

In addition to allowances to cover items of basic need, all provinces make provision for such special items as rehabilitation services, expenses incidental to education or to obtaining employment, counselling, homemaker services and institutional care. All provinces permit certain income or earnings exemptions and, under special circumstances, some provinces provide assistance to fully employed persons.

The provincial departments of welfare set rates of assistance and conditions of eligibility; they have regulatory and supervisory powers over municipal administration of assistance, and require certain standards as a condition of provincial aid. Municipal residence may determine the financially responsible authority within a province. The provincial authority takes responsibility for aid to persons residing outside municipal boundaries and for those who lack municipal residence.

The administration of assistance varies. In Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, allowances to persons with long-term need, such as needy mothers with dependent children, disabled persons and the aged, are administered by the province, with other allowances administered by the municipalities. In Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, all assistance is administered by the provincial authority. In Quebec, the province administers assistance through regional and local offices except in Montreal where the municipality administers assistance on behalf of the province. In Saskatchewan, social assistance is administered by the province except in two municipalities. In British Columbia, social allowances are administered through regional and district offices of the provincial government and, in some municipalities, by municipal departments of welfare.

In the seven provinces where the municipalities have some administrative responsibility, the proportion of municipal costs borne by the province varies from 40% to 100% of assistance paid.

Quebec Pension Plan

6.7.2

The Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) was established in 1965 and is comparable to the Canada Pension Plan. Although the Canada and Quebec plans were introduced at the same time and are closely coordinated, a series of amendments to both plans have effected the following differences: the QPP continues to require that a person between the ages of 65 and 70 be retired from regular employment before a retirement pension is paid and that post-retirement earnings from any employment (beyond a certain limit) may reduce the monthly retirement pension; the QPP's survivors' and disability benefits flat rate component is \$106.26 compared to \$41.44 under the CPP (in January 1976); since January 1976, the QPP's orphans' and children's benefits have been fixed at \$29.00 a month whereas those of the CPP are increased annually in accordance with the increases in the cost of living.

In 1975, 214,998 beneficiaries received close to \$184 million in benefits.

Supplementary Family Allowance programs

6.7.3

Quebec has a provincial program embodied in the Quebec Family Allowances Plan of 1973. Certain criteria of eligibility under this plan differ somewhat from those of the federal program. In 1976 the province paid \$3.68 for the first child in a family, \$4.91 for the second, \$6.14 for the third, and \$7.36 for each additional child.

Prince Edward Island passed a Family Allowances Act in 1973. Under this act, the province pays \$10 a month on behalf of the fifth and each subsequent child in a family in addition to the federal payment of \$22.08. The provincial supplement is included in the monthly federal cheque.

Provincial income supplementation programs

6.7.4

Several provinces administer programs designed to supplement existing programs for certain groups such as the elderly and the disabled.