

Subsection 2.—Allowances for Blind Persons

The Blind Persons Act of 1952 as amended November 1957 provides for federal reimbursement to the provinces for allowances to blind persons aged 18 or over who are in need and who have resided in Canada for at least 10 years. The federal contribution may not exceed 75 p.c. of \$55 (\$40 prior to July 1, 1957; \$46 from July 1 to Oct. 31, 1957) per month or of the allowance paid, whichever is less. The province administers the program and, within the limits of the federal Act, may fix the amount of allowance payable and the maximum income allowed.

To qualify for an allowance a person must meet the required definition of blindness and have resided in Canada for 10 years immediately preceding its commencement or, if absent from Canada during this period, must have been present in Canada prior to its commencement for a period equal to double any period of absence.

For an unmarried person, total income, including the allowance, may not exceed \$1,200 a year; for a person with no spouse but with one or more dependent children, \$1,680; for a married couple, \$1,980. When the spouse is also blind, income of the couple may not exceed \$2,100. Allowances are not payable to a person receiving assistance under the Old Age Assistance Act, an allowance under the War Veterans Allowance Act, a pension under the Old Age Security Act or a pension for blindness under the Pensions Act.

As at October 1957, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Yukon made supplementary payments to recipients of blindness allowances who qualified under income and/or residence tests. In British Columbia, a flat rate allowance of \$20 per month was payable, in Alberta the supplement could not exceed \$15 per month and in the Yukon \$10 per month. In Saskatchewan a minimum of \$2.50 per month is payable, rising to a maximum of \$10 per month per person. In Ontario the government shared to the extent of 60 p.c. in the first \$20 per month paid by a municipality to a needy recipient. In some provinces and in the Yukon, recipients in special need might also be eligible for relief.

8.—Statistics of Allowances for the Blind by Province, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1955-57

Province and Year	Recipients	Average	P.C. of	Federal
	in Month of March	Amount of Monthly Allowance	Recipients to Population Age 20-69 ¹	Government Contribution during Year
	No.	\$		\$
Newfoundland.....1955	338	39.70	0.174	119,970
.....1956	353	39.65	0.178	126,038
.....1957	370	39.47	0.186	132,559
Prince Edward Island.....1955	95	37.65	0.171	30,516
.....1956	96	37.52	0.181	32,279
.....1957	90	37.38	0.170	31,267
Nova Scotia.....1955	706	38.57	0.195	247,788
.....1956	726	39.55	0.198	254,604
.....1957	714	39.25	0.194	258,064
New Brunswick.....1955	706	39.49	0.251	256,748
.....1956	717	39.50	0.250	258,432
.....1957	719	39.53	0.251	258,340
Quebec.....1955	2,866	39.18	0.118	1,028,760
.....1956	2,905	39.44	0.118	1,036,243
.....1957	2,918	39.32	0.118	1,046,209
Ontario.....1955	1,731	38.73	0.057	607,709
.....1956	1,719	39.35	0.056	609,974
.....1957	1,713	39.09	0.056	613,014
Manitoba.....1955	405	39.13	0.084	145,014
.....1956	411	39.60	0.085	145,547
.....1957	402	39.60	0.083	147,725

¹For footnote, see end of table.