

Saskatchewan income plan for the elderly (SIP), the Manitoba supplement for pensioners (MSP), an Ontario guaranteed annual income for the aged (GAINS-A), and special social assistance (SSA) in Nova Scotia. In New Brunswick, rental assistance to the elderly (RATE), is paid monthly to low income aged persons who acquire their accommodation on the open market.

Disabled persons are frequently supported financially either indefinitely or during rehabilitation. Many receive social assistance under the Canada Assistance Plan. Others may receive benefits under provincial vocational rehabilitation programs, through worker compensation, Canada manpower training allowances or unemployment insurance. Provincial programs cost-shared by the federal government under the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act are designed to assist physically and mentally disabled persons to become capable of pursuing gainful occupation such as employment in the open labour market, self-employment, homemaking, farm work, sheltered employment or other paid work. In 1981-82, VRDP payments of \$39.3 million in support of provincial programs helped about 100,000 Canadians. The provinces also have programs which are specific to the needs of the chronically disabled. Income supplements include GAIN for the handicapped in British Columbia, Alberta assured income for the disabled (AAID), and Ontario guaranteed income supplement for the disabled (GAINS-D). Quebec provides a special supplement to families caring for a disabled child, allocations aux enfants handicapés (AAEH).

Families. Saskatchewan pioneered in 1974 by introducing a family income supplement (FIP), for both working and non-working families. The benefit, which is income tested, includes provision for a dependent spouse and all dependent children. Beneficiaries under the program are not also eligible for social assistance. Quebec introduced a work income supplement program in 1979 for working families with low incomes. Manitoba introduced a child related income supplement program (CRISP) in 1980 for low-income families.

6.5.3 Social services

Many forms of assistance other than financial may be required by persons in need, for example in a family crisis brought about by desertion, illness or death. A broad range of social services is provided across Canada. Characteristically, they emphasize social rather than economic support. The funding mechanisms, administration and delivery of such services is particular to each province and municipal jurisdiction. The federal government, through the Canada Assistance Plan, shares in the costs of a wide range of welfare services provided by the provinces (including municipalities) or provincially approved non-profit agencies.

The services reflect perceived social needs. They vary according to the community and family environment and are geared to the physical and mental health of persons who need support systems to take part in community life. Many programs are oriented toward prevention of need while others involve long-term services. An underlying philosophy is that there should be a system of support for independent living in the home environment, and services to prevent, delay or reduce the need for institutional care of the elderly and disabled. Services also compensate for the absence of family support systems resulting from increased participation of women in the workforce, the geographic mobility of families and the high rate of marriage breakdown.

The International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981 stimulated the development or expansion of services for the disabled. The report *Obstacles* of the special committee on the disabled and the handicapped identified many areas where obstacles prevented disabled persons from participating fully in community life. Initiatives have been undertaken by all levels of government, voluntary organizations and the private sector to remove these obstacles and to equalize opportunities for disabled persons. Several provinces have introduced aids to independent living programs to assist disabled persons to maintain themselves independently. Government sponsored group homes in the community provide special living environments for handicapped persons with varied needs.

Services to families and individuals include crisis intervention, family planning, information and deferral, and social integration services for persons who are, or are at risk of becoming, isolated from community life. Protective and developmental services are particularly oriented toward children. Day care has been established for children and for dependent adults. Home support services that may be provided to enable persons to remain in their own homes include basic housekeeping, regular visits, heavy cleaning and meal services. Transportation services for the elderly and the disabled are commonly provided. Personal, budget and family counselling assist persons with social problems and aid in preventing more problems. Communities offer activity centres, enrichment programs, sheltered workshops and vocational rehabilitation. Provinces also provide nursing and medical services, nutrition counselling, nursing home and intermediate care, residential care and ambulatory health services under the Established Programs Financing Act.

A national welfare grants program set up in 1962 helps to develop and strengthen social services. It is the major funding body for social welfare research and development. Project grants are made to provincial and municipal welfare departments, non-governmental welfare agencies, citizens organizations and universities. Fellowships at Canadian and