

- (c) where a pensioner dies and his assessment is less than 48%, the Commission may entertain an application after his death for an increase in assessment, and may be empowered to approve such increase.

*Recommendation 139*

That the Canadian Pension Commission publish guidelines setting out permissible assets, maximum income ceilings and other factors which govern decisions of the Commission in regard to applications under those sections of the Act where an award may be made at the discretion of the Commission and where the decision depends upon the financial circumstances of the dependant or the pensioner. The guidelines should be broad and flexible in order that they will not restrict the statutory discretion which is given to the Commission to meet individual circumstances.

*Recommendation 140*

That the Canadian Pension Commission publish a "Suggested Expenditure" guide setting out permissible allowances for food, shelter, clothing and other necessities on an adjustable basis for each geographical area, to be used in determining eligibility for a maximum rate provided under the Act, or at a lesser rate if appropriate. This guide to be broad and flexible to facilitate the achievement of reasonable uniformity in decision-making, but without inhibiting the Commission's statutory discretion.

*Recommendation 141*

That "dependent condition" be defined to mean the condition of being without income or assets sufficient to provide maintenance. Such assets are not to include the home in which the applicant or pensioner resides.

*Recommendation 142*

That no information from a departmental file be released unless:

- (1) the veteran has given his written consent to its release; and
- (2) the release of the information is in the veteran's best interests.

*Recommendation 143*

That the statutory exemption from income tax for payments made under the Pension Act be continued.

*Recommendation 144*

That subsections (1) and (2) of section 33 of the Pension Act, which provides for a reduction of pension while a pensioner is in receipt of a treatment allowance from the Department of Veterans Affairs, be deleted so that this provision in the Pension Act will conform to the Veterans Treatment Regulations which state that pension if in payment at a rate equal to or exceeding the treatment allowance, will remain in payment in lieu of treatment allowance when the pensioner is undergoing treatment for his pensionable disability.

*Recommendation 145*

That the practice of deducting \$15.00 a month from treatment allowance for pensioners in Classes 3-21 while in hospital be discontinued.