

of health, work efficiency, education, justice, child rearing, recreation, and it usually promotes a general deterioration of self esteem and respect of others, and thereby blocks an individual from reaching his potential and becoming a productive member of our Society.

It is our opinion that there is a definite need of reform within our present day system and society. We believe that all Canadians want to be a part of this change, and that all persons have a right to a full and normal existence. Therefore, our efforts must be directed with the utmost speed to re-integrating poverty stricken individuals into the normal experiences of community living. We feel we can no longer afford to allow individuals in our community to be isolated and segregated within the community setting. As an organization involved in community services we feel there is a drastic need of change in the following areas:

- (1) A definite need of attitudinal change among professionals as well as non-professional persons within the community setting.
  - (2) A complete re-examination of the community's working poor class.
  - (3) A more concentrated attack on the problems of and experienced by today's youth.
  - (4) More assistance offered to our elderly citizens in the realization of happiness and contentment.
  - (5) A more thorough integration of all community services, federal, provincial and private agencies.
  - (6) A complete revamping of the present cost sharing systems in health and welfare.
- (1) Attitude change will need to be brought about in three phases:
- (a) Change in the attitude of the professional
  - (b) Change in the attitude of the public in general, with focus on the business community
  - (c) Change in the attitude of the recipient
- (a) The professional must be willing to attack the whole problem, not just the segments of a problem. He must no longer limit himself to the specific area of an individual problem that is served by his organization, but rather he must strive for comprehensiveness of service to

the whole individual in relationship to the community.

(b) The attitude of the non-professional appears generally to be of a negative nature. This attitude is perhaps a direct result of his being inadequately informed of the poverty situation within his community and he therefore does not have a total awareness of the situation. This lack of awareness is perhaps an outgrowth of the apathetic attitude of non interested professionals and possibly even his own willingness to perceive isolated incidents as being the rule rather than the exception. Due to the lack of education and public awareness the non professional feels his money is being squandered on those too lazy to work and is unable or unwilling to understand how his taxes are being used, that is to reintegrate these individuals back into a productive role within the community thus in the long run relieving these monetary pressures on the remaining community.

(c) The attitude of the recipient, which is one that varies from that of demand to that of apathy and personal defeat, can be looked upon as the product of his environment. This is to say these attitudes stem from lack of those services which form the positive growth of an individual within his environment. The prime service lacking is that of educational training, both academic and technical. These in turn limit the parents' financial income, thus affecting his family's cultural development by stagnating their aspirations to achieve those goals which would allow them and their families to aspire to a higher level of living within the community.

(2) The Working Poor: It is our contention that the plight of the working poor is as it exists, perhaps the most disheartening of all the elements within our society. We feel this because it is this group, who although they have the desire to raise their self esteem and improve their conditions of living, are however unable to do so due to lack of educational and technical training. They find it difficult to maintain their existence due to the numerous frustrations they encounter in the matters of low wages, lack of proper medical attention, poor and inadequate housing and sporadic employment. It is this group of individuals who are most inclined to surrender in despair and turn to rely solely on government organized assistance programs such as Social