

The department advises the ministry of transport on health and safety in Canadian civil aviation. Regional and headquarters aviation medical officers review medical examinations, participate in aviation safety programs, and assist in air accident investigations. There is close liaison with authorities in foreign aviation medicine, with standards usually based on international agreements.

Prosthetic services assists in prosthetic and corrective rehabilitation under agreements with most provinces and with the veterans affairs department, and provides a national focal point for related expertise. Discussions have been held on a plan to transfer this activity to provincial control.

Medical services physicians provide an assessment and advisory service to the employment and immigration commission on claims for benefits under the sickness and maternity benefit plan. The Canada Pension Plan maintains its own disability assessment service.

Emergency welfare services is responsible for a national capability, embracing government and welfare related non-government agencies of essential welfare services in any type of emergency in Canada.

In an effort to improve communication through new technology, the branch has participated in telemedicine experiments, with Moose Factory and Kashechewan, Ont. receiving direct consultation on medical and surgical matters through television.

The magnitude of health problems posed by environmental pollution has resulted in a number of activities. The environmental contaminants program is studying effects of mercury pollution from coast to coast. Other environmental contaminants such as cadmium, arsenic and mirex are of growing concern.

## 5.4.2 Health promotion and protection

### 5.4.2.1 Lifestyle and health promotion

Promotion of lifestyles that will improve personal health and development of comprehensive community health services readily accessible to all Canadians are major emphases of health programs branch.

The community health division of the health consultants directorate is concerned with consulting, planning, developing, and evaluating community health services and centres. The main thrust is to promote community health services; to facilitate co-ordination of community health services planning; and to encourage shifts in emphasis from institutional to ambulatory care, and from curative to health-promotional and preventive services.

The lifestyle and health promotion directorate has been established to help develop greater collaboration among government and other agencies in lifestyle and health promotion activities and to bring about better co-ordination of activities within the national health and welfare department.

### 5.4.2.2 Health protection

The health protection branch contains six operational directorates — food, drugs, environmental health, laboratory centre for disease control, non-medical use of drugs, and field operations.

**Food.** Standards of safety and purity are developed through laboratory research and maintained by means of a regular and widespread inspection program. The inspection of food-manufacturing establishments plays a major role in the production of clean, wholesome food containing ingredients that meet recognized standards. Changing food technology requires the development of methods of laboratory analysis to ensure the safety of new types of ingredients and packaging materials. The food and drug regulations list chemical additives that may be used in foods, the amounts that may be added to each food, and the underlying reason. Information on new additives must be submitted for review before they are included in the permitted list. Emphasis is placed on studies to ensure that the levels of pesticide residues in foods are not a health hazard. The effect of new packaging and processing techniques on the bacteria associated with