

Manitoba the child is eligible if he is a British subject even if the mother is not. In British Columbia a mother may be eligible if she is or was a British subject by birth or naturalization. In New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island an allowance may not be paid to an Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada.

Since the introduction of the legislation there has been a general extension of coverage. As of June, 1950, an applicant must be a widow or her husband must be mentally incapacitated or, except in Alberta, he must be totally and permanently disabled. Total and permanent physical disability is defined in various ways: for example, in British Columbia and Quebec the physical disability must be such that it may reasonably be expected to last at least one year, and in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland the specified period is nine months or more. All provinces except Alberta consider a mother eligible for an allowance if her husband is receiving treatment for tuberculosis.

Deserted wives who meet specified conditions are eligible in all provinces except Nova Scotia, but the period that must elapse after desertion varies from one to seven years. In certain circumstances, mothers who have been divorced or legally separated from their husbands are eligible in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Newfoundland and in Saskatchewan a divorced mother may be paid an allowance. Subject to certain conditions, foster mothers caring for children whose parents are dead or disabled are eligible for allowances. In Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, when the mother is deceased or in a mental institution or sanatorium, the allowance may be paid to the father if he is incapacitated and living at home with the children. All provinces grant allowances in respect of legally adopted children but in some cases the child must have been adopted by the husband and wife jointly. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia allowances are paid for children born out of wedlock if certain conditions are fulfilled.

Since the 1949 amendment to the Nova Scotia Act, mothers of one or more children have been eligible in all provinces. Allowances may be paid in respect of children under the age of 16, except in Manitoba where the age limit is 15 years. In special circumstances the age limit is extended: Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland continue, until the end of the academic year, the allowance paid in respect of a child who has reached 16 years of age if he is attending school; British Columbia and Alberta pay an allowance in respect of a child attending school until he has reached 18 years; British Columbia and Manitoba pay allowances in respect of children under 18 who are mentally and physically handicapped; and Quebec and Saskatchewan continue the allowance until a child is 19 to 21 years of age, respectively, if he is physically or mentally unable to work. Six provinces also make provision for payment of allowances to needy mothers not strictly eligible under the terms of the Act. In other provinces cases of this kind are generally cared for under social assistance or relief.

In each province the Act is administered by public welfare authorities and most provinces have a Board or Commission to make decisions regarding eligibility and amounts of allowance to be paid. Advisory Boards or local advisory committees are appointed to make recommendations regarding the operation of the Acts. The legislation in British Columbia and Alberta provides for reciprocal agreements with other provinces for the payment of allowances, but no such agreements are in effect.

In all provinces the amount of allowance granted is fixed by the administrative authority on a means-test basis. Table 8 shows the maximum monthly rates of allowance in each province. Table 9 gives statistics for the individual provinces providing mothers' allowances.