

the protection of the child to remove him from home, the child welfare authority may take the child to a place of safety, but he must be brought before a court within a specified time. A child found to be neglected or in need of protection as defined in provincial law may be committed either temporarily or permanently to the care and custody of the provincial child welfare authority. Temporary commitment is for a limited time, after which the case is reviewed by the court. Permanent commitment has the effect of transferring guardianship rights to the child welfare authority. Care is provided according to the needs of the child in a foster boarding home, group home or in a specialized institution.

The provincial child welfare authority arranges adoption placements where this appears appropriate. Children eligible for adoption placement are those legally free for adoption, that is, those in the permanent care and custody of the child welfare authority and those whose parents have formally relinquished them for the purpose of adoption.

Costs of maintenance of children in the care of the provincial authority or a provincially approved agency and of certain welfare services are sharable with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

As of March 31, 1977 there were approximately 81,651 day care spaces, including 5,534 family day care spaces. The number of day care spaces decreased by 1,869, a decrease of 2.24% from 1976. Family day care was the only service in 1977 to show a modest increase of 3.11%. Day care centres sponsored by public authority comprised 12.92%, those sponsored by community boards 40.44%, parent co-operatives 5.84% and commercially sponsored centres 40.80%. Subsidies for day care services for children in need, or likely to become in need if they do not receive the service, are provided by provincial or municipal authorities and are sharable under the Canada Assistance Plan.

6.8.2 Programs for the aged

Programs and services offered to the aged vary from province to province. Although by no means organized in all areas, such services as visiting nurse, homemaker, counselling, information and referral, meals-on-wheels, friendly visiting and housing registries have been established under public and voluntary auspices. Low-rental housing projects have been built in many communities; clubs and centres to provide recreation and social activities have been developed. Some provinces offer annual shelter assistance grants to senior citizens who are either tenants or home owners while others offer free prescription drugs.

In all provinces, homes for the aged and infirm are provided under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices. These homes are required to meet standards set out in provincial legislation relating to homes for the aged, welfare institutions or public health. Homes for the aged, regardless of auspices, are usually inspected and in some provinces must be licensed.

Small proprietary boarding homes for the care of well elderly persons are found in some provinces. Those who suffer from long-term illnesses may be cared for in chronic or convalescent hospitals, private or public nursing homes or homes for the aged. Costs of care in the chronic or convalescent hospitals are paid through provincial hospital plans. In the case of needy persons, sharing is available toward the full costs of providing care in homes for special care which are not covered under the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act (EPF). Under EPF effective April 1, 1977 the provinces receive a \$20.00 annual per capita grant. In institutions covered by the per capita grant under EPF, federal sharing is still available under the Canada Assistance Plan up to the prevailing OAS/GIS maximum for a single person. The \$20.00 grant is intended to cover costs over and above this maximum. The portion cost-shared under CAP is available toward the cost of room and board, clothing and comfort and non-insured health services on behalf of persons in need. Homes for special care under the Canada Assistance Plan include homes for the aged, nursing homes, hostels for transients, homes for unmarried mothers, child care institutions and others.

In varying degrees, all provinces make capital grants toward the construction or renovation of homes for the aged by municipalities or voluntary organizations and, generally speaking, such homes are exempt from municipal taxation.