

highest. Total food expenditure per person, therefore, shows only a 40.4% increase between the lowest and the highest group compared with 83.9% for expenditure per family.

Social security programs

6.3

Federal, provincial and local governments provide a wide range of income security and social service programs to residents, and these publicly funded and administered programs are augmented by voluntary agencies.

The national health and welfare department administers the Canada Pension Plan, the Old Age Security pension program which includes the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance, Family Allowances and the Canada Assistance Plan. Other federal agencies in the social security field are the employment and immigration commission, which administers the unemployment insurance program and the employment, training and relocation programs; the veterans affairs department, which administers pensions and allowances, welfare, and treatment services for veterans and, where necessary, for their dependents; and the Indian affairs and northern development department which administers a number of welfare programs for Indian and Inuit people.

The provinces, in some instances assisted by municipalities, administer social assistance and social welfare service programs, the costs of which are sharable by the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan. Quebec administers the Quebec Pension Plan which is comparable to the Canada Pension Plan, and Quebec and Prince Edward Island provide provincial family allowances which supplement federal family allowances. Several provinces provide income support to elderly persons which supplements that provided under the federal Old Age Security program.

The National Council of Welfare is an advisory body of citizens which provides the minister of national health and welfare with an independent source of advice reflecting the concerns and experience of low-income Canadians and those who work with them. The 21 members include past and present welfare recipients and other low-income citizens, as well as social workers and others involved in the social welfare field.

Types of programs. Income security programs provide cash payments directly to those persons eligible for such benefits. These programs include income insurance schemes such as the Canada and Quebec pension plans, unemployment insurance and worker compensation and income support measures such as the Old Age Security pension, the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Spouse's Allowance, family allowances, and social assistance provided by the provinces and municipalities.

Social services programs provide some services, such as crisis intervention, information and referral, and family planning, to anyone who applies for them. Other specific services are provided to designated groups, and these include preventive, protective and supportive services to children, supportive services to the elderly, rehabilitative services to the disabled, residential services to those needing care in an institutional setting, and social integration services to persons who are or may become socially isolated from community life. Specific services also include development and preventive services to certain communities.

Income security programs of NHW

6.4

Family Allowances: the federal program

6.4.1

The Family Allowances Act, 1973, which came into effect on January 1, 1974, replaced the former Family Allowances Act of 1944 and the Youth Allowances Act, 1964. Section 6.7 describes Supplementary Family Allowances programs in Quebec and PEI.

Under the act of 1973, family allowances are payable monthly on behalf of a dependent child under 18 years of age who is resident in Canada and is maintained by a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant resident in Canada or a non-immigrant admitted to Canada under specific conditions.