

ERNMENT

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## NEW DEAL FOR HEALTH IN CANADA

An address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, to the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association, Vancouver, May 18, 1948

### 1. THE NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

A new era has opened for public health in Canada.

Greatly accelerated progress in our fight against disease has now been made possible by the National Health Programme announced a few days ago by the Prime Minister. The Federal Government is going to take immediate action to put into effect this far-reaching plan for national health.

For some weeks I had been thinking about what I would say to the Canadian Public Health Association during this annual meeting at Vancouver. I had decided to speak to you about the future perspectives of public health in this country and to survey that final stage of public health progress in which our target would be a high level of health for all Canadians. But the rapid march of events last week has thrown my remarks into the discard. For the remote objectives about which I was to speak have now become proximate and possible.

Because of the vastly increased expenditures now possible for public health services, we stand on the threshold of a further and finer stage of our public health development.

In the history of public health in Canada, last Friday, May 14, marked a memorable occasion. For it was on that day that the Prime Minister of Canada announced the three-point programme to marshal the financial resources of this nation in support of the health campaigns so vigorously being carried on by each of the Canadian Provinces.

To you who have chosen the honoured profession of public health this programme is of vital importance. But it is important, too, for every citizen of this land because its long-range objective is no less than more healthful living for all Canadians. From this time forward, no picture of the Canadian way of life will be complete without reference to this Federal action to strengthen the already extensive and effective health services that have been developed in all our Provinces and that have given this country, in the councils of the nations, an honoured place as one of these most advanced in health services for its people.

The National Health Programme includes the following grants to the Provinces :

#### 1. The Health Survey Grants

These grants, totalling \$625,000, will make it possible for each Province to establish the planning machinery that will be necessary before it can adequately survey its existing health needs, lay its plans for the expenditure of the National Health Grants, study the extension of its hospital accommodation, and prepare the proper organization of hospital and medical care insurance.