



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 53/23

### FIVE YEARS OF HEALTH PROGRESS

An address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, made at the 1953 Biennial Meeting of the Canadian Hospital Council, Ottawa, May 19, 1953.

#### The Hospital In Canada's Health Plans

Since it began five years ago, the National Health Programme has immeasurably strengthened the part played by hospitals in serving the health needs of Canadians. In 1948, when the Government announced this Programme, it placed particular emphasis on hospital building by providing \$66,000,000 for that purpose -- nearly 40 per cent of the total grants available.

In the five-year period, federal funds expended or committed for approved projects under the Hospital Construction Grant total nearly \$57,000,000. It is therefore evident that, with the encouragement of the Federal Government, a great effort has been made by the provincial and municipal governments -- and by the citizens of Canada -- to extend and improve our hospitals.

Since 1948, under the stimulus of these federal grants, Canada has increased its total public hospital facilities by at least one-third.

#### Added Support For Canada's Hospitals

To mark the fifth anniversary of Canada's National Health Programme, it was my privilege ten days ago to announce in Parliament the Government's decision to move forward on three entirely new health fronts. Additional federal grants -- totalling \$42,000,000 over the next five years -- are now available to widen the scope of this Programme.

These three new grants may be used to help Canada's hospitals in establishing:

- improved services for mothers and children;
- special units and clinics for the rehabilitation of the disabled;
- more extensive X-ray and laboratory services.

Although the application of these new grants will not be limited to hospitals alone, they should be of particular interest to all who work in this field. In six important ways, the funds available under this threefold programme will bring direct and lasting benefits to Canada's hospitals: