

There are 11 hospitals and eight nursing stations in the Northwest Territories with a combined total of 648 beds, of which about 461 are used for tuberculosis patients. Six hospitals at Aklavik, Chesterfield Inlet, Fort Simpson, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith and Fort Rae are operated by the Roman Catholic Church; two hospitals at Aklavik and Pangnirtung and one nursing station at Hay River are operated by the Church of England. The Yellowknife Administrative District operates one hospital and two others are maintained by mining companies at Port Radium and Norman Wells. The Department's Indian Health Services maintains six nursing stations and the Pentecostal Church operate one at Hay River. There are 11 physicians in the territory, nine of whom are employed by Indian Health Services, eight public health nurses and two dentists of whom six and one respectively are employed by Indian Health Services.

In the Yukon Territory health services for the non-native population are administered through the Commissioner for the Yukon. The Territorial Government provides complete treatment including transportation for tuberculosis and poliomyelitis patients and hospital care for indigent residents. Grants are made to cover the operating deficits of the two general hospitals owned by the Territorial Government. Public health services provided include communicable disease control, public health nursing, sanitary inspection, and tuberculosis case-finding. Technical advice on the public health program is given by a part time Chief Medical Health Officer resident at Edmonton.

Health programs for the non-native population in the Northwest Territories provide free treatment including transportation for tuberculosis patients, free hospital care for the mentally ill, free treatment for venereal disease cases, and free cancer diagnosis including transportation to the Edmonton Clinic. Indigent residents are eligible for complete medical, dental and optical services as well as general hospital care. There is a special program of free dental services for children under 17 years of age. To support the mission hospitals the Territorial Government pays per diem grants on behalf of all paying patients. Public health services are largely handled by Indian Health Service personnel, the Director of Indian Health Services serving as Chief Medical Health Officer of the Northwest Territories.

Section 2.—National Health—Special Phases

Included in this Section are special articles giving detailed information, statistical and analytical, on two important phases of national health in Canada—mental health and tuberculosis. Also included is an article of topical interest dealing with the production and distribution of poliomyelitis vaccine.

MENTAL HEALTH*

Today mental health is one of Canada's foremost public health problems. At the end of 1954 the 68,157 patients in Canadian mental institutions or under their care exceeded by approximately 53,000 those under the care of tuberculosis sanatoria and by nearly 10,000 those in public hospitals. The 1954 total represents a 93·2 p.c. increase over the 1932 figure and indicates that just over four persons out of every thousand are undergoing institutional care for mental illness. To this large volume of institutional care must be added the increasing amount of psychiatric treatment given by mental health clinics, outpatient departments of general hospitals and private physicians.

The provision of services for the care of psychiatric patients is a constitutional responsibility of the provincial governments. Each of the ten provinces administers its own program as laid down in its provincial legislative enactments; the Federal Government provides consultative and specialist services and assists in the financing of provincial mental health programs through the National Health Program.

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