

### 6.10.3 Land settlement and house construction

Because of the postwar rehabilitation nature and purpose of the legislation, March 31, 1975 was the final date for veterans of World War II or the Korean Special Force to apply for establishment under the various settlement plans of the Veterans' Land Act. Veterans with subsisting VLA contracts could apply for additional loans within the financial ceilings of the act to purchase land or effect improvements to their properties, up to March 31, 1977.

From enactment in 1942, loan and grant funds totalling more than \$1.3 billion were issued to approximately 140,000 veterans. On March 31, 1977, more than 52,000 veterans still had subsisting VLA contracts representing a remaining principal indebtedness of \$505 million.

The veterans' land administration also has operational responsibility for the veterans housing assistance program. Under this measure, veterans of moderate income who wish to build or purchase homes may receive assistance of up to \$600 annually to reduce the portion of income required for principal, interest and taxes to a more affordable level. Since inception of the program in 1975, grants with an annual value of some \$98,000 have been approved on behalf of nearly 200 veterans.

The program also authorizes the department to provide financial assistance to non-profit corporations which obtain loans under the National Housing Act for development of low-rental housing projects intended primarily but not necessarily exclusively for occupancy by veterans. In addition to the benefits available from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the veterans affairs department may make a grant equal to 10% of the capital cost of such a project as determined by CMHC. To date grants totalling approximately \$1,440,000 have been approved for 10 such projects involving 665 units.

### 6.10.4 Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The current charters of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission consist of two documents — the original charter of incorporation dated May 21, 1917, and a supplemental charter dated June 8, 1964. Under these charters the commission is entrusted with the marking and maintenance in perpetuity of the graves of those of the British Empire and Commonwealth armed forces who lost their lives between August 4, 1914, and August 31, 1921, and between September 3, 1939, and December 31, 1947, and with the erection of memorials to commemorate those with no known grave.

The Canadian high commissioner in London, England, is the official commission member for Canada and the minister of veterans affairs is the agent of the commission in Canada. The office of the secretary general of the Canadian agency is in Ottawa.

#### *Sources*

- 6.1 - 6.2 Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 6.3 - 6.8 Welfare Information Systems Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare.
- 6.9 Deputy Minister, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.
- 6.10 Public Relations, Department of Veterans Affairs.