

7.—Old Age Pensions Statistics, by Provinces, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1950 and 1951, and Nine Months Ended Dec. 31, 1951—concluded

Territory and Effective Date of Act	Year Ended Mar. 31-	Average Pension ¹	Pensioners ¹	P.C. of Pensioners ¹ to Population ²	P.C. of Persons Age 70 Years or Over to Population ²	P.C. of Pensioners ¹ to Population Age 70 Years or Over ²	Federal Contribution During Year
		\$	No.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	\$
Northwest Territories..... (Jan. 25, 1929)	1950	39-71	23	0-19	1-52	12-57	9,898
	1951	39-55	26	0-22	1-52	14-21	11,221
	1951 ²	38-69	22	0-18	1-52	12-02	8,956
Yukon Territory..... (Apr. 1, 1949)	1950	38-65	108	2-20	6-67	32-93	24,484
	1951	38-53	100	2-04	6-67	30-49	37,024
	1951 ²	38-75	85	1-73	6-67	25-91	24,327
Canada.....	1950	35-25	282,584	2-08	4-62	45-16	89,652,203
	1951	37-44	302,173	2-19	4-74	46-14	99,268,006
	1951 ²	39-39	308,825	2-23	4-74	47-16	77,340,012

¹ For the month of March of the fiscal year indicated. ² Based on population estimate for preceding year. ³ Nine months ended Dec. 31; the figures are based on the number of pensioners in December, the average pension in December, and the population estimate for June 1950.

Subsection 3.—Allowances for the Blind

The Blind Persons Act of 1951, effective January 1952, provides for financial aid to the provinces toward the provision of allowances not exceeding \$40 a month to blind persons aged 21 or over, subject to a residence qualification of at least 10 years. Within the limits of the Federal Act, each province is free to fix the amount of the maximum allowance payable and the maximum income allowed. The Federal Government's contribution per recipient cannot exceed 75 p.c. of \$40 per month or of the allowance paid, whichever is less.

For an unmarried person, the total income allowed including the allowance cannot exceed \$840 a year; for an unmarried person with one or more dependent children, \$1,040; for a married couple, \$1,320 a year; where the spouse is also blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, the total income of the couple cannot exceed \$1,440 a year. The exact allowance payable in each case depends on the amount of outside income and the resources of the applicant and his spouse. To be eligible for an allowance the applicant must not be in receipt of assistance under the Old Age Assistance Act, of an allowance under the War Veterans' Allowance Act, of a pension under the Old Age Security Act or of a pension in respect of blindness under the Pensions Act. The applicant must have resided in Canada for at least 10 years immediately preceding the commencement of the allowance but may have certain temporary absences; where the applicant has not so resided for the 10 years he must have been physically present in Canada, prior to the 10 years, for a total period equal to twice the total of the absences during the 10 years.

Implementation of the program in any province is contingent upon the province passing enabling legislation and signing an agreement with the Federal Government. The program became effective in January 1952 in all provinces and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.