

Subsection 4.—National Physical Fitness Program

A program of physical fitness and recreation for Canada was introduced with the proclamation on Oct. 1, 1943, of the National Physical Fitness Act. A National Council was established to promote the well-being of the people of Canada through physical fitness and recreational activities. The Council, set up on Feb. 15, 1944, is an executive body appointed by the Governor General in Council, which meets twice each year. In some provinces, provincial councils function as advisory bodies to the provincial government.

The Council has sponsored and initiated a number of projects of significance. National Fitness Scholarships are awarded annually to give material assistance to professionally qualified Canadians with three years' successful experience who desire to improve their professional services. The Council has convened a number of National Conferences including the First National Conference on Undergraduate Professional Preparation and the First National Conference on Employee Recreation. The Canadian Aquatic Standards were developed out of such a conference and the Canadian Sports Advisory Council was formed as a result of conferences of national sports governing bodies called by the National Council on Physical Fitness.

Further, a National Achievement Award has been initiated to honour those who have made outstanding contributions in their fields of endeavour. In 1950 the first national Survey of Municipal Recreation was carried out on a sampling basis by the Council with the assistance and co-operation of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities and the Parks and Recreation Association. The Council also operates a preview visual-aids library service.

The Act is administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare with the Physical Fitness Division acting as a clearing-house among the provinces for the latest information on fitness, recreation, community centres, physical education, athletics, sports and games, theatre arts and related activities. The Division also acts as a liaison office with national associations and comparable organizations in other countries.

The Federal Government makes available to the provinces on a per capita basis an amount not exceeding \$232,000 annually for the promotion of physical fitness and recreational programs. Financial assistance is given only to those provinces that have signed specific agreements with the Federal Government and to the extent to which they match it dollar for dollar up to the maximum available. At the beginning of 1952, eight provinces and the Northwest Territories were participating in the program.

10.—Grants Available under the National Physical Fitness Act

Province	Annual Grant Available	Expiry Date of Agreement	Province or Territory	Annual Grant Available	Expiry Date of Agreement
	\$			\$	
Newfoundland.....	5,985	¹	Manitoba.....	12,860	Mar. 31, 1953
Prince Edward Island.....	1,630	Mar. 31, 1952 ²	Saskatchewan.....	13,774	Dec. 31, 1953
Nova Scotia.....	10,641	Mar. 31, 1953	Alberta.....	15,558	Mar. 31, 1953
New Brunswick.....	8,540	Mar. 31, 1953	British Columbia.....	19,296	Mar. 31, 1953
Quebec.....	67,163	¹	Northwest Territories..	265	Mar. 31, 1953
Ontario.....	76,136	Mar. 31, 1953	Yukon Territory.....	151	¹

¹ No agreement.

² At time of printing (July 1952), renewal was in process.