

the department of welfare. Except in Quebec, where the province does not administer services directly, the program may be administered by the provincial authority itself or the responsibility may be delegated under provincial child welfare Acts to local children's aid societies, that is, to voluntary agencies with boards of directors, operating under charter and under the general supervision of provincial departments. In Quebec, child welfare services are administered by recognized voluntary agencies and institutions, religious and secular. In Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and, to a large extent, in Alberta, they are administered by the province; in the larger urban centres of Alberta there is some delegation of authority to the municipality. In Ontario and New Brunswick, a network of local children's aid societies, operating under statutory authority, is responsible for the services. In Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia, services are administered by local children's aid societies in the heavily populated areas and by the province in other areas.

Children's aid societies and the recognized agencies in Quebec receive substantial provincial grants and sometimes municipal grants and in many areas they also receive support from private subscriptions or from community chests or united funds. Maintenance costs for children in care of a voluntary or public agency may be borne entirely by the province—as in Alberta, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland—or partly by the municipality of residence and partly by the province.

The child welfare agencies, whether provincial offices or authorized private agencies, have the authority to investigate cases of alleged neglect and, if necessary, to apprehend a child and to bring the case before a judge upon whom rests the responsibility of deciding whether in fact the child is neglected. When neglect is proven, the court may direct that the child be returned to his parent or parents, under supervision, or be made a ward of the province or a children's aid society or, in Quebec, be placed under the authority of a suitable person or agency. The appropriate agency is then responsible for making arrangements to meet the needs of the child in so far as community resources permit. The services may involve casework with families in their own homes, or care may be provided in foster boarding homes, in adoption homes or, for children who need this form of care, in selected institutions. Children placed for adoption may be wards or they may be placed on the written consent of the parent. Special efforts, which are meeting with considerable success, are being made to find suitable homes for children found difficult to place for adoption because of age, disability or ethnic differences. Adoptions, including those arranged privately, number about 13,000 annually.

Child welfare agencies make use of the small selective institution for placement of children who are forced to be away from their own homes for a short period or who may need preparation for placement in foster homes, and also for teen-age children who may find it easier to fit into a group setting than into a foster home. A growing number of institutions are meeting this demand for special care by a reduction in size or reorganization into small units and by the introduction of training courses for staff and other measures for the improvement of standards. The development of small, highly specialized institutions, which function as treatment centres for emotionally disturbed children, is of particular significance. Institutions for children are governed by provincial child welfare legislation or by special statutes dealing with welfare institutions, and by provincial or municipal public health regulations. The institutions are generally subject to inspection and in some provinces to licensing, and are usually required to make reports to the province on the movement of children under their care. Sources of income may include private subscriptions, provincial grants, and maintenance payments on behalf of children in care, payable by the parents, the placing agency, or the responsible municipal or provincial department.

Services to unmarried parents include casework services to the mother and possibly to the father, legal assistance in obtaining support for the child from the father, and foster-home care or adoption services for the child. If necessary, support for unmarried mothers may be obtained under general assistance programs. In many centres, homes for unmarried mothers are operated under private or religious auspices.