

not part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, but provides an independent professional legal aid service to applicants for awards under the Pension Act. The Chief Pensions Advocate is the Chief Executive Officer and is assisted by pensions advocates, all of whom are lawyers, located at the Bureau's head office in Ottawa and in district offices in major centres across Canada. Pensions Advocates represent applicants as counsel at Entitlement Board and Pension Review 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.

During the fiscal year 1973-74 the Bureau of Pensions Advocates submitted 11,047 claims to adjudicating bodies. Of these, 7.1% related to World War I service, 70.7% related to World War II service, 3.1% to Special Force (Korea), 16.2% to Regular Force in peacetime, and 2.8% to Special Duty Area Service. Adjudication of disability claims for RCMP service and other service such as Reserve Force and Civilian War Service accounted for less than 1%. Of the 11,708 decisions rendered by adjudicating bodies on Bureau claims during this period, 35.4% were wholly or partially favourable to the applicant.

6.7.2 Welfare and treatment services

6.7.2.1 Welfare services

Welfare services for veterans and, where appropriate, their dependents, 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 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, 1974 was 24,089, the number in receipt of monthly supplements at the end of 1974 was 20,776 and fund expenditures from April 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974, amounted to \$9.8 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 registered in educational institutions in Canada 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, 1974, expenditures totalled \$12.9 million of which \$7.2 million was spent in allowances and \$5.7 million in fees. By the end of March 1974, training had been approved for 6,982 children of Canada's war dead; of these, 2,947 had successfully completed training. At the same date, there were 863 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 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, 1974, 2,759 policies with a value of \$6.0 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, 19,730 policies with a value of \$63.0 million were still in force on December 31, 1974.