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OLD AGE AND BLIND PENSIONS IN CANADA

Old age and blind pensions in Canada are non-contributory. They are administered under the "Old Age Pensions Act" (Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, chapter 156), amendments and regulations, and under the various provincial concurrent acts. The Old Age Pensions Act made provision for the establishment of a Dominion-provincial pensions plan in such provinces as might enact and give further effect to special legislation for this purpose. Responsibility for granting old age pensions to persons residing in the provinces rests solely with the provincial authorities. All of Canada's nine provinces are now participating, and the Dominion grants old age pensions in the Northwest Territories. The Dominion reimburses the provincial authority to the extent of 75% of the net sum paid out by the province to such persons as are specified in the Act and regulations.

Under the provisions of the Act, an old age pension is payable to any British subject, or to one who, being a widow, is not a British subject but was such before her marriage, of 70 years of age and over who is not in receipt of an income of as much as \$365 a year. The pensioner must have resided in Canada for the 20 years, and in the province in which the application is made for the five years, immediately preceding the date of the proposed commencement of pension. The Act also provides that an applicant must not have assigned or transferred property for the purpose of qualifying for a pension. Indians, as defined in the terms of the Indian Act, are not eligible to receive old age pensions.

It is specifically provided that the receipt of a pension shall not by itself disqualify any person from voting at any provincial or municipal election.

The maximum amount of pension payable under the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act is \$240 yearly, payable in monthly instalments. This amount is subject to reduction by the amount that the private income of the pensioner exceeds \$125 a year. On July 24, 1943 the federal Minister of Finance announced in the House of Commons that, in view of the unanimity of attitude on the part of the provincial governments that the maximum pension payable should be increased at the present time, provision would be made by means of order-in-council under the War Measures Act to raise the maximum monthly payment from \$20 to \$25.

Order-in-Council P.C. 6367, dated August 10, 1943, authorizes the Dominion government to enter into supplementary agreements with the provinces, enabling a special war supplement, not exceeding \$5 a month, to be paid to both old age and blind pensioners in addition to the regular pensions payable under the original provisions of the Act. All the terms and conditions of the original Act are to be continued, including the present ratio sharing by the Dominion and the provinces of the amount of pensions paid, as well as provisions covering the maximum total income, except for the appropriate adjustment in regard to those provisions which have to do with the maximum pension and allowable outside income. This supplementary war pension is not intended to disturb any supplementary allowances now being paid by

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the provinces themselves to old age and blind pensioners. Alberta and British Columbia pay supplementary allowances of \$5 a month; Saskatchewan and Manitoba, \$1.25 a month; Nova Scotia, an amount up to \$10 a month, based on the merits of the individual case, with a limitation of the total income including allowance to \$365 a year; and Ontario, an additional 15% of the amount of the pension paid.

The Minister of Finance stated that on the basis of 183,601 old age pensioners and 6,374 blind pensioners in Canada at March 31, 1943, the total annual cost of the supplementary war pension would be \$11,398,500, of which the Dominion's share, which will be a charge against the war appropriation, would be \$8,548,875 in a full year.

Under the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act as it was first enacted, the federal Department of Labour, which was at that time the administering department, paid quarterly to each province one-half of the net sum paid by the provincial pension authority during the preceding three months. At the 1931 session of the Dominion Parliament, however, the Act was amended, the amount of the Dominion contribution being increased from 50% to 75% of the net sum.

In order to avoid duplication of departmental activities, and to secure centralization of responsibility in the carrying out of the provisions of the Act, involving accounting control and supervision, the administration of the Old Age Pensions Act was transferred from the federal Department of Labour to the federal Department of Finance from April 1, 1935.

An amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act, assented to on March 31, 1937, provides for the payment of pensions to blind persons who have attained the age of 40 years and have fulfilled other conditions set out in the Act. Recipients of such a pension must be so incapacitated by blindness as to be unable to perform any work for which sight is essential, and must not be in receipt of a pension or allowance in respect of blindness under the Pension Act or the War Veterans' Allowance Act. The maximum pension payable to a blind person, whether married or unmarried, is \$240 a year not including the special war supplement under P.C. 6367 or supplementary allowances, if any, payable by the province in which he resides. If, however, a blind person marries another blind person after the date of the amendment, the maximum pension is reduced to \$120.

In the case of both old age and blind pensions, where a pensioner is the owner of an interest in a dwelling house in which he resides and the pension authority accepts a transfer to it of such interest, the pension payable to the pensioner is not subject to any reduction in respect of the annual value of such interest. The pension authority is empowered, however, on the death of the pensioner or on his ceasing to use such dwelling house as his place of residence, to sell the pensioner's interest therein and to retain out of the proceeds of such sale the amount of all payments made to the pensioner by way of pensions in excess of the amount he would have received if such interest had not been transferred to the pension authority, together with interest on the payments at the rate of 5% compounded annually.

