

A national welfare grants program was set up in 1962 to help develop and strengthen welfare services in Canada. Project grants are made to provincial and municipal welfare departments, non-governmental welfare agencies, citizens organizations and universities. Fellowships at Canadian and other universities are provided to individuals seeking advanced training in social welfare. The variety of provisions within the program, and its consulting services, allow it to operate as a flexible instrument in the development of welfare services and to emphasize experimental activities. The allotment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1979, was \$4.5 million.

International welfare

8.5.3

Canada is involved in social development activities of the United Nations, particularly with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and in social programs of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Federal and provincial departments and agencies participate in the work of several international non-government organizations. Program information is exchanged on social affairs with UN agencies, the Council of Europe, OECD, the Overseas Development Institute and social affairs departments in other countries. The health and welfare department arranges for training in Canada of fellowship recipients, foreign students and government officials recommended by their governments.

Canadian officials participate in an international social security association and the social security program of the International Labour Organization. A convention of social security has been concluded with Italy, agreements have been signed with France and Portugal, and discussions have been held with other countries including the United States.

In 1979, the national health and welfare department co-ordinated planning for the International Year of the Child. A \$1 million fund was created to provide money for citizen projects and a commission was set up to provide direction to co-ordinate public activities of the national effort.

In June 1980 Canada served as host to an international congress on rehabilitation in Winnipeg and several seminars were set up to take place concurrently across Canada. The federal government also made plans to co-ordinate national participation in support of the UN International Year of the Disabled in 1981.

Social services and related welfare services

8.6

It has become increasingly recognized that persons in need in the community are more likely to maintain themselves and become integrated into community life if they remain in that location and if effort is made to enable them to acquire help and rehabilitation without having to go into institutions permanently. Growth of rehabilitative health and welfare services has tended to strengthen this approach. There has been a proliferation of social services and voluntary activity at the community level, with the provincial and federal governments picking up a share of the costs without directly administering the services. This has included the development of group homes, community centres and sheltered workshops.

A second factor has been the need to broaden services to handle clientele with a variety of problems. Health, welfare, and social environment factors are seldom isolated from one another. For persons with major problems it may require the collective efforts of a team to provide the necessary services and support. There has been more effort recently to establish a full network of community services with referral between them.

In 1966, through the cost-shared Canada Assistance Plan, the federal government took the initiative to help the provinces develop social services programs on a comparable basis and to ensure that social assistance money could meet basic day-to-day requirements of individuals and families. Although welfare services are primarily directed to those with little or no income, the need for the services is not restricted to them. Social agency resources are frequently extended to meet the problems of normally independent families or individuals, helping them cope with debts, problems of drug abuse and marital incompatibility. In some cases, such as with the aged, free access to community social and related services may be a means of helping them