

ated; the GIS equivalent is then reduced by \$1 for every \$4 of combined income. In October 1976 the OAS stood at \$139.39. For a single pensioner, or a married one whose spouse was not in receipt of OAS or SA, the maximum monthly GIS on the above date stood at \$97.76. For a married pensioner whose spouse was also in receipt of the OAS or SA, the maximum monthly GIS stood at \$86.81. The maximum Spouse's Allowance was \$226.20 (\$139.39 OAS equivalent plus \$86.81 GIS equivalent). OAS and maximum GIS and SA are adjusted every January, April, July and October to reflect the increase in the consumer price index.

The Old Age Security program is administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare through regional offices located in each provincial capital at which applications for pension are received. The regional office in Edmonton administers the program for residents of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.

Social services programs of NHW

6.5

National welfare grants

6.5.1

The National Welfare Grants program was established in 1962 to help develop and strengthen welfare services in Canada. Project grants are made to provincial and municipal welfare departments, non-governmental welfare agencies, citizens' organizations and universities. Fellowships are provided to individuals seeking advanced training in the social welfare field. The variety of provisions within the program, with its associated consultative services, allows it to operate as a flexible instrument in the development of welfare services and to give major emphasis to experimental activities. The allotment for the year ended March 31, 1976 was \$3,729,100.

A wide range of demonstration, research and social development projects are eligible for grants, as are developmental projects related to welfare manpower. Fellowships are available for study at Canadian and foreign universities.

Expenditures under the National Welfare Grants program for the year ended March 31, 1975 totalled \$3,999,802. A sum of \$2,012,550 was expended on demonstration projects; \$800,017 on research projects; \$407,883 on manpower utilization and development, including demonstration, curriculum review in schools of social work and fellowships; \$551,277 on general national welfare agency projects; \$228,075 on special welfare projects including provincially administered bursary and staff development programs.

New Horizons Program

6.5.2

The New Horizons Program for retired Canadians was announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare in July 1972. In January 1975, the Cabinet agreed to recommend that New Horizons be given continuing program status and that yearly contributions in grants be increased by \$4 million, bringing the total annual amount for all costs to \$14 million.

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 utilized for their own betterment, that of other older persons, or of the community. Projects must be non-profit in nature. New Horizons is not an employment program in the sense that 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 include physical recreation; crafts and hobbies; historical, cultural and educational programs; social services; information services; and activity centres. As of June 22, 1976, 5,862 projects involving over 990,538 people had been awarded \$34,200,011.