

Order Paper Questions

	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Manitoba	498,728	737,628	808,798	849,558	1,005,798
Ontario	625,076	898,344	931,502	1,044,772	1,183,388
Quebec	304,380	345,166	382,820	435,958	486,336
Atlantic	339,966	392,198	418,476	442,428	497,466
National Total	3,648,965	4,881,558	5,545,654	5,970,977	6,823,457

EVALUATION OF DRUG "INDERAL"

Question No. 3,280—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Did Miss Jean Sattar of the health protection branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare state on October 28, 1981 or thereabouts that the branch would not determine if the drug "Inderal" could be prescribed for the prevention of heart attacks and that it would require clinical study before the drug could be advertised as useful in this regard and, if so, does the department realize (a) that the drug has been on the market in Canada for approximately one decade (b) that the drug is officially prescribed for the purpose of treating high blood pressure and heart arrhythmias, but that it has been common practice in the medical profession to prescribe the drug as a beta-blocker and a preventative for heart attacks, even though the department has not allowed it to be advertised as such?

2. Does the department intend to bring itself up to date on the use of and results of the drug and, if so, on what date?

Mr. Doug Frith (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. No. The comment referred to the procedure by which data on drug studies is brought to the attention of the department (health protection branch) for evaluation, and if satisfactory for the issue to the manufacturer of a notice of compliance.

(a) The health protection branch (HPB) issued a notice of compliance for Inderal (propranolol) for use in arrhythmias in 1968, as an anti-angina drug in 1969, as an antihypertensive in 1974 and in the prophylaxis of migraine in 1979.

(b) The name beta-blocker indicates a generic function of blockade of B-adrenergic receptors. One of these beta-blockers, Inderal, has been sold in Canada for the indications in 1(a) since the dates indicated. However, the way a physician uses a drug is governed by provincial statutes relating to medical practice. The HPB encourages submission of detailed data and will examine expeditiously any data presented to it concerning new indications.

2. The department considers itself informed on the drug.

COST TO GOVERNMENT OF OAS AND GIS PAYMENTS

Question No. 3,295—**Mr. Dantzer:**

In 1981 dollars what is the estimate of the cost to the government for (a) OAS payments (b) GIS payments for (i) 1986 (ii) 1991 (iii) 2001 (iv) 2011 (v) 2021 (vi) 2031?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): All figures in 1981 dollars.

(a)	(i)	1986—\$ 6,609 million
	(ii)	1991—\$ 7,516 million
	(iii)	2001—\$ 8,609 million
	(iv)	2011—\$ 9,765 million
	(v)	2021—\$12,626 million
	(vi)	2031—\$16,034 million

Note: Cost in constant dollars is directly proportional to growth in the over-65 population. The above figures are based upon Projection 4 in "Population Projection for Canada and the Provinces 1976-2001", Statistics Canada Catalogue 91-520 Occasional.

(b) (i) 1986—\$2,347 million

(ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi)—No projection available.

The guaranteed income supplement is an income tested program. Expenditures depend on the amount of income pensioners receive from other sources. Since this income may vary greatly over time due to alterations in economic growth, interest rates and interest income, personal savings, growth in other pension plans, etc., accurate cost projections for these years are not possible.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES

Question No. 3,297—**Mr. Dantzer:**

1. (a) How many individuals currently hold registered government annuities (b) what is the total amount of the annuities and what rate of interest is being earned?

2. Is it possible for an individual to remove his/her government annuity and place it in an annuity earning better rates of interest and, if not, for what reason?

3. Have actions been taken to ensure that each individual's request is handled in the most satisfactory method for that individual and, if so, what were such actions?

4. (a) On what date was the rate of interest on government annuities last changed (b) how many times since then has the rate of interest been reviewed and, of the last two times, what was the principal reason for not increasing the rate of return?

5. Are government annuities transferable to (a) government pension plans (b) provincial government pension plans (c) para-public pension plans, such as teachers' association plans (d) private pension plans and (i) if not, for what reason (ii) if so, for what reason?

6. If the transfer of government annuities was possible, would it improve an individual's pension and, if so, at whose cost?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): 1. (a) There are an estimated 228,931 individuals currently holding government annuities.

(b) On March 31, 1981, 264,270 contracts and group certificates were being administered by the Annuities Branch. Of these, 143,170 were under payment to nearly 118,500 annuitants who received a total of \$92.2 million during the fiscal year 1980/81. The rate of interest is 7 per cent.

2. Yes, the branch automatically refunds the payments plus interest if the annuity is less than \$10 per annum. Also, unless prohibited by a particular pension contract, the annuitant has the option of removing his/her annuity if it will be less than \$120 per annum. Otherwise, section 10(1) of the Government Annuities Act and section 12 of the Government Annuities Improvement Act, forbid withdrawal by the annuitant. Section 17 of the government annuities regulations, however, permits group certificate holders who are now contributing to federal or provincial superannuation plans to transfer the value of their annuity to their new pension plan.