

Security for Canadians, in which the following guiding principles were set out:

"First, the social security system must assure to people who cannot work, the aged, the blind and the disabled, a compassionate and equitable guaranteed annual income.

"Second, the social security system as it applies to people who can work must contain incentives to work and a greater emphasis on the need to get people who are on social aid back to work.

"Third, a fair and just relationship must be maintained between the incomes of people who are working at or near the minimum wage, the guaranteed incomes assured to people who cannot work, and the allowances paid to those who can work but are unemployed.

"Fourth, it must be recognized that Provinces may wish to have the structures of social security vary in accordance with the social needs, income standards and the cost of living in different communities.

"Finally, it must be accepted that the reconsideration of Canada's social security system must be conducted jointly by the Federal Government and the Provinces. A better social security system can only be realized if a reasonable consensus can be reached between the Governments of Canada and the Provinces."

The conference agreed to set up federal-provincial working parties on income maintenance, employment, and social services. It also agreed to complete the review by April 1975. The first results of these efforts are reflected in the changes of the Family Allowance, the Canada Pension Plan, and the Old Age Security programs, as outlined below(4).

Family allowances Family Allowances are payable for any dependent child under 18 years of age who is resident in Canada and is maintained by at least one resident of Canada who is a Canadian citizen, a landed immigrant, or a person admitted to Canada as a non-immigrant in prescribed circumstances. The application should be made by the person who maintains the child, and the first payment of the allowance will normally be made for the month after these conditions are met. In 1974, the monthly allowance was \$20 a child in all provinces except Quebec and Alberta (*see below*). As it is increased annually at the beginning of each year in accordance with the rise of the consumer price index, this amount was raised to \$22.08 in January 1975.

- (4) For more detailed descriptions of federal and provincial welfare programs, see *Social Security in Canada* (1974), published by the Department of National Health and Welfare and the *Canada Year Book*.