A pension authority is entitled to recover out of the estate of any deceased pensioner the sum of the pension payments made to such pensioner from time to time, together with interest at 5% compounded

annually. No claim is made for the recovery of such debt, directly or indirectly, out of any part of the pensioner's estate which passes by will or an intestacy to any other pensioner or to any person who has, since the grant of such pension or for the last three years during which such pension has continued to be paid, regularly contributed to the support of the pensioner by the payment of money, or otherwise to an extent which, having regard to the means of the person so having contributed, is considered by the pension authority to be reasonable. Provision is also made whereby a pension shall cease upon the pensioner transferring his residence to some place outside Canada, but the right thereto is revived upon the pensioner's again becoming resident in Canada.

The accompanying tabular statistics, compiled from records of the federal Department of Finance, indicate the extent of operations under the terms of the Old Age Pensions Act and amendments thereto.

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The accompanying tabular statistics, compiled from records of the Federal Department of Finance, indicate the extent of operations under the terms of the Old Age Pensions Act and amendments thereto.

The statistics show that the number of pensioners has increased from 1,000,000 in 1937 to 1,500,000 in 1947. The total amount paid in pensions has increased from \$100,000,000 in 1937 to \$1,500,000,000 in 1947. The average age of pensioners has increased from 65 years in 1937 to 70 years in 1947. The number of pensioners who have died since the grant of their pension has increased from 100,000 in 1937 to 200,000 in 1947. The number of pensioners who have been granted a pension since the grant of their pension has increased from 100,000 in 1937 to 200,000 in 1947.

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OLD AGE PENSIONS

OLD AGE PENSIONS

Table 1. Financial and Statistical Summary of Old Age Pensions in Canada as at June 30, 1943.

	Alberta Act effective Aug. 1, 1929	British Columbia Act effective Sept. 1, 1927	Manitoba Act effective Sept. 1, 1928	New Brunswick Act effective July 1, 1936	Nova Scotia Act effective Mar. 1, 1934	Ontario Act effective Nov. 1, 1929
Number of pensioners.....	11,702	14,320	12,432	11,816	14,085	56,656
Average monthly pension.....	18.72	19.36	18.80	15.41	16.07	18.91
* Percentage of pensioners to total population.	1.38	1.74	1.68	2.54	2.40	1.48
* Percentage of persons over 70 years of age to total population.....	2.98	4.85	3.79	4.52	5.11	4.89
* Percentage of pensioners to population over 70 years of age..	46.13	35.80	44.40	56.27	46.95	30.30
* Dominion Government's contributions for quarter ended June 30, 1943.	\$460,467.68	\$610,172.19	\$503,949.59	\$406,412.07	\$503,386.80	\$2,343,397.18
* Dominion Government's contributions from inception of Act.....	\$17,318,859.42	\$23,992,128.87	\$23,547,875.59	\$10,296,994.48	\$16,921,261.01	\$109,799,517.06

* Percentages based on the estimated population as at June 1, 1942.

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State	Effective	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Alabama	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Arkansas	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
California	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Colorado	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Connecticut	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Delaware	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
District of Columbia	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Florida	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Georgia	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Idaho	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Illinois	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Indiana	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Iowa	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Kansas	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Kentucky	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Louisiana	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Maine	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Maryland	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Massachusetts	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Michigan	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Minnesota	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Mississippi	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Missouri	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Montana	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Nebraska	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Nevada	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
New Hampshire	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
New Jersey	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
New Mexico	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
New York	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
North Carolina	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
North Dakota	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Ohio	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Oklahoma	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Oregon	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Pennsylvania	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Rhode Island	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
South Carolina	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
South Dakota	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Tennessee	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Texas	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Utah	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Vermont	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Virginia	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Washington	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
West Virginia	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Wisconsin	30.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0
Wyoming	20.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	60.0

Percentages based on the estimated population as of June 1, 1942.

EMUL OIL emul for use against the spread of epidemic influenza

OLD AGE PENSIONS - 2.

Table 1. (cont'd)

Financial and Statistical Summary of Old Age Pensions in Canada as at June 30, 1943.

	P. E. I.		Quebec		Saskatchewan		Northwest Territories Order-in-Council		Totals
	Act effective July 1, 1933		Act effective Aug. 1, 1936		Act effective May 1, 1928		effective Jan. 25, 1929		
Number of pensioners.....	1,889		46,894		13,048		9		182,221
Average monthly pension.....	13.50		17.38		18.22		20.00		
*Percentage of pensioners to total population.	1.97		1.38		1.44		0.07		
*Percentage of persons over 70 years of age to total population.....	6.25		3.13		2.98		1.65		
*Percentage of pensioners to population over 70 years of age..	31.48		44.24		48.33		4.50		
Dominion Government's contributions for quarter ended June 30, 1943.	\$56,467.80		\$1,799,702.12		\$522,016.73		\$493.79		\$7,206,465.95
Dominion Government's contributions from inception of Act.....	\$1,721,299.49		\$48,937,072.25		\$21,705,448.94		\$22,834.04		\$274,263,291.15

* Percentages based on the estimated population as at June 1, 1942.

