

**Pensions and allowances**

6.10.1

**Disability and dependents pensions**

6.10.1.1

**Canadian Pension Commission.** This commission administers the Pension Act, the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act and parts of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act. It also has responsibility for adjudication of claims for pension made under the RCMP Superannuation Act, the RCMP Pension Continuation Act and the Flying Accidents Compensation Regulations. The commission reports to Parliament through the minister of veterans affairs.

The evolution of Canada's pension legislation can be traced through statistical presentations in earlier editions of the *Canada Year Book*. Major amendments were made to the Pension Act in 1971 and details of the principal changes are described in the *Canada Year Book 1972*. Effective August 1, 1975 the Pension Act was further amended to provide for equality of status and equal rights and obligations for male and female persons.

The act provides for payment of pensions in respect of disability or death resulting from injury incurred during or attributable to service with the Canadian forces in war or peace. Pensions may also be payable on behalf of the dependents of a disabled former member of the forces or to the surviving dependents of a deceased veteran.

The Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act provides for the payment of compensation to former prisoners of war and their dependents. Under this legislation, all persons imprisoned by the Japanese for one year or more are eligible to receive compensation in an amount equal to a 50% disability pension. This compensation is paid in addition to any pension such persons may be awarded for assessable disabilities, up to a maximum of the equivalent of 100% pension. Persons imprisoned by the Japanese for not less than three months and not more than 12 receive compensation in an amount equal to a 20% disability pension, in addition to any disability pension they may be receiving. Former prisoners of war of other powers are compensated in the same manner and in amounts equal to a disability pension of 10% to 20% depending upon the length of the period of incarceration.

The amount of disability pension payable is set out in the Pension Act and is based on a basic rate of pension established in 1972. The determination of a basic rate is discussed in the *Canada Year Book 1976-77*. Pensions under the act are indexed in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

In 1978 a single pensioner awarded a pension for a disability assessed at 100% would receive \$596.70 monthly. The additional pension for a spouse was \$149.18. The additional pension payable for children was calculated at \$77.64 for the first child, \$56.63 for the second child and \$44.76 for each additional child. The pension payable to a surviving spouse was \$447.53 with an additional amount payable for the surviving children and, under certain conditions, the parents and brothers and sisters of a pensioner or a member of the forces who died as a result of injuries or disease incurred during service.

**Pension Review Board.** The board was established under 1971 amendments to the Pension Act. It is exclusively an independent appeal tribunal reporting directly to Parliament through the minister of veterans affairs. It deals with appeals from decisions of the Canadian Pension Commission in matters of entitlement and the amount of awards under the Pension Act. The board is also the final authority on the interpretation of the act.

**War veterans allowances and civilian war allowances**

6.10.1.2

**War Veterans Allowance Board.** The allowance board is a quasi-judicial body consisting of eight members appointed by the Governor-in-Council. It is independent as far as its decisions are concerned and reports to Parliament through the minister of veterans affairs. It is administratively co-ordinated with the department which provides support services. The board is responsible, under the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, to advise the minister generally on the