

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 10 years of age and \$8 for each child aged 10 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 a 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.

1.—Family Allowances Statistics, by Province, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1958-60

Province and Year	Families Receiving Allowance in March	Children for Whom Allowance Paid in March	Average Number of Children per Family in March	Average Allowance ¹		Net Total Allowances Paid during Fiscal Year
				Per Family	Per Child	
	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$
Newfoundland.....1958	60,961	187,035	3.07	20.40	6.65	14,131,153
1959	62,203	192,030	3.09	20.57	6.66	15,162,900
1960	63,245	196,447	3.11	20.72	6.67	15,566,372
Prince Edward Island....1958	13,240	36,839	2.78	18.61	6.69	2,824,310
1959	13,443	37,426	2.78	18.72	6.72	2,994,334
1960	13,648	38,174	2.80	18.83	6.73	3,062,692
Nova Scotia.....1958	101,509	253,713	2.50	16.71	6.68	19,400,493
1959	103,105	258,684	2.51	16.79	6.69	20,560,462
1960	103,872	261,720	2.52	16.89	6.70	20,932,794
New Brunswick.....1958	79,237	224,047	2.83	18.89	6.68	17,074,970
1959	80,857	229,505	2.84	19.00	6.69	18,201,518
1960	81,541	232,891	2.86	19.15	6.70	18,588,795

¹ Based on gross payment for March.