

mothers' allowances, child-welfare maintenance costs, health-care services and welfare services for needy persons. The Federal Government also offers consultant services to the provinces in connection with the administration of the Canada Assistance Plan.

Immigrants in their first year in Canada may receive aid through the local authority under an agreement made with the province whereby costs are shared by the provincial and federal governments, or they may be referred directly to the local office of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

### PART III - WELFARE SERVICES

General assistance to needy persons and the various welfare services associated with this form of aid, as well as the care of the aged and the protection and care of neglected and dependent children, are governed by provincial welfare legislation. Administrative and financial responsibility is shared by the province and its municipalities with federal reimbursement for half the costs of assistance and services being made 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 programme 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.