PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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annual report of the

department of social welfare

for the

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

1969

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in right of the Province of British Columbia.
1970

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, November 23, 1969.

To Colonel the Honourable JOHN R. NICHOLSON, P.C., O.B.E., Q.C., LL.D.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Annual Report of the Department of Social Welfare for the year ended March 31, 1969, is herewith respectfully submitted.

D. R. J. CAMPBELL,
Minister of Social Welfare.

Office of the Minister of Social Welfare,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, British Columbia.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE,
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, November 22, 1969.

The Honourable D. R. J. Campbell,
Minister of Social Welfare, Victoria, British Columbia.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Social Welfare for the year ended March 31, 1969.

E. R. RICKINSON,
Deputy Minister of Social Welfare.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

April 1, 1968, to March 31, 1969

HON. D. R. J. CAMPBELL ..... *Minister of Social Welfare.*

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

E. R. RICKINSON ..... *Deputy Minister of Social Welfare.*
J. A. SADLER ..... *Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Social Welfare.*
R. J. BURNHAM ..... *Director of Operations.*
T. D. BINGHAM ..... *Director of Programmes.*

DIVISIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ADMINISTRATION

J. MCDIARMID ..... *Departmental Comptroller.*
J. V. BELKNAP ..... *Superintendent of Child Welfare.*
J. NOBLE ..... *Superintendent, Brannan Lake School for Boys.*
MISS W. M. URQUHART ..... *Superintendent, Willingdon School for Girls.*
DR. P. W. LAUNDY ..... *Director of Medical Services.*
E. W. BERRY ..... *Division on Aging.*
MRS. A. I. ALLEN ..... *Personnel Officer.*
G. P. WILLIE ..... *Superintendent, Provincial Home.*
N. S. BROOKE, MRS. J. P. SCOTT ..... *Casework Supervisors, Social Assistance and Rehabilitation Division.*
D. W. FOWLER ..... *Training Supervisor.*
C. W. GORBY ..... *Chief Inspector of Welfare Institutions.*
A. G. GILMORE ..... *Office Administrator.*
A. W. RIPPON ..... *Research Officer.*
T. W. L. BUTTERS ..... *Supervisor, Emergency Welfare Services.*

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

J. A. MOLLBERG ..... *Director, Region 1.*
W. J. CAMOZZI ..... *Director, Region 2.*
G. A. REED ..... *Director, Region 3.*
W. H. CROSSLEY ..... *Director, Region 4.*
V. H. DALLAMORE ..... *Director, Region 5.*
A. E. BINGHAM ..... *Director, Region 6.*
A. J. WRIGHT ..... *Director, Region 7.*
R. K. BUTLER ..... *Director, Region 8.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
General Administration:	
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Social Welfare	9
Administrative Services	10
Divisional, Institutional, and Regional Administration:	
Social Assistance and Rehabilitation Division	14
Child Welfare Division	17
Health Care Division	25
Division on Aging	26
Brannan Lake School for Boys	28
Willingdon School for Girls	30
Provincial Home, Kamloops	33
Community Care	34
New Denver Youth Centre	35
Region 1	37
Region 2	39
Region 3	41
Region 4	45
Region 5	48
Region 6	51
Region 7	54
Region 8	56
Legislation	59
Statistics	61

Report of the Department of Social Welfare

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

the assistant deputy minister reports . . .

J. A. SADLER

As our community responds to social and economic change, so do the communities' expectations of their various social and public services.

Large organizations are generally slow to respond, primarily because of difficulties in communication. We have resolved some of our problems in this area by decentralizing decision-making, streamlining administrative processes, and reorganizing the Department.

In this latter regard, the previous positions of Assistant Director of Welfare and Director of Regional Services were reclassified and given new authority. The one new position created was Director of Programmes, to which Mr. T. D. Bingham was appointed. He is now responsible for directing and co-ordinating the work of all Divisions. Mr. R. J. Burnham was appointed Director of Operations and assumes responsibility for all operations in the field, together with the Provincial Home and New Denver Youth Centre.

