

Protection services include supervision of a child in his own home when there is some element of identifiable neglect or need for protection. When it seems necessary for the protection of the child to remove him from home, the child welfare authority may take the child to a place of safety, but he must be brought before a court within a specified time. A child found to be neglected or in need of protection as defined in provincial law may be committed either temporarily or permanently to the care and custody of the provincial child welfare authority. Temporary commitment is for a limited time, after which the case is reviewed by the court. Permanent committal has the effect of transferring guardianship rights to the child welfare authority. Care is provided according to the needs of the child in a foster boarding home, group home or in a specialized institution.

The child welfare authority arranges adoption placements where this appears appropriate. Children eligible for adoption placement are those legally free for adoption, that is, those in the permanent care and custody of the child welfare authority and those whose parents have formally relinquished them for the purpose of adoption. Adoptions, including those arranged privately, number about 20,000 annually.

Costs of maintenance of children in the care of the provincial authority or a provincially approved agency and of certain welfare services are sharable with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Day care services are offered under a variety of auspices. Centres sponsored by public authority comprise approximately 8.0%, those sponsored by community boards 39.0%, parent cooperatives 9.0% and commercially sponsored centres 45.0%. In the past five years there has been a pronounced trend toward family day care. In 1975 there were approximately 70,000 day care spaces in Canada. In most provinces grants are available for the construction or renovation of facilities. Subsidies for day care services for the children of low-income families are provided by the provincial or municipal authority and are sharable under the Canada Assistance Plan.

### **Programs for the aged**

### **6.8.2**

Programs and services offered to the aged vary from province to province. Although by no means organized in all areas, such services as visiting nurse, homemaker, counselling, information and referral, meals-on-wheels, friendly visiting and housing registries have been established under public and voluntary auspices. Low-rental housing projects have been built in many communities; clubs and centres to provide recreation and social activities have been developed. Some provinces offer annual shelter assistance grants to senior citizens who are either tenants or home owners while others offer free prescription drugs.

In all provinces, homes for the aged and infirm are provided under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices. These homes are required to meet standards set out in provincial legislation relating to homes for the aged, welfare institutions or public health. Homes for the aged, regardless of auspices, are usually inspected and in some provinces must be licensed.

Small proprietary boarding homes for the care of well elderly persons are found in some provinces. Those who suffer from long-term illnesses may be cared for in chronic or convalescent hospitals, private or public nursing homes and some homes for the aged. Costs of care in the chronic or convalescent hospitals are paid through the provincial hospital plans. In the case of needy persons in the so-called homes for special care, maintenance costs are shared on a federal-provincial basis under the Canada Assistance Plan. "Homes for special care" include homes for the aged, hostels, lodges and nursing homes. Various terms are used in the different provinces and within provinces.

In varying degrees, all provinces make capital grants toward the construction or renovation of homes for the aged by municipalities or voluntary organizations and, generally speaking, such homes are exempt from municipal taxation.