

Income

76. The average income of male workers in the community is, from all sources, \$2,465 per annum; of females, \$881 per annum; the average of the two, \$2,253 per annum. This compares with average wage earnings of \$3,021 in Nova Scotia, of approximately \$2,785 in the county where Fringeville is situated. Calculated on a per capita basis, income is \$569 per annum from all sources, including welfare and government transfer payments; this compares with the average for Canada of \$1,983 and, for Nova Scotia, of \$1,483.

Debt

77. The great majority of families are financially in debt. There is a tendency to immediate spending of income earned and of not looking to the future. Families are aware that they can get many free services if they are out of work, and this awareness increases reluctance to accept low-paying steady work.

(c) Housing

78. Although the condition of most houses is not good, 93 per cent of the families own their own homes. The majority of the houses, 59 per cent, have four or five rooms. Virtually all houses are heated with wood stoves, which, in some cases, are supplemented by oil stoves. Few houses have inside toilet facilities, or running water. In general, the residents seem to be satisfied with their housing accommodation and point out that, in any event, it is all that they can afford. Relocation would be of little value to Fringeville residents, unless it were accompanied by steady employment and higher income.