Other major personnel changes in the year were the appointment of Mrs. A. I. Allen, Personnel Officer; Mr. R. K. Butler, Regional Director, Region 8; Mr. J. V. Belknap, Superintendent of Child Welfare; and Mr. C. W. Gorby, Chief Inspector, Welfare Institutions.

We were sorry to lose the services of Miss Margaret Jamieson, Personnel Officer, who left for early retirement, and were saddened with the sudden passing of Mr. A. A. Shipp, Chief Inspector of Welfare Institutions.

You will notice in the report this year we have used more pictures to tell our story, and have limited the narrative sections. We have, however, provided more extensive reporting from our eight regions to provide the reader with some idea of the range of activities, concerns, problems, and accomplishments of our personnel throughout the Province.

Statistical reporting has been limited in this Report, but current figures comparable with statistical reports of previous years are available on request from the Department.

The problems of our society are many. Public expectations of our Department are great. The satisfactions we realize from achieving even partial successes in the resolution of our collective socio-economic problems are regularly limited by external forces over which we have no control. To do the best we can, to help whenever we can, to work with concern, compassion, and common sense on behalf of people is our goal.

personnel reports . . .

MRS. ANNA I. ALLEN, *Personnel Officer*

Job Studies and Definitions

Because of reorganization and changing responsibilities of staff, new positions included:—

Director—Operations.

Director—Programmes.

Director—Social Assistance and Rehabilitation.

Chief—Family Counselling, Protection, and Unmarried Parents Services.

Chief—Adoption and Child Care Services.

Recruiting and Staff Selection

Actively recruiting at universities for social work graduates and at technical schools for case aides, appointments to senior administration, social workers, case aides, child-care staff, and clerical totalled 349 for the year.

Our Total Staff—Clerical, Technical, and Professional (Casual and Permanent as of March 31, 1969)

General Administrative	11
Field Service	476
Child Welfare Division	38
Medical Services Division	18
Division on Aging	48
Social Assistance and Rehabilitation Division	5
Brannan Lake School for Boys	62
Willingdon School for Girls	50
New Denver Youth Centre	29
Provincial Home	35
Japanese Pavilion, New Denver	14
Total staff employed	786

training reports . . .

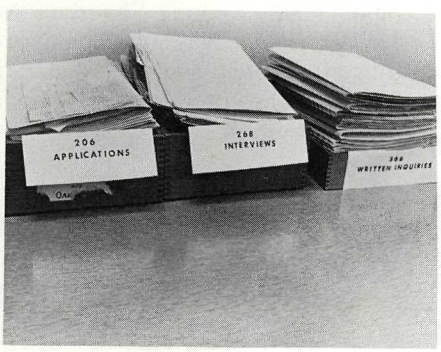
DOUGLAS W. FOWLER, *Training Supervisor*

Training Courses in Social Work

Three 2-week courses, 36 trainees.
Two 4-week courses, 27 trainees.
One 8-week course, 19 trainees.
One 1-week course, 7 welfare aides.
Seven experimental workshops for social workers.

Activities Included

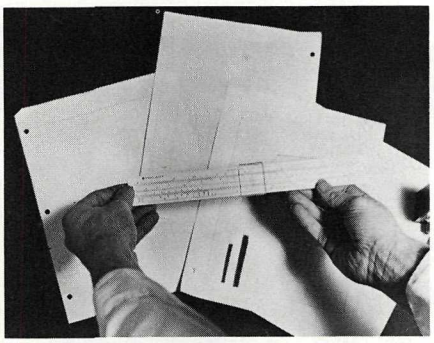
206 applications reviewed,
268 employment interviews, and
366 written inquiries answered,
for employment in social work in the Department of Social Welfare.



" It is of interest to note the continued upsurge on the part of our young university graduates for a career in social work. In selecting . . . we have had a large number from which to choose."—DOUGLAS W. FOWLER, *Training Supervisor*.

research . . .

