



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## CANADA HELPS THE MENTALLY RETARDED

*In a recent address to the Canadian Association for Retarded Children at Quebec, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Mr. Jean Marchand, listed the following ways in which his Department met the needs of the mentally retarded:*

- (1) Through the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and Agreement, it has been possible to share with the provinces in the costs of salaries for industrial rehabilitation workshop personnel, and in fees for the assessment and training of retarded adults.
- (2) Senior staff officers of my Department are members of the Inter-departmental Committee on Mental Retardation; this Committee is composed of representatives from the Departments of National Health and Welfare, Manpower and Immigration, and Justice.
- (3) Senior members of my Department are working with the Public Service Commission regarding employment of the mentally retarded by the Government.
- (4) The Immigration Branch of my Department is studying the regulations regarding the admission of mentally retarded persons to Canada to consider whether changes are called for.

*Mr. Marchand continued:*

The duties of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration cover, broadly, the development and utilization of manpower resources. If an adult is actually or potentially a member of the labour force, his position in relation to an arbitrary point on the intelligence curve is not significant from our point of view. Nature has imposed limitations on the intellectual capacity of all mankind and, so far, we lack the tools to alter this to any significant degree. The controllable factor is that we should each be given

the opportunity to achieve at our maximum individual capacity. That is my Department's particular concern. We are not involved if the individual not only cannot make any appreciable contribution to the country's work but also has no possibility of achieving such a contribution.

Health, welfare and educational services are important in preparing individuals to become partly or wholly self-supporting. But my Department has neither jurisdiction over them nor power to provide them, except in those rare cases where a service is essential to successful vocational placement and is not otherwise available....

### ASSISTING THE HANDICAPPED

You are particularly interested in what the new Department of Manpower and Immigration has to offer the handicapped person, particularly the mentally retarded. It is our objective to provide, through our own manpower centres, the best employment service in the world. We want to help the individual get a better job and do a better job; we want to help the employer find the right staff from the manpower force.

It is very easy to overlook the extent to which rapid industrial change has made the world of work a very complex, puzzling place for the individual. He feels at the mercy of forces unknown to him. He does not have the information he needs in order to make his personal decisions about what kind of job he can best do, where he can get it, whether and what kind of training would help him.

A first-class service of information and advice, therefore, is essential. Without it we may have manpower programmes that are fine on paper but they will be of limited practical use. They will be truly ef-