

Social services programs provide some services to anyone who applies (crisis intervention services, information and referral services and family planning services) and other specific services to designated groups. These last include preventive, protective and supportive services to children, rehabilitation services to disabled persons, social integration services to persons who are, or are at risk of being, socially isolated from community life, residential services to those needing care in an institutional setting, and supportive services to the elderly. They also include community development services and community oriented preventive services to specified communities.

Income security programs of NHW

6.4

Family Allowances: the federal program

6.4.1

The Family Allowances Act, 1973, which came into effect on January 1, 1974, replaced the former Family Allowances Act of 1944 and the Youth Allowances Act, 1964. Section 6.7 describes Supplementary Family Allowances programs in Quebec and PEI.

Under the act of 1973, Family Allowances are payable monthly on behalf of a dependent child under 18 years of age who is resident in Canada and is maintained by a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant resident in Canada or a non-immigrant admitted to Canada under specific conditions.

The allowance may be paid when the child or parent is absent from Canada in prescribed circumstances. The allowance is normally paid to the mother of the child. Family Allowances are taxable and must be included as income by the person who claims the child as a dependent.

Monthly, non-taxable Special Allowances are payable on behalf of a child under the age of 18 who is in the care of, and maintained by, a government, a government agency, or an approved private institution. Although normally paid to the institution which has care of the child, Special Allowances may be paid to the child's foster parent at the request of the institution.

The legislation provides for Family Allowances and Special Allowances to be increased at the beginning of each year if the consumer price index for Canada increases. In 1974, the monthly allowances stood at \$20, in 1975 at \$22.08. In 1976, however, indexation was suspended as a result of the federal government's expenditure restraint program. Consequently, the federal rates paid in 1976 were the same as those paid in 1975.

The act permits a provincial legislature to specify the Family Allowance rates to be paid to families resident in the province provided that: the rates are based only on the age of the child, the number of children in the family, or both; no monthly rate is less than 60% of the current federal monthly rate; and the total amount of Family Allowances paid in the province is, as far as practicable, the same as if the federal rates had been paid. Only Quebec and Alberta have specified their own rates. Provinces do not have the power to specify the Special Allowance rate.

Family Allowances rates paid in Quebec monthly during 1975 and 1976 under the federal Family Allowances program were as follows:

	Federal rate 1975 and 1976
Per family	
1st child	\$13.25
2nd child	19.87
3rd child	32.84
Each additional child	36.16

An additional \$5.52 is also paid on behalf of each child 12 years and over.

Alberta specified the 1974 rates in an Order in Council, dated December 19, 1973 which were subsequently incorporated in the Social Development