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HEALTH AND WELFARE IN CANADA

PART I HEALTH SERVICES

Medical and hospital care have traditionally been provided through the private physician and community-owned or voluntary hospital, with supporting public health services being a provincial responsibility, sometimes delegated to the municipality. In recent years, and especially since the Second World War, the role of government in health services has greatly expanded. Most provinces are now developing programmes of hospital insurance and diagnostic services, under a federal-provincial programme, and preventive and other supporting services are well established in most areas of all provinces. Voluntary agencies also play an important role in health matters at the national, provincial and local levels.

The Federal Government administers certain programmes and provides assistance and advisory consultative services to provincial health departments. The Department of National Health and Welfare is mainly responsible for federal participation in health matters, although important treatment programmes are administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of National Defence. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics is responsible for the compilation of health statistics, the National Research Council, Defence Research Board, and Department of National Health and Welfare make grants in support of medical research, and the Department of Agriculture has certain health responsibilities connected with food production.

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