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HEALTH AND WELFARE IN CANADA IN 1962

Health and welfare activities affecting the lives of all Canadians took many forms during 1962. The Sabin oral vaccine was approved for mass immunization against poliomyelitis; amendments to the National Health and Welfare Act to establish a National Council of Welfare were passed by Parliament, and a National Welfare Grants Programme was established; foreign governments continued to seek the services of Departmental consultants; payments were increased under the Old-Age Security, Old-Age Assistance, Blindness and Disability Allowances; medical and welfare equipment was stockpiled for emergency services; a Fitness and Amateur Sports Programme was launched.

WAR ON POLIO

A remarkable drop in the number of cases from paralytic polio was reported by the Epidemiology Division, the figure falling from 909 in 1960 to 185 in 1961 and 86 in 1962. It appeared that the original Salk vaccine programme had been very largely instrumental in reducing morbidity to this low level. To this was being added the effect of the 50/50 cost-sharing plan in which the Federal Government and several of the provinces were participating in a Sabin oral-vaccine programme. Approximately 4,000,000 Canadians were immunized with the new oral polio-virus vaccine.

FLUORIDE PROGRAMME

The Dental Health Division continued its fluoridation studies by examining the 16-17 year-old population born and raised in Stratford Ontario. Conducted over the past 16 years and covering

Brantford, Sarnia and Stratford, these studies have found that, among the lower age groups, mechanical adjustment of the fluoride content of a community water supply will result in a significant reduction in tooth decay.

Amendments to the Old Age Security Act, the Old Age Assistance Act, the Blind Persons Act and the Disabled Persons Act increased payments to recipients from \$55 to \$65 a month.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Progress in the medical and welfare aspects of civil defence and national survival was highlighted by the increase in the Emergency Health Services medical stockpile inventory from \$8.5 million to \$12.5 million. This material is stored at strategic locations across Canada and is being made available for use in case of a national emergency. The Division, in co-operation with the Canadian Hospital Association and provincial and municipal hospital authorities, has assisted in the establishment of individual hospital disaster plans in over 50 per cent of the Canadian hospitals.

Stockpiles of operational equipment, including 87 mobile feeding units, were pre-positioned across Canada by Emergency Welfare Services. During the year, resident Emergency Welfare Services representatives took up their positions in Halifax, Quebec City, Edmonton and Victoria.

The psychological aspects of mass disaster engaged the continuing attention of the Mental Health Division. Other subjects of more than usual interest to the Division were the introduction of psychiatry into more general hospitals,

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