

Other international health responsibilities include the custody and distribution of biological, vitamin and hormone standards for the World Health Organization and certain duties in connection with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and Canada's representation on the Narcotic Commission of the United Nations.

## Section 2.—Provincial and Local Health Services

Provincial and local health services may be grouped into several broad categories: general public health services, primarily of a preventive nature; services for specific diseases or disabilities combining prevention and treatment; services related to general medical and hospital care; and services for disabled and chronically ill persons.

### Subsection 1.—General Public Health Services

Provincial and local governments co-operate closely in providing community public health services. The autonomy of the provinces and their social, economic and geographic diversity make for some variety in legislative provisions, in financial arrangements and in the detailed division of functions between provincial health departments and local and voluntary agencies. Each province, however, offers all or nearly all of a basic range of public health services, which includes environmental health, occupational health, communicable disease control, maternal and child health, dental health, nutrition, health education and public health laboratories.

*Environmental Health.*—The control of factors in the environment that are harmful to physical health is a rapidly expanding area of public health activity. Much of the work in community sanitation involves traditional inspection duties essential to the maintenance of pure milk, water and food supplies, disposal systems and provision of sanitary conditions in public areas. Increasing industrialization and urbanization, however, have both magnified the old problems and imposed new responsibilities. Air pollution, water pollution, radiation exposure and the use of pesticides are emerging as major environmental problems, necessitating the co-operative efforts of governments and other agencies in research and in planning effective control measures.

*Occupational Health.*—Services designed to prevent accidents and occupational diseases and to maintain the health of employees are the common concern of provincial health departments, labour departments, workmen's compensation boards and industry management. Provincial agencies regulate working conditions and offer consultant and educational services to industry. All provinces have legislation (*Factory Acts, Shop Acts, Mines Acts, Workmen's Compensation Acts*) setting health safety standards for employment.\*

*Communicable Disease Control.*—There are separate divisions of epidemiology or communicable disease control in six provinces; in the other provinces these functions are handled by other provincial medical consultants. Local health authorities undertake case-finding and diagnostic services in co-operation with public health laboratories, carry out epidemiological investigations and often participate in tuberculosis and venereal disease control measures. All provincial health departments organize immunization programs for the public against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and smallpox. Through agreement with the Federal Government, live oral poliovirus vaccine (Sabin) as well as Salk vaccine is made available by provincial health departments for immunization against poliomyelitis. Other agents such as gamma globulin may be provided under certain conditions for protection against measles and infectious hepatitis.

*Maternal and Child Health.*—Most provincial health departments have maternal and child health divisions under medical direction or have made other administrative arrangements to provide consultant services in this field. In addition, six of the provinces have consultant nursing services within these divisions. Provincial divisions provide advisory

\*See Chapter XVIII, Section 1, Subsection 2, for provincial labour legislation.