

stated ceilings. The amount of the allowance is the difference between calculated need and resources available to the applicant to meet that need. The maximum amount of monthly assistance paid toward items of basic need is subject to any ceilings which may be imposed by provincial legislation.

In addition to allowances to cover items of basic need, all provinces make provision for such special items as rehabilitation services, expenses due to education or to obtaining employment, counselling, homemaker services and institutional care. All provinces permit certain income or earnings exemptions and, under special circumstances, some provinces provide assistance to fully employed persons.

Provincial departments of welfare set rates of assistance and conditions of eligibility; they have regulatory and supervisory powers over municipal administration of assistance, and require certain standards as a condition of provincial aid. Municipal residence may determine the financially responsible authority within a province. The provincial authority takes responsibility for aid to persons residing outside municipal boundaries and for those who lack municipal residence.

The administration of assistance varies. In Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, allowances to persons with long-term need, such as needy mothers with dependent children, disabled persons and the aged, are administered by the province, with other allowances administered by the municipalities. In Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, all assistance is administered by the provincial authority. In Quebec, the province administers assistance through regional and local offices except in Montreal where the municipality administers assistance on behalf of the province. In Saskatchewan, social assistance is administered by the province except in two municipalities. In British Columbia, social allowances are administered through regional and district offices of the provincial government and, in some municipalities, by municipal welfare departments.

In the seven provinces where municipalities have some administrative responsibility, the proportion of municipal costs borne by the province varies from 40% to 100% of assistance paid.

Quebec Pension Plan

6.7.2

The Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) was established in 1965 and is comparable to the Canada Pension Plan. Although the Canada and Quebec plans were introduced at the same time and are closely co-ordinated, a series of amendments to both plans have effected the following differences: the QPP's survivors' and disability benefits flat rate component is \$123.59 compared to \$48.19 under the CPP (in January 1978); since January 1974, the QPP's orphans' and children's benefits have been fixed at \$29.00 a month whereas those of the CPP are increased annually in accordance with increases in the cost of living. As of January 1, 1977 QPP contributors who leave the labour force to raise young children under age seven can drop out these years of low or zero earnings from their contributory period in determining their eligibility for QPP benefits and in establishing the amount of any QPP entitlement. In October 1977, there were 293,648 QPP beneficiaries in receipt of slightly more than \$30 million in monthly QPP benefits.

Supplementary family allowance programs

6.7.3

Quebec has a provincial program embodied in the Quebec Family Allowances Plan of 1973. Certain criteria of eligibility under this plan differ somewhat from those of the federal program. The monthly rates paid by the province, as of January 1, 1977 were \$3.98 for the first child in a family, \$5.32 for the second, \$6.64 for the third, and \$7.96 for each additional child. Effective May 1, 1977, these rates were increased to \$5.05, \$6.76, \$8.43, and \$10.11 respectively and, as of January 1, 1978, to \$5.43, \$7.27, \$9.06 and \$10.87 respectively.

Prince Edward Island passed a Family Allowances Act in 1973. Under this act, the province pays \$10 a month on behalf of the fifth and each subsequent child in a family in addition to the federal payment of \$23.89 in 1977 and \$25.68 in 1978. The provincial supplement is included in the monthly federal cheque.