

By the end of 1970, 7,906 hostel beds had been built under the National Housing Act for senior citizens.⁽¹⁾ Canada as a whole had 4.5 hostel beds (financed under NHA) per thousand population aged 65 at the end of 1970.⁽²⁾ On a provincial basis, Manitoba has built the highest ratio of senior citizen hostel beds under the NHA per thousand aged population, followed by New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.⁽³⁾

The study by the Canadian Council on Social Development also found that there was a wide variation on the emphasis that provinces placed on senior citizens' hostel accommodation as opposed to self-contained dwelling units. New Brunswick concentrated to a greater extent on hostel accommodation than other provinces, followed by Quebec, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island.⁽⁴⁾

This study also noted that

"Over the years, the National Housing Act provisions have been broadened to allow funding of a large range of hostel accommodation. This accommodation varies widely in and between provinces, ranging from buildings in which the only service provided other than that found in private apartments is a dining-room, to accommodation that is practically identical to that found in a nursing home. This accommodation has been supported at the provincial and local levels by a wide variety of programs, usually administered by social service departments."⁽⁵⁾

Recommendation 46

That CMHC, in collaboration with DBS, review the present data collected and analyzed on the housing situation of old people with a view to filling the gaps that exist and introducing such changes as seem desirable in the definitions employed and the classifications provided. (Reference has been made earlier to the difficulty at present of correlating incomes and housing).

ACTION TAKEN

CMHC regularly confers and exchanges data and information with a variety of government departments and agencies in an effort to improve the resource material.

A CMHC "Housing Needs Study" was initiated in 1973 and will identify the elderly as a distinct housing con-

sumer group within the total population. Their housing consumption patterns will be examined and analyzed in relation to a variety of characteristics such as, household composition, income, dwelling unit type, cost and condition. This will be a two year study.

Recommendation 47

That CMHC undertake or support, possibly in collaboration with the Department of National Health and Welfare, a major research project to determine the housing needs and preferences of old people, and their evaluation of existing housing opportunities. (The Age and Opportunity Bureau of Winnipeg, among other organizations, stressed the "deplorable" lack of information regarding the housing problems of the elderly.)

ACTION TAKEN

A 1970 study within CMHC made use of data gathered from a number of sources including Statistics Canada and the Department of National Health and Welfare to examine the financial resources and expenditure patterns of the elderly, and their related ability to find accommodation within their means.

In 1971, the CMHC gave a grant of \$38,000 to the Canadian Welfare Council (now the Canadian Council on Social Development) for a study of housing arrangements for the aged.⁽⁷⁾ The object was to look at independent and semi-independent accommodation for the aged. This project was completed, and the report entitled *Beyond Shelter* was published in 1973.⁽⁸⁾

In 1972, CMHC also published a bibliography of Canadian sources in gerontology, and geriatrics from 1964-1972, *The Seventh Age*.⁽⁹⁾ One of the sections in this bibliography is "Living Arrangements".

State of the Art,⁽¹⁰⁾ a report prepared by Environics Research Group Limited for CMHC, is a brief over-view of services to the elderly in Canada, and the position of each province regarding services for the elderly.

In late spring of 1974 a report of the study "Demographic and Economics Aspects of Housing Canada's Elderly", will be published. The purpose of this study is to systematically analyze on a provincial and municipal basis, the changing concentration of the older population and to examine the changing economic distribution of these groups from 1961 to 1971. All municipalities over 30,000 (81 in total) were examined.

(1) Canadian Council on Social Development, *Beyond Shelter*, Ottawa, 1973, p. 383, No. 1.

(2) *Ibid.*, p. 383, No. 3.

(3) *Ibid.*, p. 384, No. 5.

(4) *Ibid.*, p. 384, No. 7.

(5) *Ibid.*, p. 385, No. 15.

(6) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Information Division. Letter dated November 2, 1973.

(7) Canadian Council on Social Development, *On Growing Old*, March, 1971.

(8) Canadian Council on Social Development, *Beyond Shelter*, Ottawa, 1973, 479 pages.

(9) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, *The Seventh Age*, Ottawa, 1972, 290 pages.

(10) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, *State of the Art*, Ottawa, 1964.