

A municipal hospital program provides standard hospitalization for nearly all the population of the Province. The plan is operated at the local level, under provincial supervision, with costs distributed among the patient, the municipality and the Provincial Government. The patient is charged \$1 per day and the municipality pays the remainder of the basic ward rate, raised by a mill-rate tax on real property. The Provincial Government then reimburses the municipality for one-half of this amount.

**British Columbia.**—The Health Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare consists of three bureaux, two located at Victoria and one at Vancouver. The Bureau of Local Health Services at Victoria includes Divisions of Health Units, Public Health Nursing, Environmental Sanitation, Environmental Management, and Preventive Dentistry. The Central Administration Bureau, also at Victoria, includes Vital Statistics and Public Health Education. The Divisions of Tuberculosis Control, Venereal Disease Control and Laboratories form the Bureau of Special Preventive and Treatment Services, located at Vancouver.

The provision of local public health services is on a health-unit basis. These units are administered and staffed by the Province but are jointly financed by the Province and the local municipalities concerned. Fifteen of the 18 units planned are in operation. In isolated areas, Public Health Nursing Districts, staffed by public health nurses and sanitary inspectors, are forerunners of fully organized health units. The cities of Vancouver and Victoria have their own health departments; other centres have part-time medical health officers.

Special provincial public health services include tuberculosis clinics which provide free diagnostic and consultative service, venereal disease clinics which offer free diagnosis and treatment, and maternal and child health clinics operated by public health nurses which provide immunization and pre-natal and post-natal advice. Branch laboratories are maintained in various parts of the Province through which immunizing agents are distributed free of charge to doctors, health officers and public health nurses. Children's preventive dental programs, provincially subsidized, have been organized in seven local health units. In addition, child dental clinics with local dentists participating are established in 20 communities, the costs being met equally by the community and the Province. In connection with mental health services, the Province operates stationary and travelling child-guidance clinics. A clinic of psychological medicine at the provincial hospital at Essondale functions as an investigatory and active treatment centre for short-term patients.

Provisions for the treatment and control of cancer, which include a treatment centre and a nursing home at Vancouver, consultative clinics located throughout the Province and a free province-wide biopsy service, are the responsibility of the British Columbia Cancer Foundation, an official agent of the Provincial Government. The Province pays the operating costs of the Foundation and helps finance voluntary programs concerned with the physical rehabilitation of paraplegics and cerebral palsied children, the care and treatment of arthritics, and the maintenance of blood-transfusion services.

Institutions for the care of tuberculous and mental patients and infirmaries for persons with incapacitating disabilities are operated by the Province. Indigents are hospitalized in these institutions at public expense while other patients pay if financially able. Rehabilitation and visiting homemaker services are available to tuberculous patients.