available sources by committees of experts in physical fitness and recreational fields. Films recommended by these committees are purchased and circulated to the provinces on a "preview with a