

Department of Public Welfare reimburses municipalities, up to a prescribed maximum, for 80 p.c. of their expenditures on aid to needy persons and on incapacitation allowances for single needy handicapped residents.

The Social Allowance Act of Manitoba, passed in 1959, transferred from the municipalities to the province responsibility for administering and financing aid to mentally or physically incapacitated persons whose disability is likely to last more than 90 days, and to persons unable to work because of their age. Aid to other needy persons, termed "indigent relief", remains under the municipalities. The Department of Health and Public Welfare reimburses the municipalities to the extent of 40 p.c. of the costs, or at a higher rate if costs exceed a specified amount. In Saskatchewan, through the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, the province bears approximately 93 p.c. of the cost of assistance granted by the municipalities to needy persons. The municipalities are assessed annually on a per capita basis for about 7 p.c. of the over-all cost of social aid, and the province reimburses each municipality for all actual expenditures. In Alberta, the province reimburses the municipalities for 80 p.c. of the value of the assistance given. The Department of Public Welfare maintains two hostels and one welfare centre to care for unemployable single homeless men without municipal domicile.

The Province of British Columbia, through the Department of Social Welfare, reimburses the municipalities on a pooled basis for 90 p.c. of the total cost of social assistance to needy persons. Also, the province shares equally with the municipalities expenditures on salaries of social workers; a municipality with fewer than 15,000 population may arrange to have the Department undertake social work within the municipality and reimburse the Department at the rate of 30 cents per capita per year.

Care of the Aged.—Homes for the aged under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices are provided for the aged and infirm in all provinces. Voluntary homes generally are provincially inspected in accordance with prescribed standards and in some provinces must be licensed. Most provinces contribute to the maintenance of elderly persons in homes for the aged either through general assistance or through statutes which relate particularly to these homes. Also, as previously indicated, 50 p.c. of the payments on behalf of assistance cases in homes for the aged and infirm (homes for special care) are met by the Federal Government.

Several provinces make capital grants towards the construction of homes, and in four provinces capital grants are also available to municipalities, voluntary organizations, or limited-dividend companies for the construction of low-rental housing.

Newfoundland maintains a Home for the Aged and Infirm at St. John's and also pays, in whole or in part, the cost of maintaining needy old people in homes for the aged and boarding homes. In 1955, a grant of 20 p.c. of costs, to be paid over a ten-year period, was made to a religious organization for the construction of a home, and provision is made for grants to similar projects under other auspices. The aged and infirm in Prince Edward Island are cared for in Falconwood Mental Hospital and in two provincial infirmaries. In Nova Scotia, the aged are cared for in municipal or county homes, in homes operated by religious or private organizations and in private boarding homes. The province reimburses the municipalities for two-thirds of their expenditures for the maintenance of needy persons in municipal homes, subject to compliance with specified standards of care and accommodation. Homes for the aged receiving aid from the provincial government are subject to provincial inspection. Homes for the aged in New Brunswick are operated under municipal, religious, fraternal and private auspices, and receive no direct financial support from the province. Voluntary and proprietary homes are now subject to provincial licensing and inspection and must meet standards contained in regulations under the Health Act.

Institutional care for indigent old people in Quebec is provided through charitable institutions under the Public Charities Act. The Homes for the Aged Act authorizes the province to erect and maintain homes for the aged and housing projects, or to make grants to voluntary organizations for this purpose. Standards in homes are governed by regulations under the Public Health Act.