

ment with 50 per cent having to come from the provinces, so we don't always succeed in getting the aid that has been made available because of the fact the province is not in a position to be able to put into effect these provisions.

We see Manpower training and retraining programs needing to be increased and we also hope that some lowering of the academic requirement can be achieved for some of the courses.

One need that we feel presents itself as a possible step in the near future is the increasing of family and youth allowances to help this group. This would help the larger families and is very much needed.

There are special services for the aged such as Meals on Wheels, homemaking services, day centres, that would make life much more bearable and secure and healthy for these older people. Again many private groups can only do it if there was some subsidization by the Government.

We feel very strongly that supplementary assistance should be made available to the working poor. Many of them through lack of education and no particular skills find it impossible to get employment that yields enough income to meet the needs of the larger families. We believe that minimum wages should be reviewed and revised upward and this, too, would help the working poor, and coming to the group who are already on welfare we urge that the benefits be increased. At the present the level of assistance is inadequate and this particularly applies to food, and we would like to see it granted in relation to the size of family and no maximum put on as is sometimes done on the total amount available to a family or on certain items of assistance.

We think that medicines and drugs subscribed by doctors should be provided free. In our own province the small participatory fee that recipients have to pay, even though it applies to just a few prescriptions, and there can be a waiver of it as well, it prevents hardship. It depends on the time of the month. If they have to get medicine after the first of the month, or after the family allowance day it is not too bad, but let it fall between and it presents all kinds of difficulties.

We feel too very strongly that if the incentive to work is going to be maintained at all there has to be a change that allows welfare recipients to keep some of their part-time earnings and be able to meet some of the real

needs they have and have a hope of improving their situation.

We also think benefits should be continued for a period when a welfare recipient does get employment, and that it should not be cut off before he has a chance to adjust to his situation.

We are concerned about the children of the poor. We feel somehow that many efforts should be focused on helping them. Somehow they have to be given a start in life that is much better than their parents enjoyed and therefore we very much advocate programs that would enrich the lives of these children and would foster their continuance at school and with their education.

We feel that until there is better communication and better attitudes between a number of groups that we won't be able to achieve the kind of situation that we want and we urge this between government and the poor and between the government and the general public. We feel a special effort needs to be made to educate the middle class so that they have some idea of what poverty means, and some of the indignities and discrimination that are being directed towards the poor. We single them out because any benefits or changes that are to be brought about can only be brought about if the majority has an understanding and really cares and is prepared to support it.

We think that some changes are needed very much in the kind of investigation procedure that goes on in welfare. Much of this is insincere, it is very demeaning and the thing that the poor object to most. We believe that some sort of self-declaration procedure would work very satisfactorily, particularly on the basis of establishing the continuing eligibility. If this were done time would be released to the personnel of the welfare department that could be very much better employed in having good communication with people and time to give more services which are needed very urgently.

Then our next point we feel very strongly about too, and that is that government aid should be made available for the appointment of community development workers in areas where there is a concentration of the poor. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that you and the others have heard about some of the efforts that are being made in Saint John in the Crescent Valley area and in the south end. It seems to me this is one of the most hopeful aspects to get the low income families, including the poor, involved in self-help projects,