

Through the Health Survey Grant \$625,000 is made available for distribution among the provincial governments, so that they may establish planning staffs, calling in outside help where necessary, to study and report on provincial requirements.

The conditions governing distribution of the grant do not rigidly limit the use to which it may be put. Its main purpose is to assist each province in the preparation of an over-all appraisal of needs, which will serve as a guide in the future development of the total provincial health program.

Within this framework specific attention is being concentrated on planning for the utilization of the health grants themselves and on a survey of hospital facilities which will be used as a guide in the administration of the Hospital Construction Grant. In addition to providing for an inventory of existing facilities to be used as a basis for the determination of future needs, it is hoped that the grant will make possible their development in a co-ordinated and integrated fashion so that the most effective use may be made of funds available from other grants, and so that the provinces, with it, will be enabled to lay the groundwork for hospital and medical care insurance.

General Public Health

The General Public Health Grant, which totals \$3,395,300 in 1948, is calculated on the basis of 35 cents per capita and will be increased by 5 cents per capita each year until a total annual per capita payment of 50 cents is reached.

The grant is intended for the strengthening and extension of public health services in those places where the provincial health departments feel the need to be greatest. It will enable the provinces to enter and explore fields of activity which have hitherto been inaccessible to them because of budget limitations. The creation of additional county and district health units, the expansion of existing units and the development of public health education programs will all be encouraged, together with the strengthening of other aspects of the provincial services not covered by specific grants, such as the development or extension of programs in child and maternal health, blindness, arthritis and rheumatism and communicable disease control.

Tuberculosis Control

The Tuberculosis Control Grant of \$3,000,000 is intended to enable the provinces to complete the task of obtaining control over tuberculosis and to assist them to provide free treatment for all sectors of the population. To ensure that these objectives are reached, a supplementary grant of \$1,000,000 annually, beginning of the third year of the program, will be made available for distribution among those provinces able to make effective use of it.

The record of the provinces in the fight against tuberculosis has been generally very good, and outstanding work has been done in this field by The Canadian Tuberculosis Association. The progress that has been achieved is indicated by the fall in death rate from 200 per 100,000 in 1900 to 47.2, or below 40 if Indian deaths are excluded, in 1946 when the death rate in Saskatchewan was only 17.5. (1) An

(1) Canadian Tuberculosis Association: Annual Report of Executive Office, March 31, 1948.