

- While discharges from mental hospitals have increased nearly three and a half times in the past 20 years, there has been a corresponding increase in admissions and re-admissions;
- Mental illness in Canada today accounts for more lost time than tuberculosis, cancer and polio combined;
- The cost of caring for the mentally ill has now become one of the heaviest single burdens which the nation's senior governments have to bear in providing health services;
- Prejudice and ignorance concerning mental illness still constitute formidable barriers to progress.

On the credit side, however, we find the following facts:

- While mental institutions are still over-crowded, the situation is improving, with a net increase in bed capacity of more than 10,000 since the inauguration of the National Health Programme in 1948;
- Since 1948 there has also been a rapid increase in the number of mental health clinics across Canada; at the present time, there are some 80 permanent stationary clinics and upwards to 100 communities are served by mobile clinics;
- An 11 per cent increase in the staff of mental hospitals during 1953 boosted the ratio of staff members to patients to the highest figure ever recorded;
- Ten years ago, our mental institutions had an average of 19 full-time employees for every 100 patients; today this figure stands at 29;
- Patients discharged from mental institutions last year averaged only nine months in hospital and one in four had been hospitalized for less than a month;
- There has been a dramatic upsurge in mental health research over the past six years, with federal expenditures rising from \$4,850 in 1948 to \$500,000 last year;
- Over the past six years, the Federal Government has joined its efforts with the provinces by providing grants of more than \$30,000,000 for work in the mental health field.