A. W. RIPPON, *Research Officer*



The Social Research Section has continued to search for answers to the social problems of today's society. The services provided by the research section included study of the Department's services to the Indians of British Columbia; the length of time persons receive social assistance; and a study of the function of the case aide in improving services to our citizens; foster care; community-based home care; and the development of a system to describe family characteristics prior to child placement in a foster home. An examination of factors that affect children coming into the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare and the Children's Aid Societies is receiving financial grants from the Department of National Health and Welfare, consultation from the University of British Columbia, and the co-operation of the Department of Social Welfare, and is expected to be completed by September, 1970.

emergency welfare services . . .

T. W. L. BUTTERS, *Supervisor, Emergency Welfare Services*

Provincial policy requires that Departmental social workers be aware of Department responsibilities in natural and war disaster situations. The procedures to be followed by field staff in disaster situations was rewritten.

The Province continues to recruit mass-care personnel from non-governmental sources.

An intensive effort has been made to train and orient Red Cross personnel in their role of registration and inquiry.

Discussions were initiated with senior officials of the Salvation Army regarding the role of that agency in disaster.

A symposium on the role of Emergency Welfare Services in the highly urban area was held in conjunction with Federal officials.

Three Emergency Welfare Services Courses were held at the Provincial Training College, Victoria.

In summation, our effort in organizing for any possible disaster in the Province of British Columbia has continued to emphasize the role of the Departmental social worker assisted in his responsibilities by a broad base of volunteers and volunteer agencies.

administration . . .

A. G. GILMORE, *Office Administrator*

Serving in Division, institutions, regional and district offices in the Department of Social Welfare.

. . . public information

Pamphlets.
Answering inquiries.
Assisting in training.

Public-speaking engagements.
Keeping the Department and the Public informed.

social assistance and rehabilitation division reports . . .

N. S. BROOKE *and* MRS. J. P. SCOTT, *Supervisors*

There are many reasons for requiring public assistance. For some it may be only temporary need as a result of illness, accident, or lack of employment. For some, it is lack of education and training. For others it is obsolescence because of technological change combined with handicaps of age and health. A number are victims of easy credit, combined with low earning potential, resulting in high indebtedness and job dismissals because of garnishee actions. Many are chronically disabled by severe social problems such as alcoholism or by mental and physical health problems. Many are one-parent families because the marriage has broken down as a result of alcoholism, financial stress, youthful marriage, and inability of the breadwinner to handle the responsibility of a family. Whatever the reason, all recipients suffer from public disapproval that saps morale and undermines the will and capacities for self-help. This has led us to a renewed search for methods of providing substitute incomes that are less demeaning to the receiver and more acceptable to the public.

SOCIAL ALLOWANCES . . . 98,706 people being helped, March 31, 1969, including

56,893 children and dependent wives.
10,191 heads of one-parent families.
9,602 heads of two-parent families.
22,020 single persons.

Applications and re-applications	97,473
Cases closed	94,559
Total number of cases, March 31, 1969	98,706

" Total expenditures were $58,104,833 . . . one-third greater than for the previous fiscal year."

BECAUSE . . .

- Increased allowances for children, effective June 1, 1968. Additional allowances for children of Social Allowance families of $8 per month. $15 per year recreation allowance. $15 per year education allowances. $15 per year clothing allowances per child were granted.
- Rising costs of living—More special help, especially for shelter needed.
- 14,487 or 17½ per cent more cases.
- More migrants from other parts of Canada.
- ⅓ increase in provision of Homemaker Services.

Our responsibility is to provide consultation to local municipal and Provincial welfare offices responsible for administration of Social Allowances and related services. These include care in institutions for elderly and disabled persons, homemaker services when necessary for older persons or families during the emergency absence of the mother. Special payments are available when necessary to ensure basic needs of social assistance recipients are met. Other services are rehabilitative to assist in return to self-dependence and preventive to ameliorate or resolve serious social problems associated with limited income and public dependency.

