

Section 1.—Pensions and Allowances

Disability and Dependants Pensions

Canadian Pension Commission.—The Canadian Pension Commission administers the Pension Act (RSC 1952, c. 207, as amended) and Parts I to X of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act (RSC 1952, c. 51, as amended). The members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor in Council who may also impose upon the Commission duties in respect of any grants in the nature of pensions, etc., made under any statute other than the Pension Act. It reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Commission has district offices in principal cities across Canada with a Senior Pension Medical Examiner in charge.

The Pension Act.—Previous issues of the Year Book contain information on the development of Canadian pension legislation together with yearly statistics of numbers and liabilities.

The Pension Act makes provision for the payment of pensions in respect of disability or death resulting from injury or disease incurred during or attributable to service with the Canadian Forces or the Naval, Army or Air Forces of Canada in time of war or peace. Provision is also made for supplementing, up to Canadian rates, awards of pension to or in respect of Canadians for disability or death suffered as a result of service in the British or Allied Forces during World War I or World War II, or payment of pension at Canadian rates in cases where the claim has been rejected by the government of the country concerned.

Federal legislation assented to Nov. 30, 1966 (SC 1966-67, c. 55), provided an increase of 15 p.c. in the basic rate of disability pension, retroactive to Sept. 1, 1966; the rate for a 100-p.c. disability was increased from \$2,400 to \$2,760 a year. The legislation also provided an increase in pension for widows of all ranks up to and including that of Colonel, from \$1,824 to \$2,100 a year. The statutory rates of pension with respect to other awards under the Pension Act remained the same.

The previous basic rate of disability pension was applicable to all ranks up to and including that of Colonel. Since the new rate is slightly higher than the rate for ranks higher than Colonel, the increase has the effect of making disability pension payable at the same rate for all ranks. The annual rates for a 100-p.c. disability for all ranks are:—

	\$
Pensioner.....	2,760
Wife.....	768
One child.....	360
Two children.....	624
Each additional child.....	216

For assessments lower than 100-p.c., the awards are proportionately less. Attendance allowance, which is payable to a pensioner who is totally disabled, helpless and in need of attendance, and which varies from a minimum of \$480 to a maximum of \$3,000 a year depending on the degree of attendance required, is paid in addition to pension. Although a pensioner must be totally disabled to receive this allowance, the disability resulting in the need of attendance may be non-pensionable.

The annual rates of pension for widows and children of all ranks up to and including that of Colonel and equivalent are:—

	\$
Widow.....	2,100
One child.....	720
Two children.....	1,248
Each additional child.....	432