

6.10.2.2 Treatment services

The Treatment Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs provides medical and dental services for entitled veterans throughout Canada as well as for members of the Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and wards of other governments or departments at the request and expense of the authorities concerned. Prosthetic services are provided to entitled veterans by the Department of National Health and Welfare but are paid for by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

The branch provides examination and treatment for pensionable disabilities and provides treatment to war veterans allowance recipients (but not to their dependents) and veterans whose service and financial circumstances render them eligible for free treatment or at a cost adjusted to their ability to pay. If a bed is available, any veteran may receive treatment in a departmental hospital on a guarantee of payment of the cost of hospitalization. The pensioner receives treatment for his pensionable disabilities regardless of his place of residence but service to other veterans is available in Canada only. Subject to the approval of the department, an eligible veteran may also obtain treatment at the expense of the department in an outside hospital from a doctor of his choice. Domiciliary care may be provided to eligible veterans in departmental facilities where the need for active or chronic treatment is sufficiently light, provided that excess beds are available.

Under the federal-provincial hospital insurance program, DVA hospitals are recognized for the provision of insured services to veterans. Where treatment is given for a non-pensioned condition at a DVA hospital to a veteran, or elsewhere to a veteran eligible under the veterans treatment regulations, the hospitalization is an insured service under the federal-provincial hospital insurance program and his medical care is an insured service under the federal-provincial medical care insurance program. The department pays premiums where required on behalf of veterans who are eligible for war veterans allowances.

Hospital facilities. Treatment is provided in six active treatment hospitals located at Halifax, NS; Montreal and Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que.; London, Ont.; Winnipeg, Man.; and Calgary, Alta.; and in three domiciliary care homes at Ottawa, Ont., Saskatoon, Sask. and Edmonton, Alta. The number of beds set up in these institutions at December 31, 1975 was 3,880. In Ottawa both acute and chronic cases requiring definitive treatment are admitted to the National Defence Medical Centre. A veterans pavilion of 82 beds is located at St. John's General Hospital, St. John's, Nfld., 1,200 beds are available at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, 150 beds at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université Laval in Quebec and 200 beds at West Saint John Community Hospital in Saint John, NB, for the priority use of veterans, as well as some 766 beds in community hospitals located in St. John's, Nfld., Charlottetown, PEI, Kingston and Thunder Bay, Ont., Regina and Saskatoon, Sask. and Edmonton, Alta.

6.10.3 Land settlement and house construction

Because of the postwar rehabilitation nature and purpose of the legislation, March 31, 1975 was the final date for veterans of World War II or the Korean Special Force to apply for establishment under the various settlement plans of the Veterans' Land Act. Veterans who still had subsisting VLA contracts could apply for additional loans within the financial ceilings of the act to purchase land or effect improvements to their properties, up to March 31, 1977.

From enactment in 1942, loan and grant funds totalling more than \$1.3 billion were expended in the establishment of approximately 140,000 veterans. Of these, almost 32,000 were settled as full-time farmers, over 95,000 as small holders, 1,420 whose principal occupation was commercial fishing, 5,841 as Crown land settlers, nearly 1,800 Indian veterans on reserve lands, and over 4,300 veterans who acted as their own contractors in building homes on city-sized