

6.5.4 Youth allowances

Legislation providing for a program of youth allowances became effective September 1, 1964. The federal government does not provide youth allowances in Quebec, which has had its own program called Schooling Allowances since 1961 (see Section 6.7.5). Quebec is compensated by a tax abatement adjusted to equal the amount that the federal government would otherwise have paid in allowances to Quebec residents. The federal youth allowances and the comparable Quebec schooling allowances programs cover all eligible young people in Canada. Summary statistics of the operations of this program at the federal level appear in Table 6.8.

Under the federal program, monthly allowances of \$10 are payable for all dependent children aged 16 and 17 who are receiving full-time educational training or are precluded from doing so by reason of physical or mental infirmity. Both the parent or guardian and the child must normally be physically present and living in a province other than Quebec. The allowance is not payable to a parent who resides in Quebec or outside Canada, regardless of where his child may be attending school. However, a child may attend school in Quebec or outside Canada, or, if disabled, receive care or training in Quebec or outside Canada and still be considered eligible, on the basis that he is a resident of a province other than Quebec but is temporarily absent.

Allowances normally commence with the month following that in which family allowances cease and continue until the school year terminates. They are paid retroactively for the summer months when the child returns to school at the commencement of the new school year, although allowances for a disabled child not attending school are payable continuously throughout the year. Should a student leave school, leave the country permanently, cease to be maintained, take up residence in Quebec, or die, the allowance ceases. Otherwise, the youth allowance continues until the end of the month in which the young person reaches age 18. Youth allowances are not considered to be income for any purpose of the Income Tax Act.

The program is administered by the Income Security Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare through regional offices located in each of the provincial capitals other than Quebec City. The costs of youth allowances are met from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

6.5.5 Emergency welfare services

The function of the Emergency Welfare Services Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare is to develop community capability to provide, in the event of a national emergency, essential welfare services not available through established welfare agencies. A 1965 Order in Council set up five emergency welfare services — emergency clothing, emergency feeding, emergency lodging, registration and inquiry, and personal services — and gave the division responsibility for the continuation of welfare departments in support of rehabilitation and recovery. To these ends, policy has been defined, systems designed and, at all levels of government, welfare resources planned.

In peacetime, trained specialists within the federal, provincial and municipal departments of welfare, organized nationally, are responsible for developing an emergency welfare capability. The program is an integral part of the Canada Survival Plan and is co-ordinated with the programs of other Canadian government departments and private agencies. Leaders are trained in the art of organizing large numbers of volunteers for emergency welfare operations and a public education program is maintained. Special printed forms and equipment for survival, not regularly available through commercial sources, have been produced and are located strategically across Canada.

6.5.6 International welfare

Canada is actively involved in the social development activities of the United Nations and in the work of a number of international voluntary agencies in the social welfare field; it is also a member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund. In addition, the Canadian government, together with provincial governments and agencies, participates actively in the work of several international voluntary organizations including the International Council on Social Welfare and the International Union of Family Organizations.

The Department of National Health and Welfare, through the programs of the Canadian International Development Agency, assists in the planning and implementation of a number