

In addition to comprehensive physicians' services, dental and optical care benefits and prescribed drugs are provided in most provinces. Other services that may be provided include physiotherapy, podiatry, chiropractic treatment, home nursing and transportation.

Newfoundland has for many years administered two programmes which cover most low-income groups in the province. These are the Cottage Hospital Medical Care Plan, covering outlying districts for physicians' services provided by doctors employed by the government, with provision for referral to specialists. The Childrens' Health Services covers in-hospital care for all children under the age of 16 in all parts of the province. In addition, recipients of public assistance are eligible, if individually certified, for a wide range of health-care services.

The Canada Assistance Plan

Provincial programmes which provide health-care services for welfare recipients are now being supported financially for these services by a new federal programme known as the Canada Assistance Plan. This programme provides for federal payment of half the cost of personal health-care services, as well as welfare services. The provinces are free to make available a wide range of health and other services, including home nursing and homemakers' services. The only eligibility test under the legislation is that associated with financial need, regardless of the cause of need and without reference to employment status.

Apart from the public programmes of health insurance which have been described, a substantial proportion of the population of Canada has made use of voluntary insurance mechanism to finance provision of physicians' services. At the present time these plans, which may be non-profit or commercial in orientation, cover about two-thirds of the population.

Rehabilitation Services

Numerous public and voluntary agencies provide rehabilitation services to assist disabled or chronically-ill persons to greater independence. Provincial health or welfare departments administer vocational rehabilitation programmes for disabled adults who can be restored to gainful employment. Independent programmes are operated for war veterans, injured workmen, handicapped children and for persons with various disabilities such as blindness, tuberculosis, mental illness, paraplegia and other conditions. In addition, special services established in the main cities include medical-rehabilitation departments in general hospitals, separate rehabilitation centres, sheltered workshops and vocational centred and special classes and schools for children with physical or mental defects. Several provinces maintain registries of disabled persons or handicapped children to facilitate case finding, referral and co-ordination of services.

Under the terms of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, 1961, the federal Department of Manpower shares equally with nine provinces the costs of co-ordination, assessment and provision of any needed services to disabled persons, and of staff training and research. The provincial co-ordinator or director of rehabilitation is responsible for identifying disabled persons with a vocational potential and referring them to the appropriate agency for restorative, vocational assessment and training or job-placement services as required. The local