

Board hearings and provide a general counselling service to applicants relative to their claims under the Pension Act. No charge is made for the services of the Bureau.

Statistics are not available for the new Bureau of Pensions Advocates but in its last year the Veterans Bureau presented 5,736 claims to the Canadian Pension Commission for adjudication of which 42% were wholly or partially granted.

6.9.2 Welfare and treatment services

6.9.2.1 Welfare services

Welfare services for veterans and, where appropriate, their dependants are provided by the Welfare Services Branch. These include the administration of assigned statutes; the conducting of field work and reporting for other branches of the Department, and the Canadian Pension Commission, the War Veterans Allowance Board and Services Benevolent Funds; and the provision of a rehabilitation and welfare program of advice and counselling including referral, where indicated, to other public or private agencies, veterans organizations, etc.

Assistance fund. Recipients of benefits under the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act living in Canada may be given help from the assistance fund if their total income is lower than the permitted maximum. Assistance may take the form of a monthly supplement based on shelter, fuel, food, clothing, personal care and specified health costs or of a single award to meet an unusual or emergency need. The number of persons assisted in the year ended March 31, 1972, was 21,728, the number in receipt of monthly supplements at the end of 1972 was 17,471 and fund expenditures to March 31, 1972, amounted to \$8.3 million.

Education assistance to children. The Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act provides help in the form of allowances and the payment of fees for the post-secondary education of children of persons whose deaths have been attributed to military service. Assistance is restricted to children attending, in Canada, educational institutions that require secondary school graduation, matriculation or equivalent standing for admission, including, in addition to universities and colleges, such facilities as hospital schools of teaching and institutes of technology. From its inception in July 1953 to March 31, 1972, expenditures totalled \$10.9 million of which \$6 million was spent in allowances and \$4.9 million in fees. By the end of March 1972, training had been approved for 5,854 children of Canada's war dead; of these, 2,557 had successfully completed training. At the same date, there were 877 students in university and non-university courses receiving assistance.

Veterans insurance. Under the terms of the Returned Soldiers Insurance Act (SC 1920, c.54 as amended), any one veteran of World War I became eligible to contract for life insurance with the federal government for a maximum of \$5,000. No policies have been issued under this Act since August 31, 1933. During the eight years in which the Act was open, 48,319 policies with a face value of \$109.3 million were issued. On December 31, 1971, 3,865 policies with a value of \$8.4 million were still in force.

The Veterans Insurance Act (RSC 1970, c.V-3) made life insurance up to a maximum of \$10,000 available to veterans of World War II on their discharge as well as to widows of those who died during that war. The Veterans Benefit Act of 1954 extended this eligibility to veterans with active service in Korea. The period of eligibility to apply for this insurance ended October 31, 1968. By that date 56,148 policies amounting to \$185.1 million had been issued and, of these, 22,745 policies with a value of \$73 million were still in force on December 31, 1971.

Rehabilitation and welfare. Welfare officers at district offices work closely with other branches of the Department, with other public agencies at all levels and with private agencies and organizations in assisting veterans and their dependants to deal with problems of social adjustment, particularly those associated with physical disabilities or the disabilities of increasing age. The latter occur more frequently, of course, as the age of the veteran population increases. A program of university, vocational, technical and home training with allowances, is provided for disabled pensioned veterans and vocational rehabilitation is also promoted by training assistance. Sheltered workshops at Toronto and Montreal and home assembly work in other centres produce poppies and memorial wreaths associated with Remembrance Day observances.