

- (i) The Chairman of the Review Board should adopt quality control and standardization procedures as set out in the Woods Committee Recommendations Nos. 135 and 136.
- (j) Appointments to the Review Board should be for life tenure to age 70, provided that the Chairman or a member may be removed by Order in Council for cause.
- (k) The Chairman should have authority for appointment of staff in the manner as set out in Woods Committee Recommendation No. 14(z).

The Canadian Pension Commission would continue to be responsible for adjudication of all matters at First, Second and Renewal Hearings, as well as other routine matters, including discretionary awards, additional pension for dependents, burial grants, etc. However, if certain recommendations of the Woods Committee are adopted it would be possible, we believe, to reduce the establishment of the Commission from the present 17 members to 12.

With the enactment of Recommendations Nos. 23 and 25a relating to the presumption of the medical condition of a member of the Forces on enlistment and the benefit of doubt, some acceleration of decisions at the initial level of adjudication can be expected, and there should also be a reduction in the number of claims that proceed to appeal.

The Woods Committee recommended (No. 30):

‘That, First, Second and Renewal applications for entitlement be approved or rejected by an individual Commissioner acting in the capacity of an “Entitlement Officer”, thus providing that such Commissioner be empowered to act for the Commission in the disposal of such applications.’

Under the present legislation it is necessary for two Commissioners to sign all decisions. Obviously, by adopting Recommendation No. 30 to permit a single Commissioner to dictate and sign a decision there would be a considerable saving in time and manpower. In this regard it should also be noted that the Woods Committee recommended (No. 17) that a Commissioner who signs a decision should still be free to adjudicate at an Entitlement Board Hearing.

The Woods Committee also recommended (Nos. 48-60) that the Pension Commission delegate authority to Senior Pension Medical Examiners in the District Offices and to the Claims and Review Branch to adjudicate on many matters which now require action by two Commissioners. Statistical information indicates that during the last fiscal year nearly 25,000 out of 38,000 decisions of the Commission were on other than entitlement matters.

By adopting the recommendations of the Woods Report referred to above, we believe that most of the nonentitlement decisions could be handled by personnel other than the Commissioners. The Commission staff already prepares such cases for formal decision by the Commissioners, and we do not believe that additional personnel should be required to resolve such matters. A significant amount of the present routine workload would, therefore, be removed from the Commissioners, freeing them for more