

While more generous conditions of eligibility have been established for the blindness allowances due to more generous means-testing and a reduction in the residence requirement from 20 years to 10 years, expenditures under the Blind Persons Act are expected to be smaller than expenditures formerly made for pensions to the blind under the Old Age Pensions Act. The reason for this is, of course, that blind persons 70 years of age or over are not carried as charges under the Blind Persons Act but are transferred to the new Old Age Security Act. In consequence, annual expenditures under the Blind Persons Act for means-test allowances to blind persons between the ages of 21 and 69 are expected to run between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 annually, 75 p.c. of this cost being reimbursed to the provinces by the Federal Government.

In summary, annual expenditures under these three new enactments are expected to be not less than \$364,000,000 in the first year of operation and to rise steadily in subsequent years. Not all of this, of course, is additional expenditure, since the Old Age Security Act, the Old Age Assistance Act and the Blind Persons Act absorb among them the total expenditure formerly made under the Old Age Pensions Act. A comparison of the expenditures formerly made under the Old Age Pensions Act with respect to aged and blind persons with the expenditures anticipated under the new legislation is shown in the following table.

1.—Expenditures for 1951 and 1952 under Old Age Security Act, 1951, Old Age Assistance Act, 1951, Blind Persons Act, 1951, and Old Age Pensions Act, 1927

(Millions of dollars)

Legislation	1951	1952	Increase or De- crease	Legislation	1951	1952	Increase or De- crease
Old Age Security Act, 1951—				Old Age Pensions Act, 1927—			
Federal expenditures.....	...	320	+320	Old Age Pensions—			
Provincial expenditures.....	Federal expenditures.....	103.5	...	-103.5
Totals.....	...	320	+320	Provincial expenditures..	34.5	...	-34.5
Old Age Assistance Act, 1951—				Totals.....	138.0	...	-138.0
Federal expenditures.....	...	20	+20	Pensions for the Blind—			
Provincial expenditures.....	...	20	+20	Federal expenditures.....	4.5	...	-4.5
Totals.....	...	40	+40	Provincial expenditures...	1.5	...	-1.5
Blind Persons Act, 1951—				Totals.....	6.0	...	-6.0
Federal expenditures.....	...	3	+3	All Programs—			
Provincial expenditures.....	...	1	+1	Federal expenditures.....	108	343	+235
Totals.....	...	4	+4	Provincial expenditures..	36	21	-15
				Grand Totals.....	144	364	+220

PART I.—PUBLIC HEALTH*

The planning, supervising and financing of public health and medical care services in Canada rest mainly with the provinces while the actual administration of services is conducted, in most provinces, by municipal and other local authorities. The Federal Government provides consultative and specialist services, assists in the financing of provincial health activities through the National Health Program and maintains, as well, services for special groups such as veterans and Indians. The functions of the Federal Government are described in Section 1, provincial and municipal health activities are reviewed in Section 2, and institutional statistics are given in Section 3.

* Sections 1 and 2 of this Part were prepared by the Research Division, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa.