

With the cessation of services under the National Physical Fitness Act the Assistant Director of Physical Fitness was appointed Consultant, Fitness and Recreation, office of the Deputy Minister (Welfare), Department of National Health and Welfare.

Subsection 5.—Training Programs

Under the Vocational Training Co-ordination Act of 1942 (R.S.C. 1952, c. 286) the Federal Department of Labour, in co-operation with the provincial governments, carries on various training projects. Details of these schemes will be found in Chapter XVIII, Section 6.

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. In Newfoundland the Mothers' Allowances Act was repealed and the Mothers' Allowances program incorporated in the Social Assistance Act 1954 which became effective Apr. 1, 1955.

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. In 1955 Saskatchewan made provision for an allowance to be paid under certain conditions on behalf of a mother or child confined to a hospital or sanatorium. In 1955 also Ontario extended the same mothers' allowances benefits to Indian mothers as to other residents of the Province.

The age limit for children is 16 years except in Manitoba where it is 15 years and in Newfoundland where it is 17 years. Provision is made in most provinces to extend payment for a specified period if the child is attending school or if he is physically or mentally handicapped.

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 generally 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. In the six provinces in which British or Canadian nationality is a condition of eligibility the applicant may qualify for mothers' allowances if the mother or father or child meet the specified provisions.

In each province the relevant Act is administered by public welfare authorities. Most provinces have a mothers' allowances board or commission which 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 June 1955 are given in Table 10, pp. 290-291 and the number of families and children assisted and amounts of benefits paid as at Mar. 31, 1953, 1954 and 1955 are given in Table 11.