

medical specialists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors and podiatrists. Special subsidized rates are available for low-income individuals and families. All senior citizens and their dependants are provided with free coverage for hearing aids, eye glasses, dental work and dentures and some prescribed medical appliances under the Extended Care Benefits Plan.

Preventive health services are provided by 27 local health authorities and two city health departments. Services, which are free, may include pre-natal classes; children's clinics; immunization programs; family planning and family life education; dental services; health inspection to enforce housing, food and water regulations; speech and audiology services; and home care, including nursing, rehabilitation, home-making, meals and other support services.

Recreation and tourism

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife provides funding and professional guidance to local governments, private organizations and recreation associations. It encourages participation in outdoor activities and an appreciation of nature. By supporting sports and fitness it helps to improve the calibre of athletes and to encourage wider public participation in sports.

Dinosaur Provincial Park in southern Alberta has become increasingly well-known among researchers in many parts of the world for discoveries of dinosaur fossils. This growing recognition was confirmed in October 1979, when the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization named the park to the World Heritage List. It joins three other Canadian sites on the List: Nahanni National Park in the Northwest Territories; L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park in Newfoundland; and Kluane National Park in the Yukon.

Alberta was the first province to establish provincial parks in urban areas. Fish Creek Park in Calgary and Capital City Park in Edmonton are designed to give city residents easy access to recreational and park facilities. In addition, provincial parks and wilderness sites have been set aside to preserve natural areas for future generations.

Alberta is a logical destination for tourists because of its natural endowments. They include the world-famous Banff and Jasper National Parks, set in the Canadian Rockies, and an extensive system of provincial parks. In addition, such annual events as the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton's Klondike Days attract many visitors each summer.