

variation by province, the legislation applies to most industries and occupations. Major groups of workers not covered are farm-workers (except in Ontario), domestic servants, casual workers, employees of most financial, insurance and professional undertakings, and employees of certain service industries in some provinces. Compensation benefits include cash awards, all necessary medical aid, hospital care, physical restoration services, and vocational services, to re-establish the injured worker in gainful employment. Cash is paid for loss of wages during temporary disability, disability pensions for permanent disability, and survivors' benefits to widows or dependents in case of fatal accidents or disease. Benefits are 75 per cent of the worker's earnings subject to conditions of maximum annual earnings of from \$6,000 to \$7,600, as stipulated in the individual acts. Costs are met from employers' contributions to accident funds at rates that are established by the workmen's compensation board according to the hazards in each class of industry.

### *Social Assistance*

Financial aid is provided through provincial or municipal departments of welfare to persons in need, including needy mothers with dependent children, disabled persons, elderly persons, widows, unemployed persons and persons whose benefits from other sources are not adequate to meet their needs. Aid is also provided through institutional care for the elderly or infirm who do not require hospital care but who are unable to care for themselves; these are operated under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices. Counselling, homemaker and other services are provided as necessary.

The Federal Government shares in the cost of social assistance and services administered by the provinces under the Canada Assistance Plan on a 50:50 basis. Shareable costs include social assistance payments, maintenance payments for needy persons in homes for the aged and other welfare institutions, child-welfare maintenance payments, health-care costs for needy persons, and the costs of certain welfare services. The only criterion of eligibility specified in the Plan is need, irrespective of its cause. Rates of assistance and conditions of aid are set by the provinces.

The provinces also administer the federal-provincial blind persons' allowances and disabled persons' allowances. The federal contribution may not exceed 50 per cent of \$75 a month or of the allowance paid, whichever is less, for disabled persons' allowances, or 75 per cent of \$75 a month or of the allowance paid, whichever is less, for blind persons' allowances. To be eligible for an allowance under either of these programs, an applicant must meet the ten-years' residence requirement and the income requirements. Under the Disabled Persons Act, the total income, including the allowance, may not exceed \$1,260 a year for an unmarried person, \$2,220 a year for a married couple or \$2,580 a year for a married couple when the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act. Under the latter Act, the total income, including the allowance, may not exceed \$1,500 a year for an unmarried person, \$1,980 a year for a person with no spouse but with one dependent child or more, \$2,580 for a married couple and \$2,700 a year for a married couple when both are blind. Six provinces have now merged disabled-persons' allowances with their general social