A province may, by legislation, vary the Family Allowance rate paid to people living in that province, basing it on the number of children in a family, their ages, or both, provided that (a) no rate in respect of a child is less than 60 per cent of the current federal rate and (b), over the course of three years, total federal payments in a province with its own rate-structure are not more or less than the amount that would have been paid had the uniform federal rate been in effect.

In 1975, families in Quebec receive a monthly payment of $13.25 for the first child, $19.87 for the second, $32.84 for the third and $36.16 for the fourth and for each subsequent children, plus $5.52 for each child between 12 and 17 years of age. In addition, the Province of Quebec pays a monthly allowance of $3.31 for the first, $4.42 for the second, $5.52 for the third and $6.62 for the fourth and each subsequent child. In Alberta the rates vary only with the child's age. The monthly rates are $16.40 for children up to six, $20.80 for those from seven to 11, $27.30 for those 12 to 15, and $30.60 for those 16 to 17. Prince Edward Island pays an additional $10 a month for the fifth and each subsequent child.

The Family Allowance is taxable; persons who claim their children as dependents for tax purposes must also declare the allowances received as income. The payment of the allowance, however, is normally made to the mother.

The program is administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare through regional offices in each provincial capital. The regional director located at Edmonton also administers the accounts of residents in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.

Old age security program and the guaranteed income supplement

The Federal Government pays a monthly Old Age Security (OAS) pension to a person aged 65 and over who has resided in Canada for ten years immediately prior to the approval of his or her application. Any gaps in the ten-year period may be offset if the applicant had been present in Canada after the age of 18 for periods equal to three times the total of the gaps. In this case, however, the applicant must also have lived in Canada for one year immediately prior to the month in which his application for pension may be approved. The pension is also payable to aged persons who have left Canada before reaching their present age but have had 40 years' residence in Canada since the age of 18. A pensioner may absent himself from Canada and continue to receive payments. If he has lived in Canada for 20 years since his eighteenth birthday, payment outside Canada may continue indefinitely. If not, payment is continued for only six months after the month of departure and is resumed upon his return to Canada.