

PART V RECREATION

While recreation in Canada is primarily a matter of personal, family or group concern, the municipalities have been playing a larger role in organizing recreational programmes since the Second World War. Through developing facilities such as libraries, civic centres, parks and playgrounds and through working with voluntary associations, municipal recreation departments have been able to increase substantially the recreational opportunities available to their citizens.

Organized recreational programmes under voluntary auspices assume a multiplicity of forms. Boys and girls clubs, youth service agencies' athletic clubs, ethnic associations, churches, welfare agencies and service clubs have in a variety of ways provided opportunities for the use of leisure. In nearly all Canadian communities there are clubs, little theatre groups and similar groups which may be affiliated with regional or national associations. Voluntary services have tended to emphasize activities for youth. Through such organizations as the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Association, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Boy's Clubs, and the rural 4-H Clubs, children and young people are enabled to benefit from physical education, athletics, summer camps, instruction in skills and other group activities.

Provincial Government contributions to recreation normally include financial assistance to the local authorities as well as consultative services. The provinces have also developed parks and camping areas and have provided a variety of conservation programmes designed to protect and make accessible the resources of nature and to enhance the enjoyment of outdoor life.

The Department of National Health and Welfare provides professional, consultative and information services in the related fields of fitness and recreation. The Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is responsible for the National Parks, the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, the National Museum and National Gallery and operates a recreational programme for people in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Agriculture provides services to both the 4-H Clubs and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. The Citizenship Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration encourage special recreation programmes for New Canadians. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation operates transcontinental radio and television networks.