

## Section 1.—Federal Government Programs

### Subsection 1.—Family Allowances

The Family Allowances Act, 1944, was introduced as a basic social security measure designed to assist in providing equal opportunity for all Canadian children. The allowances are paid entirely out of the Federal Consolidated Revenue Fund, are not part of the taxable income and involve no means test.

Under the Act and amendments, allowances are payable in respect of every child below the age of 16 years who was born in Canada or has been a resident of the country for one year, or whose father or mother was domiciled in Canada for three years immediately prior to the birth of the child. Payment is made monthly, and normally to the mother although any person who substantially maintains the child may be paid the allowance on its behalf. The allowances are paid at the monthly rate of \$5 for each child under 6 years; \$6 for each child from 6 to 9 years; \$7 for each child from 10 to 12 years; and \$8 for each child from 13 to 15 years. The amendment of April, 1949, reduced the residence requirement from three years to one and removed the provision whereby allowances for the fifth and each subsequent child were reduced.

The allowances are paid by cheque, except for Eskimo children and a small group of Indian children for whom payment is made largely in kind because of lack of exchange facilities in remote areas and the need for education in the use of nutritive foods.

If it is satisfactorily shown to the authorities that the allowances are not being spent for the purpose outlined in the Act payment may be discontinued or made to some other person or agency on behalf of the child. Allowances are not payable for any child who fails to comply with provincial school regulations or on behalf of a girl who, although she is under 16 years of age, is married. The Act provides that if any person is dissatisfied with a decision as to his right to be paid the allowance, or as to the amount of allowance paid, he may appeal the decision to a specially constituted tribunal.

Family Allowances are administered by the National Director of Family Allowances of the Department of National Health and Welfare through Regional Directors in offices located in each provincial capital. A welfare section in each Regional Office deals with welfare questions arising out of the administration of allowances. A Supervisor of Welfare Services serves as adviser to each Regional Director and reports through him to the Chief Supervisor of Welfare Services, who acts in a similar advisory capacity to the National Director. The actual preparation and issuing of the cheques is the responsibility of the treasury division of each Regional Office which reports to the Chief Treasury Officer of the Department of Health and Welfare.

The Regional Director for Yukon and the Northwest Territories, located at Ottawa, is responsible for payments to families in these areas. Close co-operation is maintained with the Department of Mines and Resources which is responsible for the welfare of Indians and Eskimos.

Payment of Family Allowances on behalf of children in Newfoundland began Apr. 1, 1949, on Newfoundland's entrance into Canadian Confederation.