

General Assistance<sup>(1)</sup> -- Aid is provided in all provinces to persons in need who cannot qualify under programmes designed for specific groups. Assistance is normally determined by the local authority and is given on the basis of a means test and, usually also, a residence requirement. In general the municipalities administer the programme, with provincial Governments assuming responsibility in unorganized territory. In Newfoundland, however, the provincial Government administers all forms of assistance through district officers. In Quebec assistance has traditionally been given by religious and other voluntary organizations with the province and municipality providing most of the financial aid; some municipalities are now administering general assistance programmes. Most provinces provide for reimbursement to municipalities for relief expenditures in amounts which vary from 50 to 80 per cent according to the province. Immigrants in their first year in Canada may receive aid through the local authority under an agreement made with the province whereby costs are shared by the Provincial and Federal Governments, or they may be referred directly to the local office of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

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(1) Under the Unemployment Assistance Act the province may be reimbursed by the Federal Government for fifty per cent of the cost of assistance to unemployed persons who are not eligible for or who have exhausted their right to unemployment insurance. Agreements have been concluded with Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.