

Pension Commission, which administers the Pension Act and Parts I to X of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act; for the War Veterans Allowance Board, which administers the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act; and for the Secretary General (Canada) of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The principal benefits now available to veterans are medical treatment for those eligible, land settlement and home construction assistance, education assistance for the children of the war dead, general welfare services, disability and dependents' pensions and war veterans allowances. The work of the Department, except the administration of the Veterans' Land Act, is carried out through 18 district offices and four sub-district offices in Canada; the benefits of the Veterans' Land Act are administered through five regional offices and 26 district offices across Canada.

6.7.1 Pensions and allowances

6.7.1.1 Disability and dependents' pensions

Canadian Pension Commission. The Canadian Pension Commission administers the Pension Act (RSC 1970, c.P-7) and Parts I to X of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act (RSC 1970, c.C-20). Members are appointed by the Governor in Council who may also impose upon the Commission duties in respect of any grants in the nature of pensions, etc., made under any statute other than the Pension Act. It reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Commission has district offices in principal cities across Canada with a Senior Pension Medical Examiner in charge.

The Pension Act. The evolution of Canada's pension legislation can be traced chronologically through special material usually appearing after major modifications in the laws affecting veterans' pensions and through the statistical presentations to be found each year in earlier editions of the *Canada Year Book*. The Pension Act was the subject of major modifications in 1971 and details of the principal changes are described in the *1972 Canada Year Book*.

The Pension Act provides for payment of pensions in respect of disability or death resulting from injury incurred during or attributable to service with the Canadian Forces in time of war or peace. Provision is also made for supplementing up to Canadian rates, awards of pension to or in respect of Canadians for disability or death suffered as a result of service in the British or Allied Forces during World War I or World War II or payment of pension at Canadian rates in cases where no pension has been awarded by the government of the country concerned.

In 1972 a Joint Study Group composed of representatives of veterans' organizations, the Canadian Pension Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs was formed to study the basic rate of pension payable under Schedules A and B of the Pension Act in an exploratory way, so as to delineate the problem related to the establishment and periodic adjustment of an equitable basic rate and to recommend possible solutions. As a result of the work of the Study Group the basis of pension was established as the earning power of an unskilled labourer in the Public Service based on the average of an established composite group of five Public Service classifications. In July 1973 the acceptance of this basis brought about a 24% increase in pensions. This increase was followed by a 6.7% increase on January 1, 1974, based on the increase in the consumer price index for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1973. Thus the basic monthly pension for a single pensioner suffering 100% disability rose to \$418.26 with an additional pension of \$104.67 for a wife, \$54.42 for the first child, \$39.69 for a second child and \$31.37 for the third and each subsequent child. Pension awards to widows were increased to \$313.70 and additional payments for children or dependent brothers or sisters at the following rates: \$108.83 for one, \$188.22 for two and \$62.74 for a third or subsequent child or dependent brother or sister.

Details as to the number and type of pensions being paid under the Pension Act as at March 31, 1974 are given in Table 6.21.

6.7.1.2 War Veterans Allowances and Civilian War Allowances

War Veterans Allowance Board. The War Veterans Allowance Board is a quasi-judicial body consisting of eight members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Board administers the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act