

Under the Medical Care Act, the Federal Government contributes, nationally, 50 per cent of the average costs for each person of provincial medical-insurance plans meeting specified conditions. The Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act provides for federal cost-sharing in provincial hospital-insurance programs. The Health Resources Fund provides the provinces with up to 50 per cent of capital costs towards the building, renovating and equipping of facilities for research and for training health personnel. The National Health Grant is designed to support research studies and demonstration projects. Under the Canada Assistance Plan, the Federal Government contributes 50 per cent of the costs of health-care services that provinces make available to persons who are eligible because of proved financial need.

The various agencies in Canada concerned about environmental health are in the process of developing and implementing programs to assess and determine the health effects and to assess and control the levels of air and water pollution, radiation, industrial toxicants, and other factors of the general, occupational and home environments known to be, or suspected of being, deleterious to human health. The complexity of their task requires the work of specialists in a variety of disciplines falling within the broad spectrum of the physical, life and engineering sciences and the co-operative efforts of governments and other agencies. Individual tasks include field surveys and interpretation of air and water pollution, research into health effects and their causes from all kinds of toxicants, development of guides and standards for pollutants such as chemicals and other hazards in both the working and general environment, and the specifying of health and safety standards for radiation-emitting devices.

The Federal Government discharges its responsibilities for environmental health principally through the Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare by providing regulatory authorities with the most reliable assessments of the adverse effects of environmental factors on human health and carrying out its statutory activities in the related fields of radiation protection and occupational hygiene. The Department of the Environment is responsible for research and regulatory functions having to do particularly with the effects of air and water pollution, solid-wastes management, pesticides and other contaminants, water quality and noise.

Most of the provinces have agencies in their health departments to deal with occupational and environmental health problems. As with the Federal Government, there is a close liaison between