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|----|------------------|-------------|
| 2. | No. of Contracts | Total Value |
| | | \$000 |
| | 1,902 | 106,278 |

DAY-CARE CENTRES—ONTARIO

Question No. 1,448—**Mr. Flis:**

Did any day-care centres in Ontario apply to the government in (a) 1978 (b) 1979 for a charitable tax number in order to issue receipts for income tax deductions and, if so (i) how many (ii) by month and number of applications, how much time did it take to process the application?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue):

While a number of daycare centres in Ontario have been registered as a charity for purposes of the Income Tax Act during 1978 and 1979, the requested statistical data is not available. Statistics on the numbers of applications received and dealt with are maintained, but a breakdown by particular type and geographic area is not compiled.

The time taken by the officials of the department to process applications during the period in question fluctuated between six and ten weeks and depended on the volume of applications being received and the complexity of the application. The department adheres to a policy of processing applications in the order they are received and registration is normally retroactive to the date of incorporation or start of operations.

POST OFFICE—NISKU, ALBERTA

Question No. 1,452—**Mr. Schellenberger:**

Does the government have any plans to expand the post office facilities at Nisku, Alberta in 1980 and (a) if so, what are such plans (b) if not, is any action planned for 1981?

Mr. Gary F. McCauley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Yes.

(a) and (b).

Approval was given in the latter part of 1979 for a new or improved facility in Nisku. It is on Public Works' priority list and they are in the process of negotiating for improved premises at this time.

SOVIET UNION WAR VETERANS

Question No. 1,455—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Is the government aware that there are a certain number of Soviet Union war veterans who are now residents of Canada but who are not eligible for war pensions because the USSR cut off such pensions when they left the country and, if so, what is the estimated number?

2. Is it a requirement that such allied veterans must live in Canada for 10 years before being considered for any war veterans allowance benefits and, if so (a) will the government give immediate consideration to reducing the 10 year limit to 3 years or less (b) what would be the estimated cost to the government if this extra financial expense was permitted and is it in the neighbourhood of only \$250,000 maximum per year?

3. Is it government policy to consider that war veterans of the USSR served as allies with Canada during the second world war and in particular, that those who have emigrated to Canada and become landed immigrants and in many cases Canadian citizens, are worthy of consideration for benefits?

Hon. Gilles Lamontagne (Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs): 1. Yes, we are aware that there are a number of Soviet Union war veterans residing in Canada. It is estimated that they are 110 in number.

In accordance with section 50 of the Pension Act, disabled veterans of the armed forces of any of our wartime allies must have been domiciled in Canada at the date of the commencement of World War II to be eligible for any Canadian disability pension benefit.

2. Yes.

(a) No consideration is being given at the present time to reduce the residency requirement. In 1950 the government made provision which extended the definition of "veteran" to include those allies who had resided in Canada for 20 years. In 1960 this was reduced to ten years. This ten-year requirement also exists in similar income support programs such as Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement.

(b) A change in the residency requirement for this group would necessitate changing it for all allied veterans and as we have no means of determining how many allied veterans would be affected, we are unable to determine the cost of such a change.

3. Any allied veteran, including veterans of the U.S.S.R., who have completed ten years of residency in Canada and who have never served in the enemy forces in World War II, can be considered for benefits under the War Veterans Allowance Act.