

PART II REHABILITATION SERVICES

Progress made in the preventive and treatment aspects of health care has directed increasing attention to the social and economic problems resulting from chronic disease, disabling accidents and congenital handicaps. The earlier established comprehensive rehabilitation programmes for injured workers, disabled war veterans and such groups as the blind and the tuberculous demonstrated that many of the handicapped could be assisted to economic independence or improved self-care. As the rehabilitation movement gained momentum, numerous agencies, usually under voluntary auspices, have been formed on behalf of additional disability groups, for example, crippled children and those suffering from arthritis and rheumatism, alcoholism, cerebral palsy, poliomyelitis, mental illness and defect paraplegia and multiple sclerosis. There has also been a steady expansion in all provinces of specialized medical, vocational, employment and educational services to aid in the re-establishment of the disabled. To bring together the activities of the various organizations providing a rehabilitation service, co-ordinating bodies have been formed in a growing number of communities, and most of the provinces as well as the Federal Government have set up advisory committees on rehabilitation.

Federal departments assume continuing responsibility for the provision of certain rehabilitation services, programmes of grant-in-aid to the provinces, and for consultative, advisory and research services. The Department of Veterans Affairs operates special centres for the treatment of various chronic conditions and assessment and rehabilitation units for geriatric patients. New rehabilitation programmes have been established by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration for socially and physically handicapped Indians, and by the Department of Northern Affairs for Eskimos who require re-establishment. The Special Placements Division of the National Employment Services also provides a special job placement service to the handicapped.

Under the National Health Programme grants are made to the provinces for the rehabilitation of the tuberculous and mentally ill, and for the extension of medical rehabilitation services and crippled children's programmes. To support the provincial vocational rehabilitation programmes, the Department of Labour provides matching grants for the co-ordination of services, administered by the National Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation, and for the vocational training of disabled persons.

Since 1954 provincial vocational rehabilitation programmes have been organized, nine of these with assistance under the Co-ordination Agreements, to make available medical, social and vocational services to persons