

DETAILS OF NATIONAL HEALTH GRANTS

1948-9 TOTAL \$30,120,300: Exact amounts available to each Province out of the \$30,000,000 national health grants voted by Parliament were announced July 30 by Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Allotted mainly on the basis of the estimated 1947 provincial populations, the amounts are: Ontario, \$9,667,979; Quebec, \$8,985,035; British Columbia, \$2,529,153; Saskatchewan, \$2,001,742; Alberta, \$1,968,738; Manitoba, \$1,805,965; Nova Scotia, \$1,541,779; New Brunswick, \$1,226,052 and Prince Edward Island \$293,857.

Only one grant--\$100,000 for public health research--is not being allocated on a provincial or population basis. All grants, including the research grant, for 1948-49 total \$30,120,300.

(On July 29 Mr. Martin announced the appointment to the staff of the National Health Department of Dr. F.W. Jackson, formerly Deputy Minister of Health and Public Welfare for Manitoba, who will be the departmental officer responsible for getting the health program launched.)

Largest single type of grant is \$13,000,000 for hospital construction. Divided on a population basis, it makes available a ceiling amount of \$4,336,439 to Ontario; \$3,842,650 to Quebec; \$1,080,745 to British Columbia; \$871,636 to Saskatchewan; \$850,932 to Alberta; \$769,151 to Manitoba; \$642,857 to Nova Scotia; \$508,282 to New Brunswick and \$97,308 to Prince Edward Island.

These sums are available on condition that the province concerned at least matches the federal Government's contribution.

BUILDING PROJECTS

Subject to the overall ceiling based on population, the money will be divided among specific building projects on the basis of \$1,000 for each active treatment bed or bed equivalent and \$1,500 for each chronic or convalescent bed. These grants apply to new hospitals or nursing units or additions to existing buildings commenced on or after April 1, 1948, subject to a proviso that in no instance will the amount paid from federal funds exceed one-third of the cost of construction.

For instances of new buildings or additions under construction on April 1, 1948, the amount to be paid is based on the \$1,000-\$1,500 per bed formula in relation to the amount of construction to be completed after March 31, 1948, and to the total cost of construction, or an amount up to one-third of the total cost of the portion of the construction still to be completed after March 31, 1948. Whichever formula yields the lesser amount is to apply. At the end of five years the hospital construction grants are to be reviewed.

Basic to the whole health program is a grant of \$625,000 to assist the provinces in setting up the machinery to ensure the most effective use of the health grants, to plan the extension of hospital accommodation and the proper organization of hospital and medical care insurance. The grant is being divided on the basis of \$5,000 to each province and the remainder on the basis of population, with a proviso that no province will get less than \$15,000. While this is not a recurring grant, any amounts not spent in the current fiscal year may be made available for use in succeeding years.

Second largest type of grant is \$4,000,000 for mental health which is divided on the basis of \$25,000 flat grant to each province and the balance according to population. Provincial directors of mental health have already met with the federal department and with university representatives to map out programs of action, with emphasis on training of professional personnel to staff new hospitals and clinics. The mental health grant is to rise over a period of years to a total of \$7,000,000 annually.

CANCER CONTROL

The sum of \$3,500,000 has been earmarked for cancer control. Allotted on the basis of population, it provides ceiling amounts of \$1,167,503 for Ontario, \$1,034,560 for Quebec; \$290,970 for British Columbia; \$234,671 for Saskatchewan; \$229,097 for Alberta; \$207,079 for Manitoba; \$173,077 for Nova Scotia; \$136,845 for New Brunswick and \$26,198 for Prince Edward Island. Like the hospital construction grants, these funds are available for approved programs of cancer control provided the province matches the federal contribution. The Minister pointed out that these federal grants will mean a decided acceleration of the cancer control program in Canada.

The tuberculosis control grant totalling \$3,000,000 this year and rising over a period of years to \$4,000,000 is divided on the basis of \$25,000 flat amount to each province, with the balance divided 50% on the basis of population and 50% according to the average number of deaths (including Indians) from tuberculosis in each province over the five-year period from 1942 to 1946 inclusive.

It is expected, Mr. Martin said, that these grants will enable the provinces to extend the areas of free treatment and to accelerate the drive to wipe out tuberculosis.

Half a million dollars each has been allocated for programs to aid crippled children and to further professional training of public health personnel. Both grants have been divided on the basis of \$4,000 flat amount to each province and the remainder according to population.

