

Immigrants in their first year in Canada may receive aid through the local authority or they may be referred directly to the local office of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

PART III -- WELFARE SERVICES

Social assistance to needy persons and the various welfare services associated with this form of aid, as well as the care of the aged and disabled and the protection and care of neglected and dependent children, are governed by provincial welfare legislation. Administrative and financial responsibility is shared by the province and its municipalities, with federal reimbursement for half the costs of assistance and of certain welfare services being made under the Canada Assistance Plan. Provincial administration of welfare is carried out through the department of public welfare or social development in each province. In some provinces, municipalities administer assistance to persons with short-term need.

Institutional care for the aged and infirm is provided under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices. A number of provinces make capital grants to municipalities, voluntary organizations or limited-dividend companies for the construction of low-rental housing for elderly persons.

Child-welfare services, including protection, foster care and adoption services, are provided by provincial welfare departments or, in some provinces, by children's aid societies. Particular emphasis is being placed on preventive services to children in their own homes. Subsidized day-care services for the children of working mothers are operated under voluntary and public auspices. These services are established mainly in the larger centres but, with increased federal and provincial funds made available in 1972, it is expected that facilities will be enlarged and extended to areas now without such services.

A number of voluntary agencies also contribute to community welfare, including the welfare of families and children and of groups with special needs, such as the aged, recent immigrants, youth groups and released prisoners. Family welfare agencies or combined family-and-child-welfare agencies in urban centres, for example, offer case-work services to families in need of counselling on such problems as marital relations, parent-child relations and family budgeting. Counselling and recreational services for older or retired people are being developed by many agencies, and child and youth organizations with recreational and character-building programs offer group participation in physical education, camping, the development of special skills, and other opportunities for healthful activity. Welfare councils and community-planning councils contribute to the planning and co-ordinating of local welfare services.