

Subsection 2.—Allowances for Blind Persons

The Blind Persons Act of 1951, as amended, provides for federal reimbursement to the provinces for allowances to blind persons aged 18 or over who are in need and who have resided in Canada for at least ten years. The federal contribution may not exceed 75 p.c. of \$75 a month (raised from \$65 a month in December 1963) or of the allowance paid, whichever is less. The province administers the program and, within the limits of the federal Act, may fix the amount of allowance payable and the maximum income allowed. All provinces use a maximum payment of \$75 a month and the income limits set out below. In May 1964 the Yukon and Northwest Territories were using a maximum payment of \$65.

To qualify for an allowance a person must meet the required definition of blindness and have resided in Canada for ten years immediately preceding commencement of allowance or, if absent from Canada during this period, must have been present in Canada prior to its commencement for a period equal to double any period of absence. For an unmarried person, total income including the allowance may not exceed \$1,500 a year; for a person with no spouse but with one or more dependent children, \$1,980; for a married couple, \$2,580. When the spouse is also blind, income of the couple may not exceed \$2,700. Allowances are not payable to a person receiving assistance under the Old Age Assistance Act, an allowance under the Disabled Persons Act or the War Veterans Allowance Act, a pension under the Old Age Security Act or a pension for blindness under the Pensions Act.

Recipients of blindness allowances who are in need may receive supplementary aid under general assistance programs in the provinces. Where the amount of aid is determined through an individual assessment of need, which takes the recipient's requirements and resources into consideration, the Federal Government may share in it under the Unemployment Assistance Act.

4.—Statistics of Allowances for the Blind, by Province, Year Ended Mar. 31, 1963 with Totals for 1959-63

NOTE.—Provincial figures for each year from the inception of the Act to 1962 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1952-53 edition.

Province or Territory	Recipients in Month of March	Average Amount of Monthly Allowance	P.C. of Recipients to Population Age 20-69	Federal Government Contribution during Year
	No.	\$		\$
Newfoundland.....	429	63.70	0.200	247,377
Prince Edward Island.....	83	63.21	0.162	47,103
Nova Scotia.....	792	63.08	0.208	450,275
New Brunswick.....	701	63.79	0.241	410,317
Quebec.....	2,891	63.74	0.102	1,662,937
Ontario.....	1,877	58.73	0.053	992,300
Manitoba.....	379	62.80	0.075	214,163
Saskatchewan.....	422	63.18	0.089	240,693
Alberta.....	463	63.53	0.063	271,516
British Columbia.....	547	64.04	0.060	319,457
Yukon Territory.....	4	65.00	0.049	2,239
Northwest Territories.....	46	59.13	0.393	23,452
Canada.....	1963	8,634	0.087	4,861,829
	1962	8,373	0.087	4,129,852
	1961	8,642	0.089	4,161,883
	1960	8,671	0.090	4,197,087
	1959	8,747	0.092	4,235,181

¹ The average monthly allowance was \$62.65 for June 1962, the first month for which an average based on the maximum of \$65 a month was computed.