

approved agencies; and comfort allowances for inmates of institutions.

Health-care services may include: medical, surgical, obstetrical, optical, dental and nursing services; drugs; dressings; prosthetic appliances; and other items associated with the provision of such services. Welfare services may include: rehabilitation services; case-work; counselling and assessment services; adoption services; and homemaker, day-care, and similar services supplied to persons in need or to persons to whom the service is essential if they are to remain self-supporting.

The only eligibility requirement specified under the Canada Assistance Plan is that of need, which is determined through an assessment of budgetary requirements as well as of income and resources. A province must not require previous residence as a condition of eligibility for assistance or for continued assistance. Rates of assistance and eligibility requirements are set by the province so that they may be adjusted to local conditions and the needs of special groups.

The provinces also administer federal-provincial allowances for blind persons and those who are totally and permanently disabled. To qualify for these allowances, a person must have lived in a province for ten years and must meet certain income requirements. Most provinces no longer accept applications under these categorical programs, but aid them by means of their general assistance programs, whose costs are shared under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Several provinces operate independent income-support programs, which supplement those administered under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Should an immigrant be unemployed and indigent before having had continuous employment in Canada, the Department of Manpower and Immigration provides financial assistance until such time as he is employed. If the immigrant is in need of assistance after having had continuous employment, he receives aid in the same manner as a Canadian, either from the municipality or the province.

#### Vocational rehabilitation

Under the provisions of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (VRDP) Act, the Federal Government contributes 50 per cent of the costs incurred by a province in providing a comprehensive program for the vocational rehabilitation of physically and mentally disabled persons. A comprehensive program includes such services as medical, social and vocational assessment, counselling, restoration services, the provision of prostheses, training,