

and awards bronze, silver and gold crests and awards of excellence on the basis of test results. This popular test is widely used by schools and youth organizations. In 1977, Canada fitness award number 5,000,000 was presented to a Calgary student.

One of the more visible programs is a sports demonstration project. This project tours Canada each summer and gives residents the opportunity to try a variety of physical skills, such as skiing on artificial snow, skating on a specially-designed plastic surface or batting balls pitched from an automatic pitching machine.

The result of the 1976 fitness and sport survey conducted by the research section in collaboration with Statistics Canada will be used by all levels of government and by private agencies and organizations for the evaluation of existing sport and fitness programs and the development of new initiatives.

In October 1977, a discussion paper on the federal role in amateur sport was released for consideration by concerned organizations, individuals and levels of government. Meetings were held across Canada and numerous briefs submitted. This procedure should result in a policy paper which will ensure the continued development of sport in Canada. Similar discussions will be held on the future of fitness and recreation to provide a comprehensive approach to the participation of Canadians in fitness, recreational and sporting activities.

5.4.4 Research, planning, standards and consultation

Medical Research Council. Most federal grants supporting health science research in universities and hospitals are channelled through a medical research council which reports to Parliament through the minister of national health and welfare. The council provides grants in aid of operating and equipment requirements for research projects and direct support for a limited number of investigators and research trainees. It offers incentives for the development of research in highly productive fields where major contributions may be expected and in fields or regions where research is not adequately developed. Support is given for meetings, international scientific activities and exchange of scientists.

National health research and development program. The national health research and development program enables the national health and welfare department to obtain information and to evaluate and develop innovative options for the achievement of broad departmental objectives which embrace the promotion, protection, maintenance and restoration of the health of Canadians. These objectives include meeting similar provincial requirements having national interest or implications.

The program is designed to encourage and support the formulation, testing, evaluation and development of ideas and proposals generated by appropriately qualified individuals and agencies (other than federal government departments and employees); and the creation, development and maintenance of an adequate body of highly competent Canadian research investigators in the field of health care, including health hazards of the environment, the biology of human populations, lifestyle and the organization of health services.

Health statistics. The health division of Statistics Canada has established collection systems for data on vital statistics, special diseases, health manpower and hospital and institutional care. Units in the health protection branch of the national health and welfare department are concerned with data on health products, health hazards and certain disease areas. In the health programs branch, the health economics and statistics division operates a medical care data bank, and integrates health statistical data from various sources. The division undertakes socio-economic research in a variety of fields, including medical and hospital care, community health, health expenditures and resources and other matters relating to health costs and utilization. These studies support departmental health planning as well as the production of publications to increase public understanding of Canada's health services and resources.

Health planning. The long range health planning branch continuously assesses the overall orientation of health services and the organization of resources and factors