

pensions, old age assistance, blind persons allowances, disabled persons allowances and unemployment insurance benefits where the amount of assistance is determined on the basis of need. Federal sharing was extended to mothers' allowances from Apr. 1, 1966. Effective from Apr. 1, 1965, Quebec received partial payment for assistance costs under the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act under which the province is entitled to compensation in the form of a tax abatement and an equalization payment.

As noted above, all programs under which aid is based on a needs test will be included for reimbursement under the Canada Assistance Plan under which all provinces have signed agreements. The Unemployment Assistance Act, however, will remain in effect for a transitional period in some provinces to cover the costs of aid to residual groups of persons under certain means test programs during the process of conversion to needs test programs.

4.—Unemployment Assistance, by Province, Year Ended Mar. 31, 1966 with Totals for 1964-66

Province	Re- cipients ¹ in March	Federal Share of Un- employment Assistance Costs ²	Province or Territory	Re- cipients ¹ in March	Federal Share of Un- employment Assistance Costs ²
	No.	\$		No.	\$
Newfoundland.....	51,604	4,484,744	Alberta.....	62,783	11,055,266
Prince Edward Island.....	2,914	337,825	British Columbia.....	93,904	20,104,665
Nova Scotia.....	26,186	1,921,734	Yukon Territory.....	309	71,577
New Brunswick.....	25,582	1,514,402	Northwest Territories.....	1,338	62,514
Quebec ³	258,415	22,586,629	Canada.....	1966	725,475
Ontario.....	134,824	28,318,276		1965	723,073
Manitoba.....	30,806	5,718,057		1964	733,489
Saskatchewan.....	36,810	4,218,635			100,394,324
					112,889,898
					106,497,974

¹ Includes dependants.

² Payment figures shown are for the months to which the claims made under the program relate and include amounts paid to the provinces by the Federal Government after the end of the fiscal year.

³ During the year, Quebec claims were reduced by \$20,149,002, representing the federal portion of the cost for which compensation was provided in the form of a tax abatement.

Subsection 3.—Old Age Assistance

The Old Age Assistance Act of 1951, as amended, provides for federal reimbursement to the provinces for assistance to persons age 65 or over who are in need and who meet the ten-year residence and income requirements. For an unmarried person, total income allowed, including assistance, may not exceed \$1,260 a year. For a married couple, it may not exceed \$2,220 a year or, when the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Allowance Act, \$2,580 a year.

A pensioner is transferred to Old Age Security on reaching the eligible age for it (see p. 329). The federal contribution may not exceed 50 p.c. of \$75 a month or of the assistance paid, whichever is less. The province administers the program and, within the limits of the federal Act, may fix the amount of assistance payable, the maximum income allowed and other conditions of eligibility. Effective Apr. 1, 1965, Quebec withdrew from this program.

Under the terms of the Canada Assistance Plan a province may elect to aid needy persons over 65 years of age under a general assistance program with costs shared under the Canada Assistance Plan (see p. 333). Accordingly, several provinces no longer accept applications under the Old Age Assistance program. The provinces may also transfer current recipients of old age assistance to their general programs, provided that there is no decrease in benefits, and they are gradually altering their programs in this way.