

municipality with substantial financial support from the province, which, in turn, is reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Unemployment Assistance Act for 50 p.c. of the provincial and municipal assistance given (see p. 306).

The provincial departments of public welfare have regulatory and supervisory powers over municipal administration of general assistance and may require certain standards as a condition of provincial aid. Length of residence is not a condition of aid in any province, but the residence of the applicant as defined by statute determines which municipality may be financially responsible for his aid. This rule does not apply in three provinces; British Columbia and Saskatchewan have equalized municipal payments and Quebec does not require its municipalities to contribute to general assistance costs. Provinces with unorganized areas take responsibility for aid in these districts. Under the federal Unemployment Assistance Act, all provinces have agreed that residence shall not be a condition of assistance for applicants who move from one province to another. For persons without provincial residence (usually a period of one year), aid may be given by the province or the municipality and a charge-back may or may not be made to the province or municipality of residence.

The formula for provincial-municipal sharing of costs is determined by the province. In Newfoundland, general assistance is the responsibility of the province and is administered by the Department of Public Welfare. In Prince Edward Island, the Department of Welfare and Labour provides direct social assistance in rural areas and assumes 75 p.c. of the cost of assistance granted by the City of Charlottetown and the incorporated towns and villages; aid to needy families where the breadwinner is suffering from tuberculosis is borne entirely by the province. In Nova Scotia, assistance is administered by the municipality, which receives reimbursement from the Department of Public Welfare for two thirds of the cost of the aid provided and one half of the cost of administration; allowances for certain disabled persons are administered by the province. In New Brunswick, the province reimburses each municipality to the extent of one dollar per capita of the population plus 70 p.c. of expenditures on general assistance in excess of that amount, and also pays 50 p.c. of the cost of administration.

In Quebec, the Department of Family and Social Welfare reimburses authorized agencies and municipal departments for the full cost of aid to persons in their own homes. It takes full responsibility for aid to persons who are unfit for work for at least 12 months, for supplementary allowances and allowances to needy widows and spinsters 60-65 years of age. The cost of aid to unemployable persons in homes for special care, including nursing homes, is borne two thirds by the province and one third by the institution. In Ontario, the Department of Public Welfare reimburses municipalities up to a prescribed maximum for 80 p.c. of their expenditures for general welfare assistance, and for 90 p.c. of expenditures for aid to persons in excess of a given proportion of the population in the municipality. Aid for rehabilitation services and aid on behalf of foster children, for which the municipalities are reimbursed 50 p.c., are excluded in these calculations. The province administers allowances to needy widows and unmarried women 60-65 years of age.

In Manitoba, the province administers aid to mentally or physically incapacitated persons whose disability is likely to last more than 90 days, and to persons unable to work because of their age. Aid to other needy persons, termed indigent relief, is the responsibility of the municipalities which are reimbursed through the provincial Department of Welfare to the extent of 40 p.c. of the costs, or at a higher rate if costs exceed a specified amount. In Saskatchewan, through the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, the province reimburses the municipalities for approximately 93 p.c. of the cost of assistance granted to needy persons. In Alberta, the province reimburses the municipalities for 80 p.c. of the value of the assistance given. The provincial Department of Public Welfare has full responsibility for allowances payable to persons who are mentally or physically handicapped for a period likely to last for more than 90 days, and to persons who because of their age are not able to be self-supporting. The Department maintains two hostels and one welfare centre to care for unemployable single homeless men without municipal domicile.