

councilmen in their membership; net costs of operation are borne by the municipalities. The province also meets up to 80 p.c. of the cost incurred by municipalities for the maintenance of elderly persons in housing projects and municipal or private homes. Private homes are municipally licensed.

The Province of British Columbia operates a home for elderly homeless men, a provincial infirmary for the chronically ill and, for senile and psychotic patients, three provincial homes for the aged. It also licenses and supervises homes for the aged and boarding homes and, where necessary, shares with the municipalities on a 90-10 basis the cost of maintaining needy residents. Under the Elderly Persons Housing Aid Act, the province makes grants amounting to one third of construction costs to municipalities and non-profit corporations, including religious and service organizations, engaged in building homes or low-rental housing units for elderly citizens.

Subsection 4.—Child Care and Protection

Child welfare services, which include child protection and care, services for unmarried parents and adoption services, are provided in all provinces under provincial legislation and are administered by a division of child welfare within the provincial department of welfare. The program may be administered by the provincial authority or the responsibility may be delegated to local children's aid societies, that is, to voluntary agencies with boards of directors, operating under charter and under the general supervision of provincial departments; in Quebec, child welfare services are administered by recognized voluntary agencies and institutions, religious and secular. In Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and, to a large extent, in Alberta, they are administered by the province; in the larger urban centres of Alberta there is some delegation of authority to the municipality. In Ontario and New Brunswick, a network of local children's aid societies, operating under statutory authority, is responsible for the services. In Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia, services are administered by local children's aid societies in the heavily populated areas and by the province in other areas.

Children's aid societies and the recognized agencies in Quebec receive substantial provincial grants and sometimes municipal grants and in many areas they also receive support from private subscriptions or from community chests or united funds. Maintenance costs for children in care of a voluntary or public agency may be borne entirely by the province—as in Alberta, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland—or partly by the municipality of residence and partly by the province.

The child welfare agencies, provincial or private, have the authority to investigate cases of alleged neglect and, if necessary, to apprehend a child and to bring the case before a judge upon whom rests the responsibility of deciding whether in fact the child is neglected. When neglect is proven, the court may direct that the child be returned to his parent or parents, under supervision, or be made a ward of the province or a children's aid society or, in Quebec, be placed under the authority of a suitable person or agency. The appropriate agency is then responsible for making arrangements to meet the needs of the child in so far as community resources permit. The services may involve casework with families in their own homes, or care may be provided in foster boarding homes, in adoption homes or, for children who need this form of care, in selected institutions. Children placed for adoption may be wards or they may be placed on the written consent of the parent. Adoptions, including those arranged privately, number about 13,000 annually.

Child welfare agencies make use of the small selective institution for placement of children who are forced to be away from their own homes for a short period or who may need preparation for placement in foster homes, and also for teenage children who may find it easier to fit into a group setting than into a foster home. The development of small,