

CHAPTER VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY*

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Canada's growth in the past fifteen years has created many new problems in the planning of health and welfare services. Population has increased by one-half in this period. General prosperity, growing urbanization and industrialization, larger numbers of children and old persons in the population, and new concepts and knowledge in health and welfare matters have all contributed to needs for additional services and to a greater interdependence among the different health and welfare professions.

During 1961, attention was focused on the nation's health problems by the appointment of the Royal Commission on Health Services to inquire into the existing health facilities and the future need for health services for the people of Canada, and to recommend measures that would ensure the best possible health care for all Canadians. A series of public hearings was commenced, briefs from interested organizations were received, and a number of independent studies were initiated to explore various aspects of Canada's health needs and resources. Also in 1961, the Province of Saskatchewan attracted nationwide interest by enacting a Medical Care Insurance Act based on the recommendations of its Advisory Planning Committee on Medical Care (to come into force on July 1, 1962).

* Except where otherwise indicated, this Chapter was prepared by the Research and Statistics Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa.