

Indigent persons not covered by these programs, as well as indigents in other provinces, may receive necessary care from the municipalities in which they reside. Sometimes, where costs are assumed by the municipality, there is some form of cost-sharing arrangement with the provincial government.

**Rehabilitation Services.**—Rehabilitation services for persons handicapped by physical or mental defects are organized under governmental and voluntary auspices as part of general health, welfare or education programs, and also by specialized rehabilitation agencies that make available a range of services. Expansion of these services in all provinces indicates growing success in prevention and cure of many disabling conditions and broader understanding of the needs of the handicapped person. Following the earlier rehabilitation programs organized for injured workers, disabled war veterans and such groups as the blind and the tuberculous, there has been increasing emphasis given to extending comprehensive services to all handicapped persons regardless of disability and to strengthening national, provincial and community bodies concerned with planning and co-ordination.

At the 1960-61 session of Parliament, efforts by the Department of Labour to develop a comprehensive and co-ordinated vocational rehabilitation program were given statutory recognition with the enactment of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, proclaimed in force on Dec. 1, 1961. This Act authorizes federal-provincial agreements to share the costs of comprehensive services to disabled persons capable of vocational usefulness either in employment or in the home, the training of rehabilitation counsellors or administrators and the co-ordination of services. The Act also provides for research in vocational rehabilitation, publication of information, and the establishment of a 25-member National Advisory Council with representation from the various federal and provincial departments involved and from other interested groups. Administration and co-ordination of the program is carried out by the National Co-ordinator in the Civilian Rehabilitation Branch of the Department of Labour, with the co-operation of the Medical Rehabilitation Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare in matters of mutual concern.

The main elements of the nation-wide rehabilitation program include also the Special Placement Section of the National Employment Service, a joint federal-provincial program for the vocational training of disabled persons, and the National Health Grants designated for the extension of medical rehabilitation and crippled children's services and for rehabilitation of the mentally ill or deficient, the tuberculous and other chronically ill persons. The Federal Government also provides direct services for particular groups through programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for disabled, chronically ill and aging veterans, by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration for physically and socially handicapped Indians, and by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources for the training and resettlement of disabled Eskimos and Indians within its jurisdiction.

Provincial vocational rehabilitation programs, supported by matching federal grants, assist disabled persons who can be restored to gainful employment. Other specialized facilities which co-operate with the provincial programs include hospital physical medicine and rehabilitation departments and special clinics for particular disabilities, separate rehabilitation centres, sheltered workshops, vocational counselling, training and job placement agencies and special schools, classes and other combined treatment and educational centres for handicapped children. Home care services, such as nursing, physical and occupational therapy and housekeeping services, employment of the homebound and recreational services have been developed by a few agencies but their coverage is generally limited.

Vocational assessment and counselling of the handicapped is provided by rehabilitation counsellors employed by the provincial rehabilitation programs and some of the other