

made under any statute other than the Pension Act. It reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Commission has district offices in principal cities across Canada with a Senior Pension Medical Examiner in charge.

**The Pension Act.** The evolution of Canada's pension legislation can be traced chronologically through special material usually appearing after major modifications in the laws affecting veterans pensions and through the statistical presentations to be found each year in earlier editions of the *Canada Year Book*. The Pension Act was the subject of major modifications in 1971 and details of the principal changes are described in the *1972 Canada Year Book*.

The Pension Act provides for payment of pensions in respect of disability or death resulting from injury incurred during or attributable to service with the Canadian Forces in time of war or peace. Provision is also made for supplementing up to Canadian rates, awards of pension to or in respect of Canadians for disability or death suffered as a result of service in the British or Allied Forces during World War I or World War II or payment of pension at Canadian rates in cases where the claim has been rejected by the government of the country concerned. In 1972 a Joint Study Group composed of representatives of veterans organizations, the Canadian Pension Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs was formed to study the basic rate of pension payable under Schedules A and B of the Pension Act in an exploratory way, so as to delineate the problem related to the establishment and periodic adjustment of an equitable basic rate and to recommend possible solutions. As a result of the work of the Study Group the basis of pension was established as the earning power of an unskilled labourer in the Public Service based on the average of an established composite group of five Public Service classifications. In July 1973 the acceptance of this basis brought about a 24% increase in pensions. Thus the basic monthly pension for a single pensioner suffering 100% disability rose to \$392.00 with an additional pension of \$98.00 for a wife, \$51.00 for the first child, \$37.20 for a second child and \$29.40 for the third and each subsequent child. Pension awards to widows were increased to \$294.00 and additional payments for children or dependent brothers or sisters at the following rates: \$102.00 for one, \$176.40 for two and \$58.80 for a third or subsequent child or dependent brother or sister. Details as to the number and type of pensions being paid under the Pension Act as at March 31, 1973 are given in Table 6.22.

#### 6.7.1.2 War Veterans Allowances and Civilian War Allowances

**War Veterans Allowance Board.** The War Veterans Allowance Board is a quasi-judicial body consisting, at present, of 10 members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Board administers the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Board acts as an appeal court for an applicant or recipient aggrieved by a decision of a District Authority and may, on its own motion, review and alter or reverse any adjudication of a District Authority. The Board is also responsible for instructing and guiding the District Authorities in the interpretation of policy and for advising the Minister with respect to regulations concerning the administration of the Act.

**War Veterans Allowance District Authorities.** In 1950, 18 District Authorities were established in the regional districts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and granted full power to adjudicate on all matters arising under the War Veterans Allowance Act. In 1960, a separate authority — the Foreign Countries District Authority — was established to look after recipients living outside Canada. The members of a District Authority are employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs appointed by the Minister with the approval of the Governor in Council.

**War Veterans Allowances.** The War Veterans Allowance Act provides an allowance to otherwise qualified war veterans who, because of age or infirmity, are no longer able to derive their maintenance from employment and to ensure that their income does not fall below a specified scale. Widows and orphans of qualified veterans are eligible for benefits. Since its inception in 1930, the Act has been amended on 17 different occasions to meet additional needs of veterans and their dependents. The last amendments to the Act which became effective April 1, 1973, in addition to removing the real and personal property limitations which changed the means test to a modified income test, also provided new allowance rates and annual income ceilings. These new rates and ceilings were further increased under the provisions in the Act