

vinces, Canadian residents visiting or studying abroad retain their entitlement to insured hospital and physician benefits in the host country for at least 12 months, and often longer, after leaving Canada. In one province, the period of absence is limited to six months. Students can remain insured beyond a year depending upon circumstances. Other residents, temporarily absent for more than a year, can in some provinces continue their insured status if the insuring authority is satisfied as to reasons for absence and intention to return to the home province.

Rehabilitation Services

Public and voluntary agencies provide rehabilitation services to disabled and handicapped persons, including remedial treatment, special education and vocational rehabilitation. The Federal Government is responsible for the rehabilitation of disabled veterans and, in co-operation with the provinces, for aid to handicapped Indians and Eskimos. Special services are established for handicapped children, blind persons, the mentally retarded and for persons handicapped by tuberculosis, psychiatric disorders, arthritis, paraplegia, cystic fibrosis and other conditions.

Medical rehabilitation, financed under the provincial hospital insurance and medical-care insurance plans, is available at 36 hospital rehabilitation units and at 15 separate in-patient rehabilitation centres. In addition, there are some 20 out-patient rehabilitation centres for children, supported by voluntary agencies and provincial health departments. Workmen's compensation boards in five provinces operate rehabilitation centres for injured workmen. Twelve prosthetic-service centres, operated by the Department of National Health and Welfare, are established in the larger cities across the country. Universities offer courses in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, audiology and speech therapy and in prosthetics and orthotics.

Under a federal-provincial vocational rehabilitation program, provincial welfare departments arrange for handicapped persons to have assessment, counselling, vocational training and job placement as required. In some areas, local committees and voluntary agencies engage in finding jobs for the handicapped besides the Canada Manpower Centres (national employment offices).

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.