

Male veterans become eligible for allowances at age 60 and female veterans or widows of veterans at age 55. Persons in both groups, however, may be awarded allowances earlier if their physical or mental condition prevents them from maintaining themselves. The allowances are paid subject to certain financial limitations, that is, the sum of income from other sources plus the allowance may not exceed a permissible annual income. Income from other sources does not include casual earnings or other specific income exempt by statute.

The rates of allowances payable and the income ceilings in effect at Mar. 31, 1960 were as follows:—

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Monthly Maximum Allowance</i>	<i>Annual Income Ceiling</i>
	\$	\$
Veterans and widow(er)s, single status.....	70	1,080
Veterans and widow(er)s, married status.....	120	1,740
Veterans with blind spouse.....	120	1,860
One orphan.....	40	720
Two orphans of one veteran.....	70	1,200
Three or more orphans of one veteran.....	85	1,440

The numbers of veterans and others in receipt of allowances at the close of each of the fiscal years 1956-60, together with the amounts of allowances paid, were as follows:—

<i>As at Mar. 31—</i>	<i>Veterans in Receipt of Allowances</i>	<i>Others in Receipt of Allowances</i>	<i>Total in Receipt of Allowances</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	No.	No.	No.	\$
1956.....	37,927	14,260	52,187	39,074,156
1957.....	39,691	15,502	55,193	41,259,185
1958.....	42,705	17,242	59,947	47,990,169
1959.....	45,859	19,045	64,904	54,870,742
1960.....	47,378	20,480	67,858	57,337,891

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1960, 65,164 cases were reviewed by the 18 District Authorities across Canada so that changes in the financial, physical or domestic circumstances of the recipients concerned might be reflected in the allowance being paid. Over the same period the War Veterans Allowance Board at Ottawa (see p. 344) reviewed 24,287 cases to ensure uniformity in the application of the provisions of the legislation in all districts. During the year, 586 appeals from adjudications were dealt with by the War Veterans Allowance Board, 58 being allowed and 528 disallowed.

Section 8.—Veterans Commissions and Boards

Canadian Pension Commission.—The Canadian Pension Commission is a statutory body charged with the administration of the Pension Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act. The members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor in Council who may also impose upon the Commission duties in respect of any grants in the nature of pensions, etc., made under any statute other than the Pension Act. The Commission reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

It is the responsibility of the Commission to adjudicate on claims for injury or disease resulting in disability or death incurred during service with the Canadian Navy, Army or Air Force during wartime or peacetime. The Commission may also supplement certain awards of pension made by the British or Allied Governments (see 1956 Year Book, p. 304).

The Commission's representatives, called Pension Medical Examiners, are located in most of the district offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs across the country.