

the aged from municipal taxation; some guarantee the repayment of loans made for the construction of homes. Most provinces also make provision for capital grants to municipalities, voluntary organizations, or limited-dividend companies for the construction of low-rental housing for the elderly. These projects are usually built under Sect. 16 of the National Housing Act, which provides for long-term low-interest loans to limited-dividend companies constructing low-rental self-contained or hostel accommodation for the elderly. Units for the elderly may also be included in low-rental public housing projects for families built under Sect. 35 of the Act. Three provinces guarantee the repayment of loans made for the construction of low-rental housing, and one province pays an annual maintenance grant for such housing.

In some provinces efforts are made to place well, elderly people in small proprietary boarding homes. Elderly persons who are chronically ill may be cared for in chronic or convalescent hospitals, private or public nursing homes and some homes for the aged. All provinces contribute to the maintenance of needy persons in homes for the aged or other homes for special care, and these costs are shared by the Federal Government under the Unemployment Assistance Act (see p. 317). Under its Elderly Persons Social and Recreational Centres Act, Ontario provides for a provincial grant of up to 30 p.c. of the cost of constructing or acquiring a building for use as a centre if the local municipality contributes 20 p.c. of the cost.

Subsection 4.—Child Welfare Services

Child welfare services, which include child protection and care, services for unmarried parents and adoption services, are provided in all provinces under provincial legislation. The program may be administered by the provincial authority or the responsibility may be delegated to local children's aid societies (voluntary agencies with boards of directors, operating under charter and under the general supervision of provincial departments). In Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, child welfare services are administered by the province; in Alberta they are mainly administered by the province although in the larger urban centres there is some delegation to the municipality; in Quebec they are administered by recognized voluntary agencies and institutions, religious and secular; in Ontario and New Brunswick, a network of local children's aid societies 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 elsewhere.

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 or partly by the municipality of residence and partly by the province.

The child welfare agencies, provincial or private, 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 proved, 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 whose services may involve casework with families in their own homes, care in foster boarding homes or adoption homes, or, for children who need it, in selected institutions. Children placed for adoption may be wards or they may be placed on the written consent of the parent. Adoptions, including those arranged privately, number about 14,000 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