

tions for the construction of low-rental housing for elderly persons. These projects are usually built under Sect. 16 of the National Housing Act, which provides for long-term low-interest loans to non-profit corporations constructing low-rental self-contained or hostel accommodation for older people. Units for the aged may also be included in low-rental public housing projects for families, built under Sect. 35 of the Act. One province pays annual maintenance grants in respect to each self-contained housing unit and for each bed in an approved special-care home operated under municipal, charitable, or non-profit corporation auspices.

In some provinces efforts are made to place well, elderly people in small proprietary boarding homes. Those 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 Canada Assistance Plan (see pp. 332-333).

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, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta, child welfare services are administered by the province; in Quebec they are administered by recognized voluntary agencies and institutions, religious and secular; in Ontario, 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, formerly borne by the province or partly by the municipality of residence and partly by the province, are sharable with the Federal Government under the Canada Assistance Plan (pp. 332-333).

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. Services are provided as appropriate and include services to children 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 15,500 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 need preparation for placement in foster homes, and emphasis is increasingly being placed on group-living homes. The development of small, highly specialized institutions, which function as treatment centres for emotionally disturbed children, is of particular significance. Institutions for children are governed by provincial child welfare legislation and by provincial or municipal public health regulations; they are generally subject to inspection and in some provinces to licensing. Sources of income may include private subscriptions, provincial grants, and maintenance payments on behalf of children in care, payable by the parents, the placing agency or the responsible municipal or provincial department.