

### Provincial income supplementation programs

6.7.4

Several provinces administer programs designed to supplement existing programs for such groups as the elderly and the disabled.

In Nova Scotia, under a special social assistance program, residents who receive the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) may be eligible to receive a non-taxable annual lump sum which is scaled to the amount of GIS received. Maximum payments (i.e. for a person receiving the full GIS payment) are \$110 annually per person.

In July 1974, Ontario introduced the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) to ensure a basic income for qualifying residents 65 years of age or older. The income guaranteed is adjusted periodically and as of October 1977 was \$294.82 a month.

In Manitoba, a supplement for the elderly, established in 1974 under the Social Services Administration Act, is designed to supplement the income of pensioners who receive the federal GIS and of spouses, 60 to 64 years old, of pensioners. Maximum payments are \$23.46 every three months for a single, widowed or divorced pensioner or one whose spouse is not receiving OAS/GIS and \$25.29 quarterly where both spouses are receiving OAS/GIS or where one spouse is a pensioner and the other is in receipt of Spouse's Allowance. The amount of benefit payable is determined according to the amount of GIS paid.

By regulations made under a Saskatchewan assistance act of 1975, the Saskatchewan income plan was established to provide senior citizens benefits to pensioners in receipt of the federal GIS. The program is income-tested and maximum benefits are \$240 a year or \$20 a month for a single person or for a person in receipt of GIS whose spouse is not in receipt of OAS/GIS, and \$216 a year or \$18 a month for each of a married couple, both in receipt of OAS/GIS. The amount of benefits payable is determined according to the amount of GIS payable.

In 1975, an amendment to the Senior Citizens Benefits Act in Alberta permitted the implementation of a guaranteed income program for senior citizens in receipt of the federal GIS. Benefits payable range between \$10.00 and \$45.01 a month for a person who is single, widowed, divorced or a married person whose spouse is not a pensioner. For a married couple (both receiving OAS/GIS), the payments range between \$10.00 and \$47.20 a month each; the actual amount payable is based on the amount of GIS payable to the pensioner(s).

Under the Guaranteed Available Income for Need Act (GAIN), British Columbia provides a guaranteed minimum income to individuals aged 60 and over and handicapped persons aged 18 to 59 inclusive. To be eligible for GAIN benefits, an applicant must meet prescribed age, residence, assets and income qualifications. Effective January 1978, the guaranteed minimum monthly income under the GAIN program for persons in receipt of OAS/GIS or Spouse's Allowance was \$299.94 (single) and \$597.66 (married) where both were eligible; the guaranteed minimum monthly income for persons aged 60 to 64 not in receipt of OAS/GIS/SA benefits and for handicapped persons was \$265 (single) and \$530 (married) where both were eligible.

### Provincial social services programs

6.8

#### Services for children

6.8.1

All provinces and territories have legislation governing basic child welfare services which include the protection and care of children, adoption services, services to unmarried parents and, in most provinces, services designed to prevent child neglect or a need for protection. A number of provinces also offer help to families in emergency situations; this is provided for a limited time by agreement with the parents, and may take the form of special services to the child in his own home or a temporary foster home.

These services are administered by provincial departments of social services through a division of child welfare. Direct services are provided through regional or local offices or by approved agencies. In some provinces these include children's aid societies.

Protection services include supervision of a child in his own home when there is some element of identifiable neglect or need for protection. When it seems necessary for