

CANADA'S HEALTH AND WELFARE IN 1964

The following passages are from a review of the activities of the Department of National Health and Welfare issued at the end of December 1964:

The year 1964 saw increased activity in several important areas of responsibility of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Among these were the Canada Pension Plan, programmes involving smoking and health, fitness, and mental retardation. Of special importance was legislation concerning Youth Allowances, which provides \$10.00 a month for 16 and 17 year old children who remain in school.

PENSION PLAN

One of the most important pieces of welfare legislation ever proposed in Canada was placed before Parliament last November by the Honourable Judy LaMarsh, Minister of National Health and Welfare, when she introduced a bill to establish the Canada Pension Plan. The bill provides for a universal, contributory pension plan for employees and self-employed persons in Canada.

Among the major features of the Plan are provisions for the survivors of contributors and for disabled persons. The Plan will provide pensions for widows and dependent children of contributors who die. Apart from workmen's compensation and veterans' pensions, only public-assistance measures have been available to aid such survivors. Similarly, disabled persons formerly depended on assistance programmes, such as blind persons' allowances and allowances for the totally and permanently disabled. Under the Canada Pension Plan, there will be, for the first time, social-insurance protection against disability.

The Research and Statistics Division was involved in the preparation of the Canada Pension Plan through an interdepartmental committee which met with representatives of the provinces to discuss a wide range of subjects in relation to the Plan. This division also collaborated closely with the Department of Justice in putting the Pension Plan bill into final form for submission to the House....

SMOKING AND HEALTH

The educational activities of the smoking and health programme were substantially increased over the year. Recognition of the need to inform the public about the relation of cigarette smoking to certain diseases had been given by the Minister in 1963, and a Canadian Conference on Smoking and Health had

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HUGE DEMAND FOR COIN SETS

Mr. Walter L. Gordon, the Minister of Finance, has announced that the Royal Canadian Mint had received, by the first business day of the new year, so many orders for 1965 sets of "uncirculated coin" that it would require the present production facilities of the Mint for this type of coin all year to meet the orders now at hand. The orders are being accepted in accordance with the announcement made on September 29 last that they would be filled on a "first-come-first-served" basis.

confirmed the desirability of immediate action. In January 1964, two technical advisory committees - one on health education and the other on research - assisted the Department in initiating a programme....

FITNESS PROMOTION

The vital matter of physical fitness among Canadians is the prime concern of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate of the Department. The federal programme is divided into three main parts: direct grants to national organizations or to individuals for advanced training and research; services provided by the Department, largely in the form of technical advice and training aids; grants-in-aid to the provinces for the support and development of services at the provincial and community levels. In the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1964, a total of \$3 million was allotted for use in these areas.

Two important steps were taken in 1964 in the field of fitness research. Units for advanced study were established at the Universities of Alberta, Montreal and Toronto, with a sum of \$750,000 provided from the federal programme's funds for their use over the next five years. In addition, a national documentation centre on fitness and amateur sport went into operation at the University of Ottawa, with Departmental assistance. The centre acts as a clearing-house for technical material on fitness in Canada and abroad....

DISASTER PLANNING

During 1964, the Emergency Health Services Division gave added emphasis to planning for natural disaster. An increasing number of hospital disaster institutes were conducted and, as a result, a large number of hospitals throughout Canada now have a plan for an emergency and have actually tested their plan in a simulated natural disaster, such as a major railway accident.

Official approval of an additional \$3.5 million was given to provide a medical stockpile of some \$21.5 million. This national-emergency medical stockpile was the source of the supplies sent by the Canadian Red Cross to Cyprus in August of 1964. Although the primary purpose of the stockpile is to provide medical aid in the event of a national emergency in Canada, the Cyprus disaster underlines the usefulness for such a standby reserve in time of peace....

This unprecedented demand for numismatic sets of coin, coming on top of much higher levels of requirement for coin in circulation, greatly exceeds the capacity of the Mint even operating, as it has been, on three shifts a day. The management and staff have achieved in the past year a remarkable record of coin production, totalling 665 million pieces, compared to approximately 400 million pieces in the preceding year, which itself had been a record.

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