To strengthen general public health services, such as the control of communicable diseases and the development of child and maternal health programs, a sum of \$4,395,000 has been allotted on the basis of 35 cents per capita of population. This amount will rise by five cents per capita each year to a maximum of 50 cents annually. On the present basis British Columbia will receive \$365,400; the Prairie Provinces \$842,450; Ontario, \$1,466,150; Quebec, \$1,299,200; and the Maritime Provinces \$422,100.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Under arrangements first made during the war, the federal Government has been spending \$225,000 annually on the control of venereal diseases. Of this amount \$50,000 was for purchase of drugs for treatment of these diseases. Under the new health program, the allocation for venereal disease control has been increased to \$500,000.

The \$100,000 grant for public health research is not divided either on a provincial or a population basis. Each project must be submitted with full details to the Dominion Council of Health which will recommend to the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether or not the project should be accepted.

Detailed provision is made in the orders-in-council for consultation between the provinces and the federal Government on proposed developments, the exchange of reports and procedure by which payments are to be made.

INFANT DEATH RATE DOWN: Infant and maternal death rates in Canada decreased in 1947 for the fourth year in succession according to preliminary figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics.

In 1947 as compared with 1946 the death rate for children under one year fell from 47 to 45 per 1,000 live births, and the rate for children under one month from 27 to 26. The maternal death rate dropped fractionally from 1.8 to 1.5 per 1,000 live births.

If the final figures confirm the trend shown by the preliminary compilation, the past four years will record a drop of a full 10 points in the infant death rate, from 55 per 1,000 live births in 1944 to 45 in 1947.

The actual number of deaths of infants under one year was 1,592 greater in 1947 than in 1946, but, balanced against an increase from 330,732 to 358,709 in the number of live births, the mortality rate was nonetheless lower than in 1946.

Commenting on these statistics, Dr. Ernest Couteur, Director of the Child and Maternal Health Division, Department of National Health and Welfare, described them as "significant and encouraging" but emphasized that the infant mortality figures can be lowered much further. The maternal mortality rate has reached the stage in Canada where the risks of childbirth are negligible.

JAMES BAY PRESERVE: James Bay, the southern extension of Hudson Bay, roughly 250 miles long and 100 miles wide, has been established as a native hunting and trapping reserve under the game regulations of the Northwest Territories it was announced by Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Mines and Resources. This area has been set aside with the object of preventing the depletion of the wild life resources and allowing the Indians, Eskimos and half-breeds living on the islands and the mainland to continue to depend on these resources for food.

The James Bay Game Preserve includes all of the bay south of a straight line drawn from Cape Henrietta Maria in the Province of Ontario to Cape Jones in the Province of Quebec and all of the islands in the bay except Twin Islands; on which hunting is strictly prohibited at all time. In this preserve only Indians, Eskimos and half-breeds living as natives may hunt or trap. The preserve does not include any part of the mainland of Ontario or Quebec. Hunting and trapping by white persons may be carried on on the mainland under the provisions of the provincial game laws and the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations.

Akimiski Island, with an area of about 900 square miles, and Charlton Island, 90 square miles, are the two largest islands in the new preserve. Some years ago they were leased to the Hudson's Bay Company for beaver farming purposes. The beaver have increased and the local natives have benefited. Polar bears may be found on some of the islands, this being the southernmost part of the permanently inhabited range of this animal. Among the water-fowl nesting in this area are Canada geese, black ducks, pintails, and green winged teal. During the migration seasons, especially, in the autumn, James Bay assumes particular significance as thousands of geese and ducks that nest over a wide area of northern Canada are concentrated there. Since 1931, the following sanctuaries have been established in the James Bay region: Twin Islands Game Sanctuary; Akimiski Island Bird Sanctuary, Hannah Bay Bird Sanctuary and Boatswain Bay Bird Sanctuary.

The completion of the railway to Moosonee on James Bay made this area readily accessible to hunters and the more recent use of aircraft to carry hunting parties to the region has increased the difficulty of enforcing the game laws. Arrangements are being made to utilize aircraft to patrol the new preserve and an additional number of game officers are being assigned to the area in the interests of wild-life protection.

RCAF OFFICERS HONOURED: Two RCAF officers, pilot and navigator on a Canso amphibian which carried out the joint RCAF-Mines and Resources "Operation Polco" last summer, to obtain data upon location of the Magnetic North Pole, have been awarded Air Force Crosses, it was announced July 30 by Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of