



CANADA

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CANADA'S HEALTH AND WELFARE IN 1963

New protection for Canadian consumers of food and drugs, accelerated use of national welfare grants, an increase of \$10 a month in old-age security payments to all persons over 70 and approval of a new measles vaccine were among the highlights of the 1963 programme of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Special attention was concentrated on such subjects as the Canada Pension Plan, radiation protection, rehabilitation of the disabled, and fitness.

FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS

Important health measures originated in the Food and Drug Directorate in connection with the manufacture of drugs and the distribution of drug samples. It is now required by law that drug manufacturers apply certain quality controls and keep records of control of all batches of drugs produced. There is also a new clause in the Food and Drugs Act prohibiting distribution of drug samples except to physicians, dentists, veterinarians or pharmacists, under conditions laid down in amendments. Recipients must sign orders for samples of certain groups of drugs and must keep their own records of distribution of these drugs. Amendments to regulations governing the introduction of new drugs to the market impose stricter requirements on the manufacturer and provide authority for the removal of a new drug from the market whenever an unusually serious public-health hazard is discovered in its use.

WELFARE ALLOWANCES

Old-age security payments, claimable by all persons over 70, were increased by \$10 to the present level of \$75 a month as of the end of October. In December,

the Federal Government approved an equal increase of \$10 to a total of \$75 in allowances to the blind and disabled as well as old-age assistance. Since these programmes are jointly operated by the Federal Government and the provincial governments, the increase becomes applicable in each province as its government passes enabling legislation agreeing to sharing of the higher allowances. The Federal Government announced its intention of introducing a contributory pension plan to be known as the Canada Pension Plan.

FITNESS AND SPORT

The development programme of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate is moving ahead steadily. Grants made to national associations for extension of their activities had passed the \$1-million mark by the end of the year. Such organizations as the Canadian Legion, which has a fitness-promotion programme, and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, which operates hockey clinics, benefited from these grants. Scholarships for undergraduate professional study in such fields as physical education are now paid from funds allocated to the provinces. A great number of the programmes involve provincial-federal partnerships.

RADIATION PROTECTION

Protection against radiation continued to receive considerable attention from departmental staff; a significant step last year was Cabinet approval of the formation of the Advisory Committee on Radiation Protection, which will advise the Minister on matters of radiation protection and assist in drawing

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