

the social security program of the International Labour Organization.

### 6.6 Voluntary contribution

Because of the tradition of local administration in Canada and the need for community involvement in social services, voluntary agencies continue to play a major role in the administration of social services.

In the early 1980s about 46,500 agencies were registered as charitable organizations in Canada. In the health and welfare areas they covered community support activities ranging from those which provide direct care for individuals in need to the operation of broad community services.

Voluntary work represents a major contribution to the operation of health and welfare organizations. A survey conducted by Statistics Canada in February 1980 indicated that 15% of the adult population participates in voluntary work. Much of this effort is directed to the

health and welfare field in services, transportation, administration and client support activities.

### 6.7 Analysis of expenditures

Canada's social security system delivered a total of \$47.7 billion in direct financial benefits to Canadians in 1984-85, as compared with \$28.4 billion in 1980-81. During the five-year period, Old Age Security (including Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance) remained the largest program, accounting for approximately one-quarter of the total social security expenditure. Unemployment Insurance expenditures showed the greatest change, rising from \$4.7 billion in 1980-81 to \$10.2 billion in 1984-85, an increase of 117%. In 1984-85, Unemployment Insurance expenditures represented 22% of total expenditures as compared to 16% for 1980-81. This increase may be explained by the recession which impacted the program beginning in 1982-83.

#### Sources

6.1 - 6.1.3, 6.1.6 - 6.7 Policy Communication and Information Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare.

6.1.4 Communications Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

6.1.5 Publications and Communications (Charlottetown), Department of Veterans Affairs.