

No specially organized program of medical care exists for public assistance recipients in Quebec, although free care to indigents is available from a variety of dispensaries, clinics and other charitable agencies. Under the provisions of the Public Charities Act, free public hospital care is provided to persons unable to pay, with about 50 p.c. of the cost assumed by the Province, 15 p.c. by the responsible municipality and the remainder by the recognized agency providing the service.

Ontario.—The Department of Health carries on public health services through the following Divisions: Health Units, Public Health Nursing, Maternal and Child Hygiene, Dental Services, Epidemiology, Venereal Disease Control, Tuberculosis Prevention, Industrial Hygiene, Laboratories, Medical Statistics, Mental Health and Ontario Hospitals, Nursing, Public and Private Hospitals, and Sanitary Engineering.

Local public health services are available to more than one-quarter of the population through 27 health units administered locally but with consultative services and financial support supplied by the Department. Elsewhere, local services are organized through full- or part-time municipal health departments, and by the Province in unorganized territory. Provincial grants are made to local boards of health for school dental services and venereal disease clinics. Special grants are made to hospitals for the treatment of first admission poliomyelitis patients.

Public health legislation affecting water supplies, milk and food and other environmental sanitation is administered by the Department. Maternal and child health care is provided through clinics and, in addition, any expectant mother may receive one free pre-natal examination. Systematic dental examinations for children combined with instruction in dental hygiene have been initiated in four local health units and two city health departments; school dental treatment services are provided by various municipalities. In northern areas, two railway dental cars operated by the Province and three mobile units maintained by the Red Cross provide educational and treatment services in less-populated districts.

The Central Laboratory, eleven regional laboratories, six subsidized associated laboratories and one mobile unit carry out bacteriological and other examinations for clinics, hospitals and private physicians. Biologicals and other materials for the prevention and control of communicable diseases, insulin for indigent diabetics and streptomycin for tubercular patients are distributed free of charge by the Department. Chest clinics, held in more than 200 centres, are financed mainly through funds of local tuberculosis associations and the Department. The Province pays the major portion of the cost of maintaining patients in 14 sanatoria operated by voluntary groups. Cancer control services are administered by the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and provincial grants are given to this organization to subsidize diagnosis and treatment in eight regional centres. Care is provided for the mentally ill in 17 institutions operated by the Province, these include special units for mental defectives, epileptics, the tubercular and the criminally insane. Community mental health services such as psychiatric wards in general hospitals, travelling clinics and child guidance centres have been widely developed by general and mental hospitals, municipal health departments and other agencies. The Ontario Alcoholism Treatment and Research Foundation operates a special treatment centre for alcoholics.