

The Health Resources Fund Act, given Royal Assent on July 11, 1966, provides \$500,000,000 over the period 1966-80 to assist provinces in the acquisition, construction and renovation of health training facilities and research institutions (see p. 294).

An amendment to the federal Old Age Security Act, effective Jan. 1, 1967, provides guaranteed income supplements to recipients of Old Age Security who have little or no other income. The maximum amount of the supplement is \$30 a month (see pp. 329-330).

PART I.—PUBLIC HEALTH

Provincial governments bear the major responsibility for health services in Canada, with the municipality often assuming considerable authority over matters delegated to it by provincial legislation. The Federal Government has jurisdiction over a number of health matters of a national character and provides important financial assistance to provincial health and hospital services. All levels of government are aided and supported by a network of voluntary agencies working in different health fields.

Section 1.—Federal Health Activities

The Department of National Health and Welfare is the chief federal agency in health matters but important treatment programs are also administered by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and National Defence. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics is responsible for collection, analysis and publication of national health statistics, the Medical Research Council and the Defence Research Board administer medical research programs, and the Canada Department of Agriculture has certain health responsibilities connected with food production.

The Department of National Health and Welfare controls food and drugs, including narcotics, operates quarantine and immigration medical services, carries out international health obligations, and provides health services to Indians, Eskimos and other special groups. It advises on the visual eligibility of applicants for blindness allowances and co-operates with the provinces in the provision of surgical or remedial treatment for recipients of the allowances. Under the Public Works Health Act, supervision of health conditions is provided for persons employed on federal public works. Health counselling and medical supervision are provided for the federal Public Service. The Department also administers the civil aviation medical program for the Department of Transport.

The Department serves the provinces in an advisory and co-ordinating capacity and administers grants to provincial health and national voluntary agencies. Administration of federal aspects of the Health Resources Fund and the Hospital Insurance and National Health Grant Programs is a major activity. Co-ordination with the provinces on health matters is facilitated by the Dominion Council of Health, the principal advisory agency to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Its membership includes the Deputy Minister of National Health, who acts as chairman, the chief health officer of each province, and five appointees of the Governor in Council. The Council meets semi-annually. Federal-provincial technical advisory committees of the Council deal with specific aspects of public health.

Subsection 1.—Medical Care and the Health Resources Fund

Public Medical Care.—The Medical Care Act was passed by the Canadian Parliament in December 1966 and is to become operative not later than July 1, 1968. The provisions of this statute are based on principles outlined by the Prime Minister in July 1965, when he announced the intention of the government to make available to the provinces federal financial contributions for provincially administered medical care programs.