REHABILITATION

Our rehabilitation services are primarily concerned with the return to employment of employable persons. The majority who receive social assistance are not employable. These include mothers with children, older men and women, or persons with serious handicaps such as alcoholism, mental illness, or severe physical disability. Many employable applicants are temporarily in need between jobs and do not require services apart from temporary financial help. The remainder, approximately 20 per cent of social assistance recipients are presumed employable when jobs are available that suit their capabilities. Most are handicapped because of insufficient education or training. Emphasis has, therefore, been placed on educational training for those who can benefit. With the co-operation of the Department of Education, school boards, and other educational agencies, approximately 600 persons were assisted in this way during the fiscal year. In the majority of instances, sponsorship was by the Department. Some 165 disabled persons were helped by the Rehabilitation Division, Health Branch, others were assisted directly by the Department of Manpower. Results: One survey of 77 persons assisted directly by the Department showed 31 employed at termination of training, 24 improved in functioning, and 14 requiring further training. Location employment by Canada Manpower. Results: One survey of 77 persons assisted directly by the Department showed 31 employed at termination of training, 24 improved in functioning, and 14 requiring further training. Location employment opportunities has been considered a function of the Canada Manpower. Social assistance recipients, however, cannot compete well with other job registrants for available jobs. Further, many employers do not work through Canada Manpower. From time to time, individual social workers have undertaken to canvas local employers and reported success in placing recipients in jobs.

For those not able to undertake full employment, the Department encourages self-help whenever possible. The first $50 of earnings in the case of family heads does not reduce the social assistance rate that can be paid. Similarly, younger children may earn $40 per month up to $200 per month for older fully employed children living at home before the social assistance rate is affected.

Rehabilitation committees are functioning in most of the larger centres. These co-ordinate the services and resources of the Department of Social Welfare. Canada Manpower, Health, and other community agencies on behalf of disabled persons who require more intensive help before they can return to employment.

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

Counselling

Our preventive services are intended to assist in the solution, prevention, or amelioration of problems or results of poverty that may result in a need for public assistance, now or in the future.

This programme required the services of social workers in relation to marital, child behaviour, mental health, or other problems that impair the functioning of individuals or of families.

The time available for this service has become more limited because a greater proportion of time has been required to administer assistance, partly because more people need help, but more importunely because of greater need for overages and special assistance to help cope with rising living costs.

Self-help

Two promising means for extended helping services that are being developed: One is a group method and the other the involvement of social assistance recipients in helping other recipients. For example, a person who has learned to budget skilfully assists less knowledgeable persons with their budgeting problems. Group methods involve bringing several persons together at a time. These may be members of a family, unrelated social assistance recipients, or social assistance recipients and other persons.

To date the purposes have included provision of information, counselling, solution of specific problems, and exploration of mutual and individual problems. This last has been reported by participants to be particularly helpful. Most participants appear to gain in confidence and in desire to improve their situation.

DAY-CARE AND HOMEMAKER SERVICES

Day-care and homemaker services are provided to help persons or families whose income is limited. In the case of day care, this may be either to improve the quality of experience for children of low-income families or to provide suitable care while the mother is employed. This service is not uniformly available to the poor, however, and it is hoped that it can be made more available by the involvement of recipients in providing this service. Provision of homemaker services helps prevent breakup of families because of illness, and permits numbers of older persons to be cared for in their own homes when hospitalization or institutionalization might otherwise be necessary and often at greater cost.

BOARDS OF REVIEW

Thirty-three Boards of Review were held during the year, of which 22 were in favour of the applicant.

child welfare reports . . .

J. V. BELKNAP, *Superintendent*

" Strangely enough we are all seeking a form of devotion which fits our sense of wonder."—a 16-year-old girl.

" I can't understand what has happened to her, she seems gone from us."—a mother.

Somewhere between these kinds of searching, the social worker and many other people in community-helping agencies find themselves trying to bring resolution to an increasing social problem in our society, youth estrangement.

Estrangement of the young from their parents and adult values is costly. Youth's disenchantment with the mores and standards of our community and its established systems can create costly chaos in society. Personal damage ranging from depressive disillusionment where creative skills and talents are wasted, to complete bondage or death through use of dangerous drugs can result.

Our society has never experienced a time in which change teeters so precariously between social order and total dissent.

The task of preserving value systems amid the flux of change must fall mainly upon the adult world.

