

## COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

Far-reaching recommendations for the betterment of health services in Canada through the development of community health centres are contained in a committee report announced recently by National Health and Welfare Minister John Munro. The committee, chaired by Dr. John E.F. Hastings, Professor of Health Administration at the University of Toronto, was established in May 1971, following a decision taken at the Conference of Health Ministers of Canada six months earlier to initiate a study on community health. The report, received by Mr. Munro as chairman of the Conference of Health Ministers of Canada, will be closely studied by federal and provincial ministers of health and their staff.

The committee's terms of reference included the collection and evaluation of information on existing and proposed health centres in Canada, the United States and Western Europe; the study of their social, economic and other characteristics in providing comprehensive, primary and ambulant health care as part of organized health delivery systems; also to recommend on possible roles of various levels of government and other interested groups, including consumers and the medical profession, in the development of these health centres on an administrative-research basis and also on a general-servicing basis.

### REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The report, *The Community Health Centre in Canada*, contains the following three major recommendations:

(1) The development by the provinces in mutual agreement with public and professional groups, of a significant number of community health centres (as described in the report), as non-profit corporate bodies in a fully integrated health-services system.

(2) The immediate and purposeful re-organization and integration of all health services into a health-services system to ensure basic health service standards for all Canadians and to assure a more economic and effective use of all health-care resources.

(3) The immediate initiation by provincial governments of "dialogue" with the health professions and new and existing services bodies to plan, budget, implement, co-ordinate and evaluate this system; the facilitation and support of these activities by the Federal Government through consultation services, funding and country-wide evaluation.

The Hastings Committee also put forward 11 recommendations relating to the development and scientific evaluation of these centres through co-operative actions by governments, professions, and public and educational agencies and 12 recommendations relating to the health-services system.

## FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING COUNCIL

Public hearings into the establishment of a national egg-marketing agency will be held across Canada in September, it was announced recently by the chairman of the National Farm Products Marketing Council, Mr. Paul Babey. The hearings, based on a plan put forward by the Canadian Egg Producers Council, will be held in the following cities on the following dates: Ottawa, September 14; Moncton, September 19; Calgary, September 22.

This is the first set of hearings into the establishment of a national marketing agency for any farm product since Bill C-176 was passed by Parliament late last year.

"We are pleased that egg-producers are the first to apply to form a national marketing agency," Mr. Babey said, "and it is expected that producers of other farm products will follow soon."

Egg-marketing boards operating in all ten provinces participated in formulating the plan presented by the CEPC.

"The purpose of our public hearings will be twofold," Mr. Babey said. "First, we will inquire into the merits of establishing a national agency to regulate the marketing of eggs. And second, we will review the marketing plan proposed by the Canadian Egg Producers Council."

## BETTER DENTAL CARE FOR CANADIANS

On the advice of the Dominion Council of Health, which met on April 26 and 27, 1972, the Minister of National Health and Welfare Minister, Mr. John Munro, has endorsed the principles expressed in the report of the Wells Ad Hoc Committee on Dental Auxiliaries, which dealt with matters relating to employment, training and regulation of dental manpower.

Mr. Munro also noted the Council's recommendation that governments examine the report in detail and implement its recommendations in accordance with their respective priorities. These priorities would include consideration of a dental program for children encompassing prevention, education and treatment.

The Ad Hoc Committee was a multi-disciplinary body of lay and professional persons that was established in June 1968 under the chairmanship of Dalton C. Wells, Chief Justice of Ontario, with the full co-operation of the Canadian Dental Association. Their report contained several recommendations covering such fields as the qualifications of dental assistants, hygienists and technicians, their training, education and experience, as well as a full range of more responsible duties to allow them to contribute more effectively to the dental-health requirements of this nation.