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The Department of National Health and Welfare

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...to the local and regional... in promoting the health of Canadians, the Federal Government is concerned with health matters of national and international scope. It plays an important financial support to provincial and hospital insurance programs, and in the development of other health services. It also provides health services and performs public education and research activities at the national, provincial and local levels, in many cases aided by government grants.

As the chief federal agency in the field of health, the Department of National Health and Welfare deals with many specialized health matters, besides assisting provincial health departments. The Health Protection Branch combats the Canadian public from health hazards by ensuring adequate standards for water, public sale of foods, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices, and carries out various other responsibilities. It also provides support and consultation to provincial health departments and the private sector of health care, and the control of communicable diseases.

...and makes... grants to provincial health departments, universities and voluntary agencies. The Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Services Branch is to provide or arrange for medical and health services for native Indians and health services for non-residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. It also fulfills a number of specific responsibilities, including the provision of quarantine services and immigration medical services and advice on the health and safety of persons involved in civil aviation.

The Federal Government contributes to the cost of provincial health services. In 1978, the Federal Government's contribution to provincial health services was \$2,300 million, or approximately 30 per cent of the total cost. Federal services are being provided to every province and the territories. The Federal Government is also contributing to the cost of health care in the form of grants-in-aid to provincial governments for the provision of health services to the public.

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