

The CHAIRMAN: Are we finished with item 449?

Mr. MONTGOMERY: I notice there are 17 solicitors employed in connection with these districts. What are these for?

Mr. MACE: These are the staffs of our legal services located in the districts—I believe, mostly in the larger districts.

In many cases these solicitors carry on the joint legal requirements of the Veterans Land Act and other branches of the department.

The deputy minister is a lawyer and is very familiar with this question. Maybe he would like to supplement what I have said.

Mr. MONTGOMERY: I have noticed that there are other solicitors for the veterans bureau.

Mr. LALONDE: There are no solicitors under the Veterans Land Act vote now. They all operate under the district administration vote, and in all cases they work for other branches of the department except for the veterans bureau, because solicitors working for the veterans bureau are specialists who are working on pension law. The other solicitors—the 17 mentioned—are general practitioners.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Are all these solicitors veterans, and are they all qualified according to provincial and Canadian law?

Mr. LALONDE: They are, sir. I presume you were referring to the 17 solicitors mentioned here, Mr. Herridge?

Mr. HERRIDGE: Yes.

Mr. LALONDE: That is right.

Item 449 agreed to.

450. Veterans Welfare Services (including the former Veterans Insurance Branch) .....	\$3,540,739
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The CHAIRMAN: I wonder if we might crave the indulgence of the members of the committee and permit this item to stand this morning.

We have with us today Dr. Crawford, chief director of treatment services. Unfortunately he cannot be with us next week but if we could have your co-operation, we might now proceed to discuss item 451 and permit item 450 to stand for the moment.

Treatment Services—

451. Operation of Hospitals and Administration, including authority for payments, during the current and subsequent fiscal years, to Canteen Funds of departmental hospitals in amounts equal to the amounts of commissions received by or on behalf of Her Majesty from pay telephones in such hospitals .....	\$46,264,751
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The CHAIRMAN: We introduced Dr. Crawford last year when he made a lengthy statement on the activities of this branch.

Dr. Crawford is a distinguished veteran in his own right—a Hong Kong veteran. He once had the distinction of living in the Brandon-Souris constituency many long years ago. He is well qualified to speak for his branch.

Mr. BROOME: He must still have some relatives living there.

Dr. J. N. CRAWFORD, (*Director-General, Treatment Services, Department of Veterans Affairs*): Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee: thank you. As far as I know, there are none of my relatives still living at Brandon.

I think it is unnecessary again to advise this group of what we do in the treatment branch, what our tasks are, and how we do them.

But very briefly, you know our responsibility is for the provision of hospitalization and/or treatment to veterans, pensioned veterans, for their pensionable disabilities; to veterans who are recipients of the war veterans allowance; to veterans with reduced income, who pay for treatment under