

Adoption Desk

6.5.5

An adoption desk was established in the health department in 1975 to provide a co-ordinating and facilitating service to the provinces in the areas of international and interprovincial adoption. Approximately 120 children were placed interprovincially through the assistance of the desk by the end of 1977. The desk has also co-ordinated a number of international adoption placements.

Day Care Information Centre

6.5.6

This centre was established in the department in 1972 to act as a clearing house for materials on day care and to afford persons and groups involved in day care an opportunity to exchange information and to collaborate in that area. The centre has developed a series of pamphlets, information kits, bibliographies, and a quarterly newsletter and conducts an annual survey of day care services in Canada.

Rehabilitation services

6.5.7

The purpose of the resource centre of the social services programs branch is to compile and disseminate information related to rehabilitation of the physically, mentally or socially handicapped. The centre has published a bibliography on rehabilitation of the handicapped, a layman's guide to some of the literature and a bibliography on social service aspects of rehabilitation.

International welfare

6.5.8

Canada is actively involved in the social development activities of the United Nations, particularly with the executive board of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). It participates in social programs of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Federal and provincial departments and agencies participate in the work of several international non-government organizations.

Program information is exchanged on social affairs with United Nations agencies, the Council of Europe, the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development, the Overseas Development Institute and social affairs departments in other countries. Health and Welfare Canada arranges for the training in Canada of fellowship recipients, foreign students and government officials when recommended by their governments.

Canadian officials participate in the International Social Security Association and the social security program of the International Labour Organization. A convention on social security has been concluded with Italy and discussions have been held with other countries including the United Kingdom, the United States and France.

Federal-provincial cost-sharing programs

6.6

Canada Assistance Plan

6.6.1

The Canada Assistance Plan, 1966, was designed in consultation with the provinces as a comprehensive public assistance measure to support the integration and improvement of provincial and municipal assistance programs and encourage development and extension of welfare services which would lessen, remove or prevent the causes and effects of poverty, child neglect or dependence on public assistance. Under agreements with the provinces and territories, the federal government contributes 50% of sharable costs of provincial and municipal expenditures for public assistance and welfare services. Through the plan, Canada also shares in the cost of work activity projects designed to improve the employability of persons who have unusual difficulty in finding or retaining jobs or in undertaking job training.

The only eligibility requirement specified under the Canada Assistance Plan is that of need, *regardless of its cause*, determined through an assessment of budgetary requirements as well as of income and resources of the applicant. Previous residence in the province is not a condition of eligibility for assistance. Rates of assistance and eligibility requirements are set by the province so that they may be adjusted to local conditions and the needs of special groups. The provinces are required to establish