

The provision of local public health services is on a health-unit basis. These units are administered and staffed by the Province but are jointly financed by the Province and the local municipalities concerned. Sixteen units, covering 50 p.c. of the population, are in operation. The cities of Vancouver and Victoria have their own health departments.

Special provincial public health services include tuberculosis clinics which provide free diagnostic and consultative service, venereal disease clinics which offer free diagnosis and treatment, and maternal and child health clinics operated by public health nurses which provide immunization and prenatal and postnatal advice. Public health laboratory facilities include a central laboratory at Vancouver and branch laboratories at Nelson and Victoria. Child dental clinics with local dentists participating are established in more than 60 communities, the costs being met equally by the community and the Province. In connection with mental health services the Province operates stationary and travelling child guidance clinics. A clinic of psychological medicine at the provincial hospital at Essondale functions as an investigatory and active treatment centre for short term patients.

Special cancer services including a treatment centre and a nursing home at Vancouver, consultative clinics located throughout the Province and a free province wide biopsy service have been developed by the British Columbia Cancer Foundation, an official agent of the Provincial Government. The Province pays the operating costs of the Foundation and helps finance voluntary programs concerned with the physical rehabilitation of the orthopaedically disabled, cerebral palsied children, the care and treatment of arthritics, and the maintenance of blood transfusion services.

Institutions for the care of tubercular and mental patients and infirmaries for persons with incapacitating disabilities are operated by the Province. Indigents are hospitalized in these institutions at public expense while other patients pay if financially able. Rehabilitation services are available to tubercular and mental patients.

Full medical, dental and optical care, prescribed drugs and some auxiliary services are provided to all persons (and their dependants) receiving the universal old age pension who were formerly on the means-test old age pension or who can qualify for the provincial supplementary allowance, and to recipients (including dependants) of old age assistance, blindness or mothers' allowances, local relief and to certain child wards. The Provincial Government assumes the costs of hospitalization for all such persons. Where they hold municipal residence the Province assumes 80 p.c. of the cost of the medical program, the remainder being shared by all municipalities on a population basis.

Public ward hospital services are available to all provincial residents through a public hospital care program administered by the Hospital Insurance Service. Before 1954 the plan was financed mainly by flat rate premiums, but costs now are met from general revenues and part of the provincial sales tax. Payment of \$1 for each day of hospitalization, with no maximum, is required of patients.

**The Yukon and Northwest Territories.**—Health services in the Yukon and Northwest Territories are provided through a network of services by different government agencies, by the churches and, in some settled areas, by private practitioners. Services for the native population are maintained by the directorate of Indian Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare, for the white population by the Yukon Territorial Government, the Northwest Territories Council, and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and for the Armed Forces by the Department of National Defence.

There are four general hospitals with a capacity of 151 beds in the Yukon Territory—at Whitehorse and at Mayo which are operated by the Territorial Government, at Dawson, operated by the Roman Catholic Church and another at Whitehorse by the Department of National Defence. Of the six private physicians in the Territory, three are employed on a part time basis as medical health officers by the Territorial Government and one by the Directorate of Indian Health Services. There are three dentists in the Territory, one of whom does part time work for Indian Health Services.