

### Section 3.—Provincial Programs

#### Subsection 1.—Mothers' Allowances

All provinces have statutory provision for allowances to enable certain needy mothers to remain at home to care for their dependent children. The total cost of this assistance is paid from provincial funds, except in Alberta where a portion of each allowance is charged to the municipality of residence.

Subject to the conditions of eligibility, which vary from province to province, the allowances are payable to applicants who are widowed or whose husbands are mentally incapacitated and, except in Alberta, to those whose husbands are physically disabled and unable to support their families. They are also payable, except in Nova Scotia, to deserted wives who meet specified conditions; in several provinces to mothers who have been granted a divorce or legal separation and in some to unmarried mothers. Adoptive mothers and foster mothers are also eligible under certain circumstances. The child or children must be under 16 years of age except in Manitoba where the age limit is 15 years. Provision is made in most provinces to extend payment for a specified period if the child is attending school and five provinces continue to pay allowances on behalf of physically and mentally handicapped children for from two to five years.

In all provinces applicants must satisfy conditions of need and residence but both the amount of outside income and resources allowed and the length of residence required prior to application vary considerably, the latter, for example, from one year in Saskatchewan, Ontario and Newfoundland to five years in Quebec. All provinces require that the applicant be resident at the time of application and that the child or children live with the recipient, and most provinces require that they continue to live in the province while in receipt of an allowance. Nationality is a condition of eligibility in six provinces. The applicant must be a British subject, the wife or widow of a British subject or her child must be a British subject, except in Quebec and New Brunswick, where Canadian citizenship is required.

In each province the Act is administered by public welfare authorities, in most provinces through a mothers' allowances board or commission which either makes the final decision regarding eligibility and the amount of allowance granted or acts in an advisory capacity. In some provinces local advisory committees are also appointed. Rates of benefit as of January 1952 are given in the following paragraph.

In *Newfoundland*, the maximum allowance for a mother and one child is \$25 a month, with \$5 for each additional child and for a disabled father at home; the maximum for a family is \$50 a month, with supplementary assistance of up to \$20 monthly if necessary for proper care and maintenance. In *Prince Edward Island* a mother with one child may receive up to \$25 a month, with up to \$5 for each additional child; the family maximum is \$50 monthly. In *Nova Scotia* a monthly maximum of \$80 for a family is fixed by statute; the amount payable to a mother and one child is determined by family need. In *New Brunswick* the family maximum is \$80 a month, with \$35 for a mother and one child and \$7.50 for each additional child. Where necessary, an additional \$10 may be granted for rent if it is needed and if the allowance is below the family maximum. The maximum allowance in *Quebec* for a mother and one child is \$35 in a district where the population is under 5,000 and \$40 where it is 5,000 or over. An additional \$1 per month is paid for each of the second, third, fourth and fifth children, \$2 for the sixth and seventh, and \$3 for the eighth and subsequent children. An extra \$5 is allowed when the mother is unable to work or when a disabled father is living at home. *Ontario* pays a maximum of \$50 a month for a mother and one child, with \$10 for each additional