

under the Canada Assistance Plan. Provincial administration of welfare is carried out through the department of public welfare in each province. Several provincial welfare departments have established regional offices for administrative purposes and to provide consultative services to the municipalities.

As a result of the extensions of federal sharing under the Canada Assistance Plan, provincial departments of welfare are giving increased attention to the improvement of standards of administration and to the development of rehabilitation and other services designed to alleviate or prevent dependency. Also, the availability of federal aid under the national welfare grants program for staff-training, bursaries, and research and demonstration projects has enabled them to strengthen their welfare services.

Institutional care for the aged and infirm is provided under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices. A number of provinces make capital grants to municipalities, voluntary organizations or limited dividend companies for the construction of low-rental housing for elderly persons.

Child-welfare services, including protection, foster care and adoption services, are provided by the provincial authority or, in some provinces, by children's aid societies. Particular emphasis is being placed on preventive services to children in their own homes. Day nurseries for the children of working mothers are established only in the larger centres, where they are chiefly under voluntary auspices, except in Ontario, where there are also municipally-sponsored day nurseries which receive provincial grants.

A number of voluntary agencies also contribute to community welfare, including the welfare of families and children and of groups with special needs, such as the aged, recent immigrants, youth groups and released prisoners. Family-welfare agencies or combined family and child-welfare agencies in urban centres, for example, offer case-work services to families in need of counselling on such problems as marital relations, parent-child relations and family-budgeting. Counselling and recreational services for older or retired people are being developed by many agencies, and child and youth organizations with recreational and character-building programs offer group participation in physical education, camping, the development of special skills, and other opportunities for healthful activity. Welfare councils and community-planning councils contribute to the planning and co-ordinating of local welfare services.

Fitness and recreation are encouraged and promoted under the federal Fitness and Amateur Sport Act (1961), under which grants are made to national organizations to assist national and international aspects of the program and to provinces to develop and extend community effort.

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