

procedures which enable applicants and recipients to appeal decisions relating to the provision of assistance.

Assistance includes any form of aid to, or on behalf of, persons in need for the purpose of providing basic requirements such as food, shelter, clothing, fuel, household and personal necessities; special items necessary for the safety, well-being, or rehabilitation of a person in need; non-insured health care services; and maintenance in a home for special care such as a home for the aged, a nursing home or a child care institution.

Welfare services, including counselling and assessment, casework, rehabilitation services, community development and day care, homemaker and adoption services, are provided to persons in need or to persons likely to become in need if they do not receive these services. The federal government shares in administration costs of assistance and welfare services programs, such as salaries and employee benefits, and in the costs of related staff training, research and consulting services. These may be provided by provincial or municipal governments or by provincially approved non-profit agencies.

Federal payments under the Canada Assistance Plan amounted to \$1.6 billion in the fiscal year 1976-77. This figure includes payments made to Quebec through the finance department under terms of the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.

6.6.2 Allowances for the blind and disabled

Under the Blind Persons Act, 1951, and the Disabled Persons Act, 1954, the federal government shares in the cost to the provinces of providing assistance to blind and disabled persons, aged 18 and over, who meet certain income and residence requirements. However, most provinces have now ceased to accept applications under these categorical programs and provide assistance to all persons determined to be in need regardless of cause.

6.6.3 Vocational rehabilitation

Under the provisions of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (VRDP) Act, the federal government contributes 50% of the costs incurred by a province in providing a program for vocational rehabilitation of physically and mentally disabled persons. A comprehensive program includes such services as medical, social and vocational assessment, counselling, restoration and placement services, the provision of prostheses, training, maintenance allowances and tools, books and other equipment. These services are provided directly by the provincial government or purchased from voluntary agencies. The disabled client participates in setting an employment objective for himself and in designing an appropriate program of services. His goal may be employment in the competitive labour market, a profession, homemaking, farm work, sheltered employment or homebound work of a remunerative nature. Shareable costs include the salary and necessary travelling costs of staff whose duties are directly related to this program and other administrative expenses necessary for the co-ordination and delivery of services to the disabled. Other rehabilitation services provided by agencies and voluntary organizations may be funded by a province and are eligible for 50% reimbursement from the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan. All provinces and territories, except Quebec, participate in the program.

During fiscal 1976-77 the federal government contributed \$23.6 million to the provinces under the act and 61,316 clients received services.

6.7 Provincial income security programs

6.7.1 Social assistance

All provinces make legislative provision for assistance to persons in need and their dependents. Eligibility for assistance toward basic needs is determined by the budget deficit method whereby the basic needs (food, clothing, personal and household needs) of the applicant and dependents are calculated according to a prescribed schedule. Assistance for shelter and utilities is paid according to actual costs, sometimes within