

effect in some provinces for an interim period with respect to certain programs that utilize a means test and are not covered under the Canada Assistance Plan. The Canada Assistance Plan legislation provides that the provinces may discontinue their programs of old age assistance, blind persons allowances and disabled persons allowances and instead give aid under their general programs, with costs shared under the Canada Assistance Plan. All provinces had signed agreements under the Canada Assistance Plan by the end of August 1967. The arrangements for contracting out of certain shared-cost programs that were introduced in 1965 under the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act are applied to Quebec's agreement under the Plan.

Effective from Apr. 1, 1966, the Canada Assistance Plan extends federal sharing to include the following costs, which were not shared under the Unemployment Assistance Act: assistance to needy mothers with dependent children, maintenance of children in the care of provincially approved child welfare agencies, health care services to needy persons, and the extension of welfare services to prevent or remove causes of dependency or to assist recipients in achieving self-support. The only eligibility requirement specified is that of need, which is to be determined through an assessment of budgetary requirements as well as of income and resources. A province must not require previous residence as a condition of eligibility for assistance or for continued assistance. Rates of assistance and eligibility requirements are set by the province so that they may be adjusted to local conditions and the needs of special groups. The Plan requires that the provinces establish procedures for appeal from decisions that relate to the provision of assistance.

The Federal Government reimburses the provinces for 50 p.c. of the cost of assistance provided to persons in need and for 50 p.c. of certain costs of improving or extending welfare services.

"Assistance" includes any form of aid to or on behalf of persons in need for the purpose of providing basic requirements such as food, shelter and clothing; items necessary for the safety, well-being or rehabilitation of a person in need, or for a handicapped person; special home care such as a home for the aged, a nursing home or a welfare institution for children; travel and transportation; funerals and burials; health care services; welfare services purchased by or at the request of provincially approved agencies; and comfort allowances for inmates of institutions.

The cost of improving and extending welfare services may be calculated either (1) as the amount by which the cost of providing welfare services exceeds that of the period from Apr. 1, 1964 to Mar. 31, 1965 or (2) as the cost of employing persons who are engaged wholly or mainly in the performance of welfare service functions and who are employed in positions filled after Mar. 31, 1965. Included for sharable purposes are the costs of salaries and employee benefits, travel, research, consultation, fees for conferences and seminars, and certain costs of staff training. The sharing of costs of work activity projects that prepare persons for employment and the extension of provincial welfare services to Indians on reserves, on Crown lands or in unorganized territory are governed by special agreements.

Subsection 2.—Unemployment Assistance

Under the Unemployment Assistance Act 1956, as amended, the Federal Government was authorized to enter into an agreement with any province to reimburse it for 50 p.c. of the unemployment assistance expenditures made by the province and its municipalities to persons and their dependants who are unemployed and in need. Payments to both employable and unemployable persons are sharable, as are the costs of maintaining persons in homes for special care, and the costs of supplementary aid to recipients of old age security