

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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No. 52/18 CANADA'S FEDERAL PROGRAMME FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

An address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, to the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Ontario Medical Association, at Hamilton, Ontario, May 21, 1952.

Federal Aid To Health Research

One of the great stories of our time -- and one that holds rich promise for health progress in the years ahead -- is the story of Canadian achievement in health research. This subject is so extensive that I must confine my talk mainly to what has been accomplished by the people of Canada through their governments.

I would not want anyone to overlook the very impressive and worthwhile contribution made year after year by the great research foundations, provincial governments, private industry, the voluntary health agencies and the universities. Nevertheless, without in any way deprecating what these other agencies and governments have done, I can say that the outstanding feature of medical and public health research in Canada today is the increasing recognition and support it is receiving from the Federal Government.

It is estimated that five years ago Canada's annual expenditures on health research were less than a million dollars. This year, Canada will spend at least \$3,500,000 on health research, of which approximately \$2,000,000 will be provided out of Federal funds. Perhaps the best way to illustrate this increased Federal interest in health research is to choose a particular example.

You may remember that in December 1949, on the advice of my Deputy Minister, Dr. Cameron, and other Canadian health leaders, I asked the support of the Government for a concentrated programme of clinical research into the new "wonder" drugs, ACTH and Cortisone. When I announced our plans to Parliament and to the country, some thought them too ambitious. But they under-estimated the capacity of Canada's medical scientists. ...

The Federal Government has spent approximately \$500,000 on research into the properties of ACTH and Cortisone and thus speeded up this research programme in Canada by several years.

At the Connaught Laboratories in Toronto, a Federally-supported plan to produce ACTH has succeeded so well that limited supplies are now available for clinical use in Canada. I should like here to pay tribute