

8.—Statistics of Allowances for the Blind, by Province, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1956-58—  
concluded

Territory and Year	Recipients in Month of March	Average Amount of Monthly Allowance	P.C. of Recipients to Population Age 20-69	Federal Government Contribution during Year
	No.	\$		\$
Northwest Territories.....	1956	18	40.00	6,330
	1957	25	38.60	7,447
	1958	27	51.85 <sup>1</sup>	10,861
Canada.....	1956	8,230	39.36	2,918,495
	1957	8,256	38.24	2,959,040
	1958	8,400	54.02	3,575,724

<sup>1</sup> During fiscal year maximum raised from \$40 to \$55 a month.  
from \$40 to \$46 a month then to \$55 a month in May 1958, retroactive to Nov. 1, 1957.

<sup>2</sup> During fiscal year maximum raised  
from \$40 to \$46 a month then to \$55 a month in May 1958, retroactive to Nov. 1, 1957.

## Subsection 3.—Allowances for Disabled Persons

The Disabled Persons Act of 1955, as amended November 1957, provides for federal reimbursement to the provinces for allowances paid to permanently and totally disabled persons aged 18 or over who are in need and who have resided in Canada for at least ten years immediately preceding commencement of allowance or, if absent from Canada during this period, have been present in Canada prior to its commencement for a period equal to double any period of absence. To qualify for an allowance a person must meet the definition of permanent and total disability set out in the Regulations to the Act. The federal contribution may not exceed 50 p.c. of \$55 per month or of the allowance paid, whichever is less. All provinces and territories pay \$55. The province administers the program and, within the limits of the federal Act, may fix the amount of allowance payable, the maximum income allowed and other conditions of eligibility.

For an unmarried person, total income including the allowance may not exceed \$960 a year. For a married couple the limit is \$1,620 a year except that if the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, income of the couple may not exceed \$1,980 a year. Allowances are not paid to a person receiving an allowance under the Blind Persons Act or the War Veterans Allowance Act, assistance under the Old Age Assistance Act, a pension under the Old Age Security Act, or the mothers' allowance.

The definition of permanent and total disability employed under the Act requires that a person must be suffering from a major physiological, anatomical or psychological impairment, verified by objective medical findings. The impairment must be one that is likely to continue indefinitely without substantial improvement and that will severely limit activities of normal living.

The allowance is not payable to a patient in a mental institution or tuberculosis sanatorium. A recipient who is resident in a nursing home, an infirmary, a home for the aged, an institution for the care of incurables or a private, charitable or public institution is eligible for the allowance only if the major part of the cost of his accommodation is being paid by himself or his family. When a recipient is required to enter a public or private hospital the allowance may be paid for no more than two months of hospitalization in a calendar year, excluding months of admission and release, but for the period that a recipient is in hospital for therapeutic treatment for his disability or rehabilitation, as approved by the provincial authority, the allowance may continue to be paid. 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 facilities provided by or available in the province.