

## Voluntary Health Agencies

National, provincial and local voluntary organizations play an important role in supplementing government health services, including health information and the support of training and research.

Many services are organized to serve people with specific afflictions -- for instance, blindness, cerebral palsy, deafness, epilepsy, diabetes, mental disorders, hemophilia and paraplegia. Two of the largest provincial organizations that care for crippled children and for disabled adults are affiliated with the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled.

The Victorian Order of Nurses cares for the sick at home; the Canadian Red Cross provides homemaker services, lends sick-room supplies, and collects blood from volunteers for hospital use; the Order of St. John gives courses in first-aid-to-the-injured, in home-nursing of the sick and in child-care, and operates first-aid stations for mass gatherings. In most cities and towns, voluntary agencies operate workshops for the disabled, provide assessment, training and sheltered employment.

Various national organizations carry out or support research, professional training and health education. Among these are the National Cancer Institute, the Canadian Heart Foundation, the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

## PART II -- INCOME MAINTENANCE

### *Family allowances*

Every child under 16 years of age who was born in Canada or who has resided there for at least one year, or whose father or mother was domiciled in Canada for three years immediately before his birth, is eligible for family allowances. The allowances, which were established in 1945, are paid from general revenue by the Department of National Health and Welfare. They are not considered income for income-tax purposes. However, the income-tax exemption allowed for dependent children under 16 is less than that for older dependants. Allowances are \$6 a month for children under ten years of age and then \$8 a month up to the age of 16. The Department pays family assistance at the same rates for each child under 16 supported by an immigrant who has landed for permanent residence in Canada or by a Canadian returning to Canada to reside permanently. This assistance is paid until the child is eligible for family allowances.

In 1967, Quebec introduced a supplementary family allowances program for dependent children under the age of 16. The rates of allowance are based on family size and the ages of the children and are paid twice yearly.