

*Recommendation 41*

That the Chief Pensions Advocate undertake a survey to determine whether the Bureau of Pensions Advocates be staffed entirely with lawyers.

*Recommendation 42*

That funds be provided through which the Bureau of Pensions Advocates could pay for medical opinions.

*Recommendation 43*

That the Veterans' Bureau be established under a separate part of the Pension Act and it report directly to the Minister; and that it be named the Bureau of Pensions Advocates to be operated as an independent agency charged with the sole responsibility to assist applicants under the Pension Act.

*Recommendation 44*

See Part II.

*Recommendation 45*

That the Pension Act be amended to provide the following changes in the procedure to be followed by the Bureau of Pensions Advocates:

- (a) The responsibility of the Bureau to prepare a Summary of Evidence be discontinued.
- (b) That the Bureau in course of the preparation of a case will only be required to place on the departmental file copies of records maintained by hospitals, doctors, federal government, provincial governments and municipalities.
- (c) Where its services have been requested, the Bureau undertake responsibility to prepare an applicant's claim and to present it in its most favourable light at all stages of adjudication.
- (d) Where a veteran has requested the service of a representative other than the Bureau of Pensions Advocates in connection with an application under the Pension Act, the Bureau should undertake responsibility to assist in the provision to that representative, of such information as he may require in the presentation of the applicant's claim where necessary. This information could include copies of the Summary of Evidence and medical precis prepared by the Pension Commission.

*Recommendation 46*

That the role of the Bureau of Pensions Advocates be clearly delineated as that of pleading the applicant's case.

*Recommendation 47*

That the Bureau of Pensions Advocates be provided with sufficient funds and staff to facilitate its operation.

*Recommendations 48-57*

That authority be delegated to the Senior Pension Medical Examiner in the District Offices and to the officials of the Claims and Review Branch at Head Office to adjudicate upon matters of a routine nature as proposed in Woods Committee Recommendation Nos. 48-57.