

the various administrative units of the Department responsible for federal-provincial health care programs such as hospital insurance, medical care insurance and health grant programs that have a service, demonstration, research, or educational objective: the Non-medical Use of Drugs Program, the Family Planning Grant, the National Health Grant (now including the Public Health Research Grant), and the grants for health manpower development. Consultants are engaged in health facilities design and in most areas of community health including mental health and health education. Other technical advice is available through programs directly operated by the Department for health protection including the safety of foods, drugs and health appliances, environmental health, the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control and other specialized areas.

6.1.4 International health

Canada actively assists and co-operates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the other specialized agencies of the United Nations whose programs have a substantial health component or orientation. Capital and technical assistance are provided to developing countries through the Colombo Plan and other bilateral aid programs. Health training is provided for a number of persons coming to Canada each year under various technical assistance schemes and in co-operation with the PAHO/WHO Fellowships Programs.

Canadian experts in health legislation, health administration, environmental health, nursing, and related areas undertook specific assignments abroad during the year and teachers and specialists in a number of clinical fields were provided in response to requests from developing countries. Capital assistance under the Canadian International Development Agency program, primarily through the provision of cobalt-60 beam therapy units for cancer treatment centres in the Colombo Plan and Caribbean areas, was continued. As a result of a visit to Viet-Nam in 1967, recommendations of the Advisory Team on the Viet-Nam Medical Program regarding tuberculosis, rehabilitation, immunization, hospital equipment and other programs have been implemented; the tuberculosis program was again reviewed during visits by an expert in 1970 and succeeding years. Canadian participation in this project was phased out during 1972. Projects for training in public health are in development in Viet-Nam and in Cameroon.

The Department is responsible for the enforcement of regulations governing the handling and shipping of shellfish under the International Shellfish Agreement between Canada and the United States. Other responsibilities include the custody and distribution of biological, vitamin, and hormone standards for WHO and certain duties in connection with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as well as Canada's representation on the Narcotic Commission of the United Nations.

6.2 Provincial and local health services

Provincial governments administer medical and hospital insurance programs, and are primarily responsible for health measures to prevent disease and improve the health standards of the community. These include preventive health services, hospital services, treatment services for tuberculosis, mental illness and other diseases, and rehabilitation and care of the chronically ill and disabled. Most health functions are administered from within provincial health departments, but in some provinces certain programs such as hospital insurance, medical care insurance, tuberculosis control, cancer control, and alcoholism and drug addiction programs are directed by separate public agencies directly accountable to the Minister of Health. Voluntary organizations also provide specialized health services.

Local programs to safeguard community health are concerned with environmental sanitation to ensure safe water, milk and other foods, prevention and control of infectious diseases through use of vaccines and prophylactics, improvement of maternal and child health, family planning, dental health, registration of vital statistics, and health education and counselling. In addition, the larger city health departments and health units have developed specialized services in such areas as mental health, home care and rehabilitation of the chronically ill and the handicapped. A few health units and departments in most provinces carry out health screening for chronic conditions. Local health services also participate with provincial authorities in accident prevention programs and in measures to control pollution of the air, water and soil.