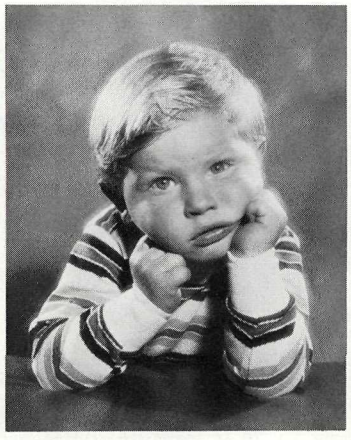
The task of creating values that will be relevant to the future must rest with the young.

The task of developing a congruency which creates a harmony and balance between the values and the feelings of the individual in his community rests with all of us.

Our youth have the considerable burden of completing the social evolution that their parents began and of working out its philosophy. They continue the war of the previous generation against the absolute authoritarianism which flourished most profoundly in the Victorian age.

They battle to win some place of value and dignity for the little man in our sophisticated industrial and technological age.

One of the most damaging effects of estrangement deprives youth of a continuity with the past. Estrangement equally deprives parents of a continuity into the future. A new generation never knows what lies ahead; estrangement blocks the new generation from knowing what lies behind. The threat lies in the possibility that disenchantment may destroy the opportunity for social evolution, leaving revolt as the only option.



The search for meaning and purpose is all-consuming for the young. Many in the adult world have a great deal of difficulty understanding and accepting this goal. These are the people who have expended their energy and resources in making what they feel is a safe and secure world within which their children can flourish. The lust of the young is for adventure and risk-taking as a means of discovering themselves. To suggest that the world has been prepared and provided for them poses a threat to their quest for developing their own integrity and to their means of acquiring relevancy.

This present wave of youth has acquired a perception of the future far in excess of previous generations. This perception results from a permissive, concerned, and yet ambivalent family relationship. Many cherish self-expression above self-control, compassion above aggression, spontaniety and adventure above caution and restraint. By the light of previous standards, the rejection of affluence and goal orientation fatally combines toward the growth of destructive attitudes.

Youth defines success as a denial of belief in present conventions, a massive sense of confusion and lack of direction follows, deferring career decisions. Perhaps a more variable and responsive manner of living in our increasingly complex world will grow.

Democracy is still cherished as the most viable and vital process that man has so far devised to serve our culture.

Many young people practise " the politics of conscience." They regard issues as not being susceptible to resolution by democratic processes. On the one side, " politics of conscience " offers promise allowing for new dimensions for the individual predicated upon a mature and aware conscience. On the other side, the menacing possibility of totalitarianism or nihilism rises.

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION

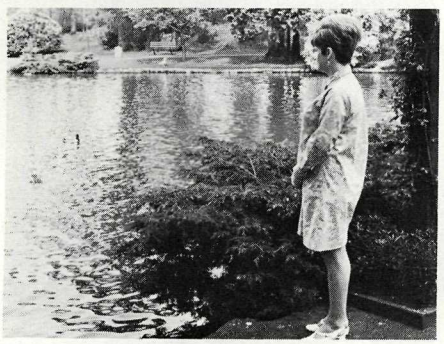
REORGANIZATION

The administration of services to children within the Department began the process of reorganization in November, 1968. The services have been divided into two functional areas under the direction and administrative control of two Chiefs of Service who also act as Deputies to the Superintendent of Child Welfare.

MRS. I. G. PREDDY, *Appointed Chief, Adoption and Child Care Services*

Directing services to people through adoption and placement of children who require care and custody in special care facilities.

J. J. ALLMAN, *Appointed Chief, Family Counselling, Protection, and Unmarried Parent Services*



Directing services to families, protective services to children, and services to unmarried parents and their children.

FAMILY SERVICES

Family counselling services must be strengthened, for it is here we have much opportunity to carry out preventive work. This type of service requires a great degree of skill and knowledge on the part of the staff and must be tied closely to concerns and efforts of the community.

It is encouraging to see the establishment of community-centred projects like the Nanaimo Family Life Association. This type of development brings this Department and the community together and uses the voluntary skills of local people to assist in counselling those who experience difficulties with life's problems. Similar programmes are being developed in several other communities in British Columbia, which provide an opportunity to people for learning life so their personal lives will be enhanced and family security strengthened to meet the constantly changing needs of society.

