

all permanent residents, and is comprehensive in the services it covers.

In 1998, per capita health care spending was almost 50 percent higher than 20 years ago. Among G-7 countries, Canada is tied with France for third place in per capita health expenditures. This year, the federal government renewed the fiscal support it gives to the system. Over the next five years, the provinces and territories will receive an additional \$11.5 billion for health care.

Canada's health care system is part of an array of supportive and varied social service programs enjoyed by our citizens. For example, five million Canadian children receive the Child Tax Benefit, and 3.6 million seniors receive Old Age Security benefits. On average, some 700 000 Canadians receive Employment Insurance benefits.

Our superior education system sets the stage for our future prosperity. We rank among the world's leaders in per capita spending on public education. Furthermore, our school system is comprehensive, diversified and available to all.

Canadians believe in giving people the opportunity to develop themselves. It's all part of building a just and caring society.