

Prairie Farm Assistance.—The Prairie Farm Assistance Act is administered by the Department of Agriculture; a description of the legislation is given in Chapter IX.

Welfare Services for Indians and Eskimos.—The welfare of Indians and Eskimos is administered by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, respectively; this field is covered in the Population Chapter, pp. 168-170.

Section 2.—Federal-Provincial Programs

Subsection 1.—Old Age Assistance

The Old Age Assistance Act of 1952, as amended November 1957, provides for federal reimbursement to the provinces for assistance to persons aged 65 or over who are in need and who have resided in Canada for at least ten years or who, if absent from Canada during this period, have been present in Canada prior to the commencement of the ten-year period for double any period of absence. On reaching age 70 a pensioner is transferred to Old Age Security. The federal contribution may not exceed 50 p.c. of \$55 per month or of the assistance paid, whichever is less. The province administers the program and, within the limits of the federal Act, may fix the amount of assistance payable, the maximum income allowed and other conditions of eligibility. All provinces and territories pay \$55 per month.

For an unmarried person, total income allowed, including assistance, may not exceed \$960 a year. For a married couple it may not exceed \$1,620 a year or, when the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, \$1,980 a year. Assistance is not paid to a person receiving an allowance under the Blind Persons or War Veterans Allowance Acts.

British Columbia, Alberta and Yukon Territory make supplementary payments to recipients of old age assistance who qualify under a means and residence test. In British Columbia the allowance may not exceed \$20 per month, in Alberta \$15 per month, and in the Yukon \$10 per month. In Ontario, the provincial government shares to the extent of 80 p.c. in the first \$20 per month of the supplement paid by a municipality to a needy recipient of old age assistance. In Manitoba, the province is empowered to reimburse a municipality for 80 p.c. of the supplementary assistance it pays to recipients of old age assistance. In some provinces and in the Yukon, recipients of old age assistance who are in special need may be eligible for relief.

7.—Old Age Assistance Statistics, by Province, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1956-58

Province and Year	Recipients in Month of March	Average Amount of Monthly Assistance	P.C. of Recipients to Population Age 65-69	Federal Government Contribution during Year
	No.	\$		\$
Newfoundland.....	1956	4,848	29.42	877,213
	1957	4,893	38.08 ¹	1,015,306
	1958	5,119	53.63 ²	1,298,770
Prince Edward Island.....	1956	600	27.69	99,660
	1957	580	28.04	98,143
	1958	659	45.55 ²	142,258
Nova Scotia.....	1956	5,081	33.73	1,046,927
	1957	4,950	33.95	1,020,529
	1958	5,219	50.15 ²	1,318,055
New Brunswick.....	1956	5,891	36.86	1,303,189
	1957	5,624	36.92	1,271,433
	1958	5,724	52.46 ²	1,550,905

For footnotes, see end of table.