

services for residents of our northern areas. Finally, some mention should be made of the health services which the Federal Government provides to its own employees through the Civil Service Health Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

3. FEDERAL MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE PROGRAMS

(a) Indian Health Services:

The Directorate of Indian Health Services maintains 18 hospitals, 36 nursing stations, and 61 other health centres throughout Canada, with a capacity of more than 2,000 beds. In addition, other hospital accommodation is obtained as necessary, and agreements are entered into with private practitioners for the provision of services in areas where departmental staff or facilities are not located.

The great success achieved in lowering Indian mortality through this program -- the death rate from tuberculosis, for example, has been reduced from 579.0 to 60.2 in the ten years before 1954 -- has been of material aid to provincial governments in raising health standards within their borders.

While treatment is made available to persons on reserves or who follow the Indian way of life, and to Eskimos, all who can afford to pay are expected to do so, and the band to which and Indian belongs is expected to assume as much responsibility as possible within its resources. Some groups are largely dependent, while others increase their degree of contribution each year as circumstances permit.

(b) Immigrants:

The Department of National Health and Welfare provides necessary health care to immigrants who become ill on arrival in Canada or are enroute to their destination in this country or are awaiting employment. In addition, under agreements between the Department of Labour and certain provinces, the Federal Government meets half the cost of medical and hospital care for indigent immigrants during their first year in Canada. Under these agreements, the municipality of residence is reimbursed in full for the cost of treatment.