

## PART II.—PUBLIC WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Responsibility for social welfare is shared by all levels of government. Costly income maintenance measures such as old age security and family allowances, or programs such as unemployment insurance and the National Employment Service where nation-wide co-ordination is required are administered federally. Substantial federal aid is given to the provinces in meeting the costs of social assistance. The Federal Government also provides services for special groups such as Indians, Eskimos and immigrants.

The Department of National Health and Welfare is the agency generally responsible for federal welfare matters; the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Citizenship and Immigration, and Northern Affairs and National Resources also operate important programs. The Unemployment Insurance Commission is responsible for the operation of unemployment insurance and the National Employment Service.

Administration of welfare services is primarily a responsibility of the province but the provision of services is often assumed by local authorities, generally with financial aid from the province concerned.

### Section 1.—Federal Government Programs

#### Subsection 1.—Family Allowances

The Family Allowances Act of 1944 is designed to assist in providing equal opportunity for all Canadian children. The allowances do not involve a 'means test' and are paid entirely from the federal Consolidated Revenue Fund. They do not constitute taxable income but there is a smaller income tax exemption for children eligible for allowances.

Allowances are payable in respect of every child under the age of 16 years who was born in Canada, or who has been a resident of the country for one year, or whose father or mother was domiciled in Canada for three years immediately prior to the birth of the child. Payment is made each month, normally to the mother, although any person who substantially maintains the child may be paid the allowance on his behalf. Allowances are paid at the monthly rate of \$6 for each child under ten years and \$8 for each child ten or over but under 16 years. The allowances are paid by cheque, except for some Eskimo and Indian children in remote areas for whom payment is made largely in kind because of lack of exchange facilities and the desirability for education in the use of nutritive foods.

If the allowances are not spent for the purposes outlined in the Act payment may be discontinued or made to some other person or agency on behalf of the child. Allowances are not payable for any child who fails to comply with provincial school regulations or on behalf of a girl who is married and under 16 years of age.

The program is administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare through regional offices located in each provincial capital. A welfare section in each regional office deals with welfare questions arising from administration of the allowances. Issuing of the cheques is the responsibility of the treasury division of each regional office which reports to the Chief Treasury Officer of the Department of Finance attached to the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Regional Director for the Yukon and Northwest Territories is located in Ottawa.

Through the Department of Citizenship and Immigration the Federal Government pays family assistance at the rate of \$5 per month for each child under 16 years of age supported by an immigrant who has landed for permanent residence in Canada, or by a Canadian returning to Canada to reside permanently. This allowance, which is paid quarterly and for a maximum period of one year, is not payable to a child receiving family allowances.