

for annual cost of living escalations in accordance with the increases in the consumer price index. The rates and ceilings established to take effect on January 1, 1974 provide for monthly payments of \$161.27 to a single beneficiary, subject to an annual income ceiling of \$2,415.24; for a married veteran, the allowance is \$274.44 and the ceiling \$4,133.28; for one orphan \$91.95 and \$1,391.40; for two orphans \$161.27 and \$2,283.24 and for three or more orphans \$217.24 and \$2,930.88. It should be noted that the ceiling for permissible annual income of a single or married beneficiary is raised by \$120.00 a year if the recipient or spouse is blind.

As at December 31, 1973 a total of 79,896 persons were receiving War Veterans Allowances: 45,396 veterans, 34,155 widows and 345 orphans; of this total, only 706 resided outside Canada. The annual cost for all recipients was estimated at \$101.8 million.

Civilian War Pensions and Allowances. Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act makes available to certain groups of civilians and their widows and orphans, benefits similar to those available to veterans under the War Veterans Allowance Act. These groups, which performed meritorious service in World War I and World War II, include: Canadian merchant seamen of both wars; non-Canadians who served in Canadian merchant ships in either war; Canadian voluntary aid detachments of World War I; Canadian firefighters of World War II; Canadian welfare workers of World War II; Canadian transatlantic aircrew of World War II; and the Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit of World War II.

As at December 31, 1973, a total of 3,672 civilians, including 826 widows and 13 orphans, were receiving these allowances; only two resided outside of Canada. Total cost for the year was estimated at \$6.4 million.

6.7.1.3 Bureau of Pensions Advocates

The Bureau of Pensions Advocates was established under the Minister of Veterans Affairs by the amendments to the Pension Act 1971 (SC 1970-71, c.31), effective March 30, 1971. It succeeds the Veterans Bureau which had been in operation since 1930. The Bureau is not part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, but provides an independent professional legal aid service to applicants for awards under the Pension Act. The Chief Pensions Advocate is the Chief Executive Officer and is assisted by pensions advocates, all of whom are lawyers, located at the Bureau's head office in Ottawa and in district offices in major centres across Canada. Pensions Advocates represent applicants as counsel at Entitlement Board and Pension Review Board hearings and provide a general counselling service to applicants relative to their claims under the Pension Act. No charge is made for the services of the Bureau. During the fiscal year 1972-73 the Bureau of Pensions Advocates submitted 10,227 claims to adjudicating bodies. Of these, 6.7% related to World War I service, 69.3% related to World War II service, 3.8% to Special Force (Korea), 16.7% to Regular Force in peacetime, and 2.5% to Special Duty Area Service. Adjudication of disability claims for RCMP service and other service such as Reserve Force and Civilian War Service accounted for less than 1%. Of the 7,552 decisions rendered by adjudicating bodies on Bureau claims during this period, 39.6% were wholly or partially favourable to the applicant.

6.7.2 Welfare and treatment services

6.7.2.1 Welfare services

Welfare services for veterans and, where appropriate, their dependents are provided by the Welfare Services Branch. These include the administration of assigned statutes; the conducting of field work and reporting for other branches of the Department, and the Canadian Pension Commission, the War Veterans Allowance Board and Services Benevolent Funds; and the provision of a rehabilitation and welfare program of advice and counselling including referral, where indicated, to other public or private agencies, veterans organizations, etc.

Assistance fund. Recipients of benefits under the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act living in Canada may be given help from the assistance fund if their total income is lower than the permitted maximum. Assistance may take the form of a monthly supplement based on shelter, fuel, food, clothing, personal care and specified health costs or of a single award to meet an unusual or emergency need. The number of persons assisted in the year ended March 31, 1973 was 22,353, the number in receipt of monthly supplements at the end of 1972 was 18,745 and fund expenditures to March 31, 1973, amounted to \$9.1 million.