

Other factors of vital significance in the growth of social welfare in Canada are more closely identified with the development of programmes and the provision of services: the willingness of Canadians to develop and support voluntary organizations under both religious and secular auspices to meet a whole range of human needs; the growing acceptance of public responsibility not only for income maintenance measures, but for health and welfare services; the gradual development of a comprehensive social security programme and a health and welfare infrastructure; the development of professional organizations and professional training in the field of social work; the gradual increase of research in social welfare; the refinement of methods of helping individuals with social problems through group methods, and the increasing employment of community development as a process of helping communities to identify and attack their common social problems.

In 1968, Canada has a population of a little over 20 million persons, living in the second-largest land area - 3,851,809 square miles - of any country in the world, the greater portion of which is in the Far North and sparsely inhabited. While the population extends through most of the southern areas of the country, 64 per cent is concentrated in Ontario and Quebec. The Indians and Eskimos constitute 1.2 per cent of the population, while those whose ancestors come from the British Isles and France make up 43.8 and 30.4 per cent respectively. The remainder come for the most part from other European countries, with a small but rising proportion coming from Asia and the Caribbean.

While life expectancy continues to rise, now standing at 68 years for males and 74 years for females, Canada has a relatively young population, one half being under 25 years of age. There is one doctor for every 843 inhabitants and 6.8 hospital beds for 1,000 of the population. The population growth rate now stands at 1.34 per cent a year. During the 1966-1967 academic year, 28.9 per cent of the population were attending either elementary, secondary or post-secondary educational institutions, while 8 per cent of the gross national product was spent on education.

During 1966, the gross national product, the total value of all goods and services produced in Canada, was \$57.7 billion or \$2,899 per capita⁽¹⁾, while the net national income stood at \$43 billion or \$2,162 a person. While net savings total \$11.7 billion, the ratio of net savings to national income was 1:3.67.

II. GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

Organization of Social Welfare Services

Social welfare programmes in Canada are administered by the three levels of government and are complemented by the services of voluntary agencies. The Department of National Health and Welfare is by statute the main federal welfare agency, but several other federal departments have responsibility for some aspects of social welfare. For example, welfare services for the native peoples are administered by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, services for veterans are provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the unemployment insurance programme is operated by the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

(1) All currency references are in Canadian dollars.