

Appendix B.

Summaries of the proposed Health Insurance Bill, as drafted for inclusion in the report of the Advisory Committee on Health Insurance and presented before the Special House of Commons Committee on Social Security, and the National Fitness Act, 1943.

Draft
Health
Insurance
Bill

The proposed Health Insurance Bill is constructed on compulsory and contributory principles. All adults whose wages, earnings or incomes come within a certain formula of adequacy would be required to pay their own contributions. That is, each individual will be asked to contribute only according to his ability to do so. The employer will take up the slack for the employee, and the government for all others. The husband, if he can afford it as measured by the standard laid down, will pay for his wife, but the cost of children will be distributed over the whole contributing population.

The benefits will consist of complete medical and nursing services, hospitalization on a general ward basis, medicines within an approved list of standard remedies, and dental care, at least to the extent that existing dental facilities are capable of providing.

The general public health program which the provinces must agree to undertake in order to qualify for Dominion financial aid, under the project, covers 24 subjects:

- Standard preventive measures for the prevention and treatment of communicable disease.
- Provision of expert advisory services.
- Adoption of a program of public health education through local voluntary agencies.
- A mental hygiene program.
- Establishment of control services with respect to communicable disease.
- Sanitary supervision of premises.
- Establishment of nutritional services.
- Maintenance of public health laboratories.
- Establishment of sanitary engineering services.
- Collection and dissemination of vital statistics.
- Supervision of hospitals and sanatoria.
- Provision of dental inspection for children.
- Adoption of child and maternal hygiene services.
- Supervision of sanitation and health environment in industry.
- Quarantine inspection to prevent the introduction of communicable diseases into the province.
- Provision of public health nursing services.
- Adoption of health regulations with regard to housing.
- An adequate venereal disease program.
- A program for the prevention, detention and treatment of tuberculosis.
- Cancer clinics.
- Preventive and diagnostic services for the early detection of heart disease in children.
- Medical inspection in schools.
- Investigations of epidemics.
- Research services.

In addition to the main health insurance grant and the public health grant for the provision of general health services, six preventive measures are recommended, for which it is proposed the Dominion Government would make direct grants to the provinces:

1. Provision of free treatment for all persons suffering from tuberculosis, including the construction of additional buildings and bed accommodation.