

Recreation Canada provide contributions to national sport and recreation associations for administration and leadership training. Many administrative services are available from the National Centre for Sport and Recreation, which is supported by the program. Recreation Canada makes special contributions to Indian and Métis organizations.

Training. Game Plan, a major cooperative effort involving the federal government, the provinces, and the Canadian Olympic Association is designed to provide additional support for training and competitive experience that Canadian athletes require for elite international competition. Sport Canada is heavily involved with Game Plan in addition to its own support program for Olympic and non-Olympic sports. Grants-in-aid provide special assistance to many Canadian athletes in educational programs, while the Canada Fitness Award is a popular motivational project designed for the 7-17 age group.

Competitions. Support is available for competitions at the developmental and elite levels. This support includes payment of the travel costs of athletes, coaches and officials to national championships. A major part of the support for the Canada Games and Arctic Games comes from the branch. Sport Canada also provides contributions for the travel costs of athletes to some major international competitions, including world championships, Pan-American, British Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport. This autonomous body, created by the 1961 Fitness and Amateur Sport Act, advises the Minister of National Health and Welfare on matters relating to fitness and amateur sport.

5.1.6 Federal-provincial cooperation

Since the federal and provincial governments share responsibility for dealing with health matters in Canada, a formal structure has been established for federal-provincial collaboration and cooperation. The following are its elements: Conference of Ministers of Health; Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health; Federal-Provincial Advisory Committees on Community Health, Health Insurance, Health Manpower, and Health Standards. The four advisory committees facilitate the work of the ministers and deputy ministers, and assist them in achieving their objectives, in identifying major issues, and in solving problems. They may set up groups to deal with particular subjects requiring more detailed study.

The Conferences of Ministers and of Deputy Ministers of Health involve matters relating to the promotion, protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of the people of Canada. Normally, the Conference of Ministers meets annually, and the Conference of Deputy Ministers meets twice a year, to discuss various problems relating to provision and financing of health services in Canada.

5.2 Provincial and local health services

The responsibility for regulation of health care, operation of health insurance programs and direct provision of some specialized services rests with the provincial governments; some health responsibilities are delegated to local authorities. Although each of the provinces assigns primary responsibility for health to one department the distribution of function varies from one province to another. In Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec, health and social services are combined within the same department. Other provinces maintain liaison between departments responsible for these related services.

In a number of provinces, health insurance plans and some specialized programs are administered by semi-autonomous boards or commissions. Some report directly to a minister of health; others are under the jurisdiction of a deputy minister. In New Brunswick and Ontario health insurance programs are operated directly by the health departments.