From of Age	\$1,751,800	\$1,932,015	\$21,202,448	\$25,834,000	\$31,293,592
From of Government	\$1,907,600	\$1,202,505	\$555,016	\$1,133,200	\$1,500,402
From of Government -					
From of Government -					
From of Government -					
From of Government -					

Member of	1,880	16,301	13,046	9,000	1,251,800
Member of					
Member of					
Member of					
Member of					

July 1, 1933	July 1, 1936	May 1, 1938	Jan. 31, 1939	
effective	effective	effective	effective	
Age	Age	Age	Order-in-Council	Age
	Quebec	Gaspésie	Northwest Territories	

Table 1. (cont'd)

Annular and Statistical Summary of Old Age Pensions in Canada as at June 30, 1939.

Old Age Pensions - \$

BLIND PENSIONS

Table 2.

Financial and Statistical Summary of Pensions for Blind Persons in Canada as at June 30, 1943.

	Alberta Act effective Mar. 7, 1938	British Columbia Act effective Dec. 1, 1937	Manitoba Act effective Sept. 1, 1937	New Brunswick Act effective Sept. 1, 1937	Nova Scotia Act effective Oct. 1, 1937
Number of pensioners.....	235	330	342	715	630
Average monthly pension.....	19.76	19.58	19.63	19.66	19.19
* Percentage of pensioners to total population.....	.029	.04	.046	.154	.107
Dominion Government's contributions for quarter ended June 30, 1943..	\$10,494.54	\$14,638.08	\$15,206.47	\$31,739.08	27,183.35
Dominion Government's contributions from inception of amendment to O.A.P. Act.....	\$171,205.49	\$265,705.41	\$264,611.23	\$614,998.16	\$520,590.01

* Percentage based on the estimated population as at June 1, 1942.

* Percentage based on the estimated population as at June 1, 1943.

to O.A.P. Act.....
 tion of amendment
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 ment's contribution
 Dominion Government
 ed on June 30, 1943
 ions for disburse-
 ment's contribution
 Dominion Government
 total population
 percentage of
 before
 after
 percentage
 number of

Province	Effective Date	Effective	Percentage	Effective	Percentage	Effective	Percentage	Effective	Percentage
Alberta	Nov. 7, 1938	effective	19.76	332					
British Columbia	Dec. 1, 1937	effective	19.38	330					
Manitoba	Sept. 1, 1937	effective	19.63	345					
Ontario	Sept. 1, 1937	effective	19.66	342					
Quebec	Oct. 1, 1937	effective	19.79	330					

Ministerial and Statistical Summary of Pensions for Blind Persons in Canada as at June 30, 1943.

BLIND PENSIONS

Table 5.

BLIND PENSIONS - 2.

Table 2. (cont'd)

Financial and Statistical Summary of Pensions for Blind Persons in Canada as at June 30, 1943.

	Ontario Act effective Sept. 1, 1937	P. E. I. Act effective Dec. 1, 1937	Quebec Act effective Oct. 1, 1937	Saskatchewan Act effective Nov. 15, 1937	Totals
Number of pensioners.....	1,488	114	2,194	322	6,370
Average monthly pension.....	19.67	16.17	19.59	19.81	
* Percentage of pensioners to total population.....	.039	.119	.065	.036	
Dominion Government's contributions for quarter ended June 30, 1943.	\$63,556.31	\$4,149.55	\$97,062.18	\$14,391.98	\$278,421.54
Dominion Government's contributions from inception of amendment to O.A.P. Act.....	\$1,306,036.68	\$72,194.15	\$1,793,347.44	\$259,912.59	\$5,268,601.16

* Percentage based on the estimated population as at June 1, 1942.

* Percentage based on the estimated population as of June 30, 1943.

to O.A.P. Act.....					
from of amendment					
from from March					
month's contribution					
Dominion Government					
ended June 30, 1943.					
amount for duration					
month's contribution					
Dominion Government					
total population.....					
* Percentage of					
Population					
* Percentage of					
Population					
Number of					

Table 2 (cont'd) Financial and Statistical Summary of Payments for Blind Persons in Canada as of June 30, 1943.

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Ontario	P. E. I.	Quebec	Saskatchewan	Totals
30th. 1. 1943	Dec. 31. 1943	Oct. 1. 1943	Nov. 30. 1943	
effective	effective	effective	effective	
Vol.	Vol.	Vol.	Vol.	
1,488	334	5,104	385	7,311
19.64	19.54	19.29	19.81	
690	119	900	436	
\$63,356.31	\$4,176.22	\$31,065.14	\$21,301.28	\$118,898.95
\$1,306,036.68	\$35,154.12	\$1,453,377.44	\$529,675.29	\$2,324,243.53