

year for a married couple when the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act. Under the Blind Persons Act, total income, including the allowance, may not exceed \$1,500 a year for an unmarried person, \$1,980 a year for a person with no spouse but with one or more dependent children, \$2,580 for a married couple and \$2,700 a year for a married couple when the spouse is also blind.

The federal contribution is 50% of \$75 a month or the allowance paid, whichever is less, for disabled persons allowances, and 75% of \$75 a month or the allowance paid, whichever is less, for blind persons allowances.

Beginning on April 1, 1965 payments to Quebec have been made under the terms of the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.

Under the terms of the Canada Assistance Plan, a province may elect to aid needy persons in these categories under a general assistance program with costs shared under the Plan. By the end of 1972 Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta had discontinued receipt of applications for disabled persons allowances, and four of these provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, had also discontinued receipt of applications for blind persons allowances.

Details on the operations of the various programs of allowances for the blind and for disabled persons appear in Table 6.11.

6.6.3 National welfare grants

The National Welfare Grants program was established in 1962 to help develop and strengthen welfare services in Canada. Under the program, project grants are made to provincial and municipal welfare departments, non-governmental welfare agencies, citizen organizations and universities. Fellowships are provided to individuals seeking advanced training in the social welfare field. The variety of provisions within the program along with its associated consultative services allows it to operate as a flexible instrument in the development of welfare services and to give major emphasis to experimental activities in the welfare field. The allotment for the year ended March 31, 1972 was almost \$2.7 million.

General welfare bursary training and staff development grants are available to provinces on a shared-cost basis, with the other provisions of the program being administered and financed entirely by the federal government. Demonstration, research and social action projects in a wide range of social welfare subject areas are eligible for grants, as are developmental projects related to welfare manpower. Fellowships available for study at Canadian and foreign universities and grants available to assist Canadian schools of social work with teaching and field instruction costs are scheduled to terminate March 31, 1974.

With the advent of the Canada Assistance Plan, increasing attention has been given to experimental activities under the National Welfare Grants program to encourage innovative approaches to the solution of social problems and the provision of welfare services.

Effective April 1, 1967, a mental retardation grant was established for a five-year period; part of this grant is administered in conjunction with the National Welfare Grants program and the original term has now been extended to permit complete utilization of the fund. Support is given to research and demonstration projects designed to expand knowledge and to apply that knowledge to the provision of services and to preventive programs in that field.

Expenditures under the National Welfare Grants program for the year ended March 31, 1972 totalled \$2.3 million and under the Mental Retardation Grant \$138,446. Of the former, \$1.0 million was expended on demonstration projects, \$410,127 on research projects, \$576,951 on manpower utilization and development, including demonstration, national agency, teaching and field instruction, fellowships and scholarships, \$139,818 on general national agency projects and \$118,067 on general welfare projects including the provincially administered bursary and staff development programs.

6.6.4 Vocational rehabilitation

The federal-provincial vocational rehabilitation program, which began in 1952, was consolidated and extended under the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, 1961. Agreements under this Act provide for equal sharing of costs between the federal government and the provinces or territories. These costs include co-ordination and provision of services to disabled or other vocationally disadvantaged individuals, training of rehabilitation personnel, and research and publicity. Approved services supplied by a