People in trouble must be given not only environmental help, but must be involved in educational processes which provide insight to their problems and give them skill in teaching others on a parent-to-parent basis. Steps are being taken in this regard with the help of the Adult Education Division of the Department of Education.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES, LEGISLATION

This year the 1968 *Protection of Children Act* amendment came into force in September. This Act offers temporary care for the child where planning indicates that the natural parents can be helped to become good parents. It offers permanent care in a permanent foster home or adoption home where it is clearly seen that the child's link with his natural parents offers no adequate security.

Though it is early to measure the effect of this amendment, it is already evident more thoughtful and careful planning for children is being carried out because the amendment implicitly builds an expectation toward a deeper degree of accountability.

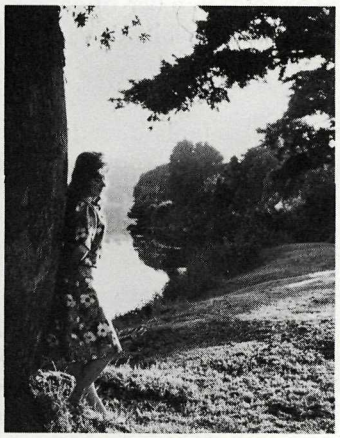
CHILDREN IN CARE

While the increase in our total child-care population increased, the rate of admission remained constant with last year. The number of children admitted under the *Protection of Children Act* is down, but the number of non-ward care admissions rose.

The most notable factor is in the net increase of children in care which is at its lowest point in seven years. The average net increase in that period was 12.3 per cent. This year the increase is 4.7 per cent.

There has been a marked increase in the use of our consultive services. The nature of the consultation has improved in that issues and principles are being sought out rather than case decisions. This shift indicates that our field services are developing more self-reliance and confidence in dealing with their case practice. This, coupled with the decrease in the numbers of children remaining in care indicates continuing improvement in services.

UNMARRIED PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN



Progress is being made in developing a more reliable collaborative service between the various community institutions—the welfare agencies, the Courts, the prosecutory and enforcement arms—to direct their functions to offer better help to the child and his mother. Services to the putative father are also now recognized as important to the security of the child.

It is increasingly evident with the changing moral and value system in our culture that we must develop the means and attitudes in legislation, and programme, to preserve and strengthen the integrity of these extra-conventional families.

New knowledge is needed to better understand the nature and dynamics of the family, whether the family is created in or out of accord with our community conventions.

It seems obvious that a child's future place in our society can be uncertain when decisions must be made in circumstances where his mother is in a state of shame, guilt, and secretiveness in a community that is unaccepting, and the father has fled out of the fear of obligations.

TRANSIENT YOUTH

Throughout history children have moved out from their families to explore their environment and to discover and establish themselves in the world. This is now an increasing and perplexing situation in Canada as community agencies try to cope with the increasing problems of children who suffer from, or respond to a form of mass paranoia. The children are increasing in numbers and are younger in age each year. They are open to and exploited by the criminal elements, who use drugs and sex as means of enslaving them. Many of these children suffer from general dissatisfactions with our society and are being used as corrosive and innocent tools to subvert the country's ideologies. The tragedy is that these children are not allowed the opportunity to participate in the established order and creating new systems in an open and positive manner.

It is conservatively estimated that 3,000 transient children are living in this Province. Most live in a pitiful state ignored in the main by the community. They suffer in hunger and disease and in an atmosphere of hostility and hate.

The Youth Section created in response to this phenomenon by the two Children's Aid Societies in Vancouver City has helped alleviate some of this suffering. The increase in demand is startling. In 1968, 573 children utilized this service. The rate of increase indicates it will triple in the coming year.

ADOPTION SERVICES

The adoption service is a source of pride and encouragement to social welfare practice and programming. Its success is due to the energetic and creative leadership offered by our staff, several of whom are acclaimed as leading experts in North America. It is also due to the conscientious and full support of the community.

