

other health research programs of the Department of National Health and Welfare are described in Chapter 9.

Health economics and statistics. The Health Economics and Statistics Division in the Health Programs Branch provides socio-economic research and advisory services in a variety of fields including medical care, hospital care, community health services, health expenditure, manpower resources, and other matters relating to health costs and utilization. The Division also serves as a national centre for socio-economic research in the health field to produce research reports and publications designed to increase public understanding of the organization, cost, and performance of Canada's health services and resources.

Health planning. The Long Range Health Planning Branch is concerned with identifying and assessing major issues and trends in the health field which have either not yet clearly emerged or on which no consensus has yet been reached. In a sense the Branch tries to bring into focus the unstable or unpredictable elements of the health field so that they can be considered by policy makers. By comparison the operating Branches tend to plan more in the implementational and operational elements.

Specialists in the long range health planning group are available in the following fields: policy review, medicine, lifestyle health problems, medical sociology, health status indicators, health care organization, quantitative methods, and pharmaceutical economics.

The National Health Grant was established in April 1969 to stimulate research studies, service demonstrations and training activities of national significance for the improvement of health services. Contributions from this grant may be made to provincial or municipal governments and to any agency, association, corporation, institution, or individual for work in the health field. Awards to date have been mainly in support of training of research personnel in the health care field and for research projects related to analysis of quality of health care and health care delivery.

In April 1973, the National Health Grant was extended to include the Public Health Research Grant which had previously allocated funds for research in disease prevention, epidemiology, health promotion and environmental health. The amalgamation was expected to permit a more unified approach to development priorities as well as to ease certain administrative problems. The grants are administered by the Research Programs Directorate of the Health Programs Branch.

Consultative and technical services. The Department of National Health and Welfare extends technical advisory services to provincial agencies, universities and other organizations for the development of health programs, health manpower and health research. Consultative services are available through the various administrative units of the Department responsible for federal-provincial health care programs such as hospital insurance, medical care insurance and health grants programs that have a service, demonstration, research or educational objective: the Non-Medical Use of Drugs Program, the Family Planning Grant, the National Health Grant (now including the Public Health Research Grant), and the grants for health manpower development. Consultants are engaged in health facilities design and in most areas of community health including mental health and health education. Other technical advice is available through programs directly operated by the Department for health protection including the safety of foods, drugs, and health appliances, environmental health, the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control and other specialized areas.

5.1.4 International health

Canada actively assists and co-operates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the other specialized agencies of the United Nations whose programs have a substantial health component or orientation. Health training is provided for a number of persons coming to Canada each year under the WHO/PAHO Fellowships Program.

Canadian experts in health legislation, health administration, environmental health, nursing, and related areas undertook specific assignments abroad during the year in response to requests from the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) assisted in the construction of a Public Health Unit in Cameroon, one of the three components of the University Centre for Health Sciences, a new medical and paramedical training centre emphasizing preventive medicine and public health. The unit was completed at the end of May 1973, and the project as