

Subsection 3.—Allowances for Disabled Persons

In June 1954, Parliament passed the Disabled Persons' Act under which the Federal Government will provide financial aid to the provinces for allowances, not exceeding \$40 a month, to totally and permanently disabled persons aged 18 or over, subject to a residence qualification of at least 10 years. It is anticipated that the Act will become effective in January 1955. Within the limits of the Federal Act each province is free to fix the maximum amount of assistance payable, the maximum income allowed and other conditions of eligibility. The Federal Government's contribution per recipient cannot exceed 50 p.c. of \$40 per month or of the assistance paid, whichever is less.

The allowance is not available to a person in receipt of an allowance under the Blind Persons Act, assistance under the Old Age Assistance Act, an allowance under the War Veterans Allowances Act, a pension under the Old Age Security Act, or to any person who is receiving money or assistance by way of mothers' allowances.

Further conditions of eligibility require that an applicant may not be a patient in a tuberculosis sanatorium, a mental institution, a home for the aged, an infirmary or an institution for the care of incurables. Except as prescribed in the regulations, the applicant may not be a patient or resident in a hospital, a nursing home or in a private, charitable or public institution. For an unmarried person, total income including the allowance may not exceed \$720 a year and for a married couple, \$1,200 a year; where the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, the total income of the couple may not exceed \$1,320 a year.

Except for certain temporary absences, an applicant must have resided in Canada for at least 10 years immediately preceding the commencement of the allowance; an applicant who does not have 10 years' residence must have been in Canada prior to the 10 years for a total period equal to twice his absences during the 10 years. The provincial authority must suspend the payment of the allowance when, in its opinion, the recipient unreasonably neglects or refuses to comply with or to avail himself of training, rehabilitation or treatment measures or facilities provided by or available in the province.

Implementation of the program in any province is contingent upon the province passing enabling legislation and signing an agreement with the Federal Government. Nine of the ten provinces had indicated by June 1954 their intention of participating in the program.

Subsection 4.—National Physical Fitness Program

A fitness and recreational program was introduced by the National Physical Fitness Act in October 1943. The Act, which established a National Council to promote the well-being of the people of Canada through fitness and recreational activities, was administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare. Under this Act, the Federal Government made available to the provinces an amount not exceeding \$232,000 annually on a per capita basis for the promotion of fitness and recreation programs. Financial assistance was given only to those provinces that signed specific agreements with the Federal Government and to the extent to which they matched it dollar for dollar up to the maximum available. During 1953-54, seven provinces—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia—and the Northwest Territories