

*Recommendation 9*

See Part II.

*Recommendation 10*

That the provision for personal hearings be removed from the "Organization section" of the Act and be placed in sequence with the sections dealing with application procedure.

*Recommendation 11*

This recommendation provides that the function of section 7(3) hearings be enlarged to include disputes concerning discretionary benefits. This recommendation is not necessary as disputes regarding discretionary benefits may be adjudicated by the Entitlement Boards proposed in Recommendation 13.

*Recommendation 12*

That the following "three stage" application procedure be adopted for all types of service:

- (a) First application;
- (b) Second application;
- (c) Renewal application and further renewal applications in the discretion of the Commission.

In order to make this recommendation apply equally to all World War I applicants, section 15 of the Pension Act should be repealed. This section provides that, in respect of military service during World War I, a pension shall not be awarded unless application was made before July 1st, 1936 in the case of a member of the forces who did not serve in a theatre of actual war.

*Recommendation 13*

That the existing system of Appeal Boards be retained in effect and be named "Entitlement Boards" which would provide personal hearings in regard to requests for entitlement and the discretionary benefits under the Pension Act.

*Recommendation 14*

The Woods Committee recommended the establishment of a Pension Appeal Board. As an alternative the White Paper proposes to provide an appellate procedure by means of restructuring the Commission and the establishment of a Directorate of Pensions within the Department to which would be transferred the entire staff of the present Commission except the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, the present Commissioners and the Appeal Administrative staff. The initial stages of adjudication and the administration of the Pension Act would be done by this Directorate.

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and the Commissioners would be formed into three Divisions:

- (1) The Entitlement Hearing Division which would consist of 10 Commissioners and their immediate secretarial staff. The function of this Division would be to provide opportunities for applicants who are not satisfied with the adjudication of the Directorate of Pensions to appear personally with their advocates and witnesses. This Division would provide for hearings at the main centres across Canada in the same manner as is now arranged for the Appeal Boards.