

the Canadian Pension Commission and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Rights of applicants and recipients under the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act are protected by the appeal and review functions of the War Veterans Allowance Board.

The principal benefits now available to veterans are medical treatment for those eligible, land settlement and home construction assistance, education assistance for the children of the war dead, general counselling services, disability and dependents pensions and war veterans allowances. The department may also extend assistance to or on behalf of modest-income veterans on a supplementary basis to that provided under the National Housing Act.

The work of the department, except the administration of the Veterans' Land Act, is carried out through 18 district offices and four sub-district offices in Canada; the benefits of the Veterans' Land Act are administered through five regional offices and 16 district offices across Canada.

6.10.1 Pensions and allowances

6.10.1.1 Disability and dependents pensions

Canadian Pension Commission. The Canadian Pension Commission administers the Pension Act (RSC 1970, c.P-7) and Parts I to X of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act (RSC 1970, c.C-20). Members are appointed by the Governor in Council who may also impose upon the commission duties in respect of any other grants made under any statute other than the Pension Act. It reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The commission has district offices in principal cities across Canada.

The Pension Act. The evolution of Canada's pension legislation can be traced through statistical presentations in earlier editions of the *Canada Year Book*. The Pension Act was the subject of major modifications in 1971 and details of the principal changes are described in the *1972 Canada Year Book*.

The Pension Act provides for payment of pensions in respect of disability or death resulting from injury incurred during or attributable to service with the Canadian Forces in time of war or peace. Provision is also made for supplementing, up to Canadian rates, awards of pension to or in respect of Canadians for disability or death suffered as a result of service in the British or Allied Forces during World War I or World War II or payment of pension at Canadian rates in cases where no pension has been awarded by the government of the country concerned.

In 1972 a Joint Study Group composed of representatives of veterans organizations, the Canadian Pension Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs was formed to study the basic rate of pension payable under Schedules A and B of the Pension Act, to delineate the problem related to the establishment and periodic adjustment of an equitable basic rate and to recommend solutions. As a result the rate of pension was established as the earning power of an unskilled labourer in the public service based on the average of an established composite group of five public service classifications. In July 1973 the acceptance of this basis brought about a 24% increase in pensions. This was followed by further increases of 6.7% in January 1974, 10.1% in January 1975, and 11.3% in January 1976, based on increases in the consumer price index for the 12-month periods ended September 30. Thus the basic monthly pension for a single pensioner suffering 100% disability rose to \$512.54 with an additional pension of \$128.14 for a wife, \$66.69 for the first child, \$48.64 for a second child and \$38.44 for the third and each subsequent child. Pension awards to widows were increased to \$384.41 and additional payments for orphan children or dependent brothers or sisters at the following rates: \$133.36 for one, \$230.65 for two and \$62.74 for a third or subsequent child or dependent brother or sister.