

Supplement Program for seniors in Yukon; and Northwest Territories' Senior Citizens' Benefits program.

**Disabled persons.** There are many types of financial support available to disabled individuals. Many receive social assistance under the provincial programs. Others may receive benefits under provincial vocational rehabilitation or income assistance programs, through workers' compensation, federal 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 1984-85, approximately \$200 million (total federal and provincial contributions) was spent through the VRDP program.

Income assistance programs for the disabled include GAIN for the Handicapped in British Columbia, Alberta's Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), and Ontario's Guaranteed Annual Income System for the Disabled (GAINS-D). Newfoundland, Quebec and Ontario offer financial assistance to families caring for a disabled child at home.

**Families.** Saskatchewan pioneered in 1974 by introducing a Family Income Plan (FIP) for both working and non-working families. The benefit, which is income-tested, includes provision for a dependent spouse and all dependent children. FIP benefits are considered as part of the social assistance entitlement for eligible families. Quebec introduced a Work Income Supplement program in 1979 for working families with low incomes. Manitoba introduced a Child-Related Income Support Program (CRISP) in 1980 for low-income families. Ontario's Work Incentive Program provides a supplement to social assistance recipients who return to work.

#### 6.4.5 Provincial social services

A broad range of personal social services is provided across Canada. The funding, administration and delivery of such services are particular to each province and municipal jurisdiction. The federal government, through the Canada Assistance Plan, shares in the costs of many of these programs.

These programs vary according to the community and family environment and are

geared to the disadvantaged persons who need support systems to take part in community life. Many programs are oriented toward prevention of need while others involved 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.

Services to families and individuals which are supported under the plan include: crisis intervention, information and referral, and social integration services to persons who are, or are at risk of becoming, isolated from community life; protective and developmental services which are oriented toward children as well as day care services for children; and home support services that enable persons to remain in their own home. Several provinces have introduced programs encouraging disabled persons to maintain an independent life style. Services may include provisions of aids and devices and home support. Personal, budget and family counselling assist persons with social problems and aid in preventing further problems. Communities offer activity centres, enrichment programs, sheltered workshops and vocational rehabilitation and day programming for the aged. Provinces also provide nursing and medical services, nutrition counselling, nursing home and intermediate care, residential care, and ambulatory health services. (See Chapter 3 for information on health services.)

#### 6.5 International welfare

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 Cooperation 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.

Canadian officials also participate in the International Social Security Association and