

least one parent resident in Canada who is a Canadian citizen, a landed immigrant or a non-immigrant admitted to Canada. In contrast with the previous legislation, the allowance is payable for the children of immigrants in the month after they are legally landed and there is no requirement that the children attend school. The allowance is normally paid to the mother of the child. Under the Act a province may, by legislation, vary the allowance basing it on the number of children per family, their ages, or both, provided that (a) no allowance is less than 60% of the current federal rate (see below), and (b) total payments in a province with its own rates, over a three-year period, amount to the same as if the federal rate had been in effect.

In Quebec, families receive \$12 a month for the first child, \$18 for the second, \$28 for the third and \$31 for each of the fourth and subsequent children with an additional \$5 for each child 12 to 17 years of age. In Alberta the rates vary only with the child's age: for a child up to and including six years of age, \$15; for those seven to 11, \$19; 12 to 15, \$25; and those of 16 and 17, \$28. Quebec pays, in addition to the allowance mentioned above, a provincial supplement of \$3 a month for the first child, \$4 for the second, \$5 for the third and \$6 for each additional child. Prince Edward Island pays a similar supplement of \$10 a month for each child in excess of four. Families to whom a provincial law of this kind does not apply receive the uniform federal monthly allowance which in 1974 stood at \$20 per child.

The Family Allowance is taxable. The person who claims a child as a dependent for income tax purposes must also declare the allowance as income for tax; but if the child is not claimed as a dependent for income tax, the person to whom the allowance is paid must declare the allowance for taxation. A non-taxable Special Allowance of \$20 a month is paid on behalf of children in the care of, and maintained by, a government, a government agency or approved private institution. This allowance is normally paid to the institution which has the care of the child but in special circumstances it may be paid to the child's foster parents. Provinces do not have the power to alter the rate of Special Allowance.

The Family and Special allowances are to be adjusted every January in accordance with the 12-month average of the consumer price index (CPI) ending on the previous October 31 over the 12-month average of the CPI that ended one year prior to that date. If that ratio is less than one, no adjustment is to be made. The program is administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare through regional offices in each provincial capital. The regional director located at Edmonton also administers the accounts of residents in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. The accounts of families resident outside Canada are administered by the regional office in the province where they last lived. Allowances are paid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Statistics for the year ended March 31, 1973 on the operation of the former Family Allowances program under which allowances were paid on behalf of children under 16 years of age appear in Table 6.15, and statistics on the former Youth Allowances program paid on behalf of certain children 16 and 17 years of age appear in Table 6.16. (See the *1973 Canada Year Book* pp 257-258 for descriptions of the former Family Allowances and Youth Allowances programs.)

### 6.3.5 New Horizons Program

The New Horizons Program for retired Canadians was established by Order in Council and announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare in July 1972. Primarily, the program was designed to alleviate the loneliness and sense of isolation which characterize the lives of many older people by offering them the opportunity to participate more actively in the life of the community. Grants are made available to groups of retired Canadians consisting generally of no less than 10 members, for the purpose of planning and operating projects in which their talent and skills are to be utilized for their own betterment, that of other older persons, or of the community. Projects must be non-profit in nature and of no commercial benefit to others. New Horizons is not an employment program, that is, no money is allowed for salaries to the participants. Projects may be funded for up to 18 months. There is no fixed limit to the amount of a grant.

Projects funded to date include physical recreation; crafts and hobbies; historical, cultural and educational programs; social services; information services; and activity centres. As of May 1, 1974, 2,107 projects involving over 460,000 people have been awarded \$12,043,276. Table 6.17 presents the breakdown of projects funded in each province and territory by fiscal year.