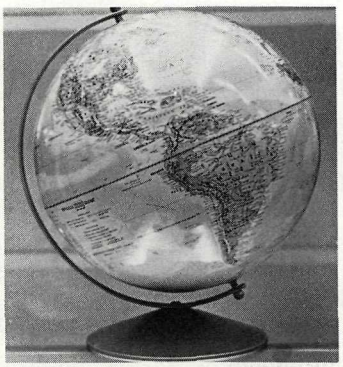
In the placement programme, the vigour of the programme is revealed in substantial increase in the number of children placed, 138 to a total of 1,185. This growth has continued steadily for the past five years. The total number of chlidren placed by all agencies in the years 1964/65 amounted to 1,231, while this present year under review amounts to 1,886.

Equally encouraging is the increase in the placement of infants directly from hospital from the previous year, from 384 to 427, and of special notice is the increase of placements of children with health problems from 67 to 128.

Community Adoption Activities

The involvement and participation of the community is the most encouraging aspect of the programme. The Adoption Conference in December, 1967, gave impetus to this and recommendations springing from this event have been implemented in a variety of ways: Adopting Parents' Associations; a volunteer information service; workshops; public meetings; and a committee of adoptive parents who act as advisers to specialized adoption workers in certain offices.

One innovation which affords the possibility of a new approach to the adoptive process is a project being carried out in three districts where a group approach is utilized, placing emphasis on preparation for parenthood. This approach relies more heavily on education and less upon investigation.



International Placements

The community is becoming more aware of the global needs of people and our adoption programme reflects this. This Department had the privilege of making the first placement in North America under the auspices of A.R.E.N.A. (Adoption Resource Exchange of North America). Since March, 1968, A.R.E.N.A. has made available to this Province 26 homes in the United States. Four children have been so placed, with another seven children pending.

An additional 20 children were placed elsewhere in Canada, the United States, Europe, and South America.

Beyond this, 12 children were referred from other parts of the world to this Province.

Permanent Foster Homes

Our permanent foster home programme continues to grow, with 50 children placed under these conditions. These placements are not included in the number of placements referred to previously.

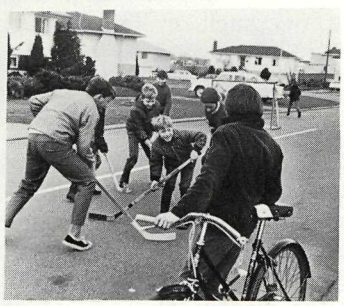
New Adoption Procedures

The year in review completed the first year under the new policy in which the Department processed the legal aspects of adoption. The Superintendent's office submitted a total of 2,375 Court reports, of which 1,651 or 69.5 per cent were processed completely. Most of the remaining 30.5 per cent were step-parent, relative, or private adoptions, the legal aspects of which are still attended to by the legal profession. It is estimated that a saving of $132,000 accrued to these agency adoptive parents through this process.

The Department is indebted to the Supreme Court and to the British Columbia Law Society for the excellent co-operation and confidence that has been extended to our programme in carrying out this new service to so many parents.

CHILD-CARE SERVICES

The Department's programme to care for the children entrusted to it by the Courts and by parents' consent is the service most highly dependent upon public participation. The main involvement comes through the many foster parents which serve the community.



The foster parents in this Province have been active in organizing associations and we may expect to see continuing improvement in the total programme.

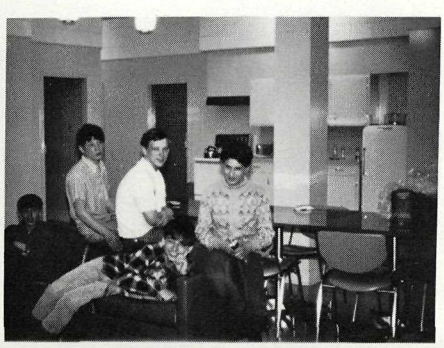
Although the number of children in care has increased, the most significant observation is the marked increase in admission and discharges. This reflects a heavy staff involvement and indicates that a more constructive approach in planning for children is being carried out by the field staff.

There has been a significant lowering in the child-care population of under three years and a marked increase in the 14 years and over. This latter presents particular problems, as these children often have difficulty accepting another parental relationship. Foster parents similarly have difficