A wide range of income-security and social-service programs is provided by the federal, provincial and local governments. The Department of National Health and Welfare has the major federal role in income security and welfare. Other federal agencies with important social-security functions are the Unemployment Insurance Commission, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The publicly-funded and -administered programs are complemented by a wide range of services provided by voluntary agencies.

The Department of National Health and Welfare administers the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Assistance Plan, the Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement programs, and the Family and Special Allowances. Through the Canada Assistance Plan, the Federal Government shares in the financing of provincial social-assistance programs, child-welfare services, services for the elderly, including institutional care, and a variety of social services for needy persons.

In January 1973, the Government of Canada called for a joint federal-provincial review of the Canadian system of social security. As its contribution to the conference held in April of that year, the Government published a working paper entitled *Income*