

Wherever practicable, there has been an increasing integration of Indians into provincial and municipal health agencies. The Department correspondingly reduces the number of hospitals and other facilities provided specifically for Indians. At present, the Department maintains 18 hospitals at strategic points and co-operates elsewhere with community, mission or company hospitals. Indians are now included under all provincial prepaid insurance plans for hospital care and other forms of insured medical care but in almost all cases the total cost of mental and tuberculosis care is directly borne by the Federal Government. Indian and Eskimo health workers are trained to give instruction in health care and sanitation.

Northern Health.—Because of the special problems in developing health services in the Far North, the Directorate of Medical Services has been given the responsibility of co-ordinating federal and territorial health care for all residents. In so doing, the Department undertakes the functions of a health department for the Council of the Northwest Territories and assists the territorial government of the Yukon Territory to provide certain health services. Close liaison is maintained with the federal departments directly responsible for administrative matters affecting these areas.

In the Yukon Territory, services for the total population administered through the Commissioner for the Yukon and provided on a cost-sharing basis with the Department of National Health and Welfare include complete treatment for tuberculosis, payment for services rendered at the Alberta cancer clinics, mental hospital care through arrangements with the Province of British Columbia, and medical care for indigent patients. Public health nursing services, measures for control of communicable diseases, and administration of the principal public hospital are primarily the responsibility of the Medical Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Similar services are provided in the Northwest Territories, the costs being shared by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Department of National Health and Welfare. Indigent residents are eligible for medical, dental and optical services as well as for tuberculosis and mental care.

Sick Mariners.—The Department of National Health and Welfare provides compulsory prepaid medical, surgical, hospital and other treatment services to crew members of all foreign-going ships arriving in Canada and Canadian coastal vessels in interprovincial trade, and provides medical, surgical and treatment services on an elective basis to crew members of Canadian fishing and government vessels. Canadian seamen obtain their hospital care under the provincial hospital insurance plans.

Leprosy.—Since 1960, isolation and treatment of persons suffering from leprosy have been arranged in their home neighbourhoods. Under the provisions of the Leprosy Act, facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy are provided in a six-bed unit of the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital at Tracadie, N.B.

Quarantine.—Under the Quarantine Act, all vessels, aircraft and other conveyances together with their crew members and passengers arriving in Canada from foreign countries are inspected by the quarantine officers to detect and correct conditions that could lead to the entry into Canada of such diseases as smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus and relapsing fever. Fully organized quarantine stations are located at all major seaports and airports.

Immigration.—Under the Immigration Act and the Department of National Health and Welfare Act, the Immigration Medical Service conducts in Canada and other countries the medical examination of all applicants for immigration to Canada and also provides treatment for certain classes of persons after arrival in Canada, including immigrants who become ill en route to their destination or while awaiting employment.