

Housing and Renewal Corporation has no committee of knowledgeable citizens to advise the Minister responsible for housing but consider the Winnipeg Age and Opportunity Bureau and Manitoba Public Housing Work Shop as adequate forums for the presentation and discussion of housing requirements for both families and senior citizens. In rural areas of Manitoba there are housing authorities consisting of at least six members of whom two must be tenants which assures complete involvement. The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Act, 1973,<sup>(1)</sup> may incorporate public housing authorities which report to the Corporation. Alberta<sup>(2)</sup> has set up some fifty-four foundations to administer senior citizens' housing. The boards of directors of the foundations are elected members of the municipal councils and are responsible to the electorate. The foundations determine the housing needs within their administrative areas. British Columbia housing legislation is under review. According to the study carried out by the Social Planning and Review Council of British Columbia<sup>(3)</sup> (December 1972) the first official contact for the citizen impetus committee on housing for senior citizens in the Community Care Facilities Board through the local Medical Health Officer. The impetus committee forms a non-profit society and incorporates and then gets in touch with CMHC and the Provincial Secretary.

#### Recommendation 82

- (a) That homemaker service be accepted as a shareable cost under the Canada Assistance Plan.
- (b) That homemaker service be accepted as a shareable cost under the Canada Assistance Plan not only for persons on public assistance but for all others to whom this service is provided free by the provinces and their municipalities.

#### ACTION TAKEN

Provincial and municipal governments underwrite the costs of providing homemaker service to recipients of social assistance but the maximum daily rate they are prepared to contribute may fall short of the full cost of the service to the homemaker agency. The province is reimbursed 50 per cent of these costs by the Federal Government under the Canada Assistance Plan. The legislation also permits federal sharing of the costs of subsidizing persons other than those on assistance whose incomes are insufficient for them to pay the prescribed fee; provinces and municipalities differ widely in the extent to which they have chosen to make this assistance available to low-income families. The maximum family income below which public welfare departments are prepared to

subsidize fees depends on the province in which the applicant happens to reside.<sup>(4)</sup>

In British Columbia these services receive small provincial grants and local support, but must rely on fees from clients, thus, frequently, making the service beyond the means of older people.<sup>(5)</sup>

Homemaker services in Alberta<sup>(6)</sup> are supported through the Preventive Social Services Act which may also cover payments not eligible for federal cost-sharing under the Canada Assistance Plan. Establishment of the eligibility of projects for provincial-municipal cost-sharing is based on approval of budget figures provided by the municipality, together with an agreement to provide the service on a sliding scale of fees. The net deficit of such projects is shared up to 80 per cent by the province, the remaining 20 per cent is paid by the municipality.

In Saskatchewan,<sup>(7)</sup> funds for purchase of homemaker service, based on financial need, are available through the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan.

Extensive homemaker services are provided in Manitoba<sup>(8)</sup> under the Social Allowance Act and the Child Welfare Act, as amended 1966. For families or aged persons eligible for a social allowance, payment is made for homemaker service during illness or other emergency as required.

In Ontario<sup>(9)</sup> the breakdown of sharing is 20 per cent for the regional government, 30 per cent for the provinces and 50 per cent for the Federal Government. The fee paid by the recipient depends on his income and the state of the budget of the municipality. Lower income persons pay a nominal rate, while the mid-income group pay more although that group receives some assistance through the United Way Fund. Upper income brackets pay the full cost. The service operates under the Ontario Nursing and Homemakers' Services Act and is regarded as permissive legislation as the cost of the service to the recipient varies according to the budget of the municipality.

Under the Quebec<sup>(10)</sup> Public Charities Act, assistance is given for the provision of visiting homemaker services. The homemaker service program is administered by voluntary agencies recognized by the province. Under the legislation, the full cost of the service to needy persons is paid by the Department of Social Affairs.

Financial aid for homemaker services is available in Nova Scotia<sup>(11)</sup> under the Social Assistance Act. When

(1) Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. Letter dated August 2, 1973.

(2) Alberta Housing Corporation. Letter dated August 20, 1973.

(3) Social Planning and Review Council of B.C. *A Study of Community Care for Seniors*, Vancouver 1972, 179 pages.

(4) Canadian Council on Social Development, *Visiting Homemaker Services in Canada*, Report of a Survey with Recommendations, March, 1971. pp. 20-21.

(5) Social Planning and Review Council (SPARC), *A Study of Community Care for Seniors*, Vancouver 1972, p. 39.

(6) Canadian Council on Social Development, *Op. Cit.*, p. 102.

(7) *Ibid.*

(8) *Ibid.*

(9) Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. Letter dated November 28, 1973.

(10) Canadian Council on Social Development, *Op. Cit.*, p. 104.

(11) *Ibid.*