

Of fundamental importance for the future, particularly in the event of recession, is the attitude of Federal and Provincial Governments towards unemployment assistance and the Federal Government's fiscal policy and public investment program.

In addition to unemployment insurance, the Federal Government administers a number of other important income security schemes, such as the family allowances program, which provides more economic security for the family and greater stability for the economy (see p. 228). The prairie farm assistance plan (see Agriculture Chapter) offers crop insurance for prairie farmers, and support-prices for certain agricultural and fish products give a degree of income security for farmers and fishermen. War pensions and war veterans' allowances have been provided as income maintenance programs for veterans who are disabled or in need (see Veterans Affairs Chapter).

Other important public income maintenance measures in Canada include the federal-provincial old-age pension and blind pension schemes (see p. 234), and the provincial mothers' allowances (see p. 240) and workmen's compensation programs (see Labour Chapter).

Division of Responsibility.—In the provision of health and welfare services, the Federal Government has assisted the provincial programs through health grants and physical fitness (see p. 238) and vocational training grants (see Veterans Affairs Chapter). Federal aid has also been extended to the schools of social work to assist in the training of social workers.

Within the framework of provincial statutes, a substantial part of the responsibility for welfare is borne by municipal governments, with provincial governments taking an increasing part in co-ordination and supervision of services and in the sharing of costs. These services may include any or all of the following: family welfare; provision for the protection and support of children when normal parental care breaks down or is destroyed; protection of unmarried mothers and their children; relief in cash or kind; guidance and counselling services; institutional care, or supervision of institutional care, of aged or other needy persons; medical care to needy persons; leisure time and recreation services; special services to youth; and the maintenance of juvenile or other correctional institutions.

In most provinces, child care and protection is provided under child protection Acts which establish a central authority for stimulating and supervising child protection. Six of the ten provinces delegate the responsibility for child protection to Children's Aid Societies, a distinctively Canadian development, in areas where they are established. These voluntary Societies operate under their own citizen boards but are subject to supervision by the provincial governments and receive both provincial and municipal financial support. Provincial Child Welfare Officers are directly responsible for the protection of children who have no established residence or who reside in an area which has no Children's Aid Society.

As in the case of public welfare, responsibility for public health and medical care in Canada is divided among Federal and Provincial Governments and local administrations, with important contributions also being made by private associations and organizations. The Federal Government has certain specific health functions, centred largely in the Departments of National Health and Welfare and of Veterans Affairs (see Sect. 1, pp. 203-205) but the actual administration of public health and medical care programs, except for care provided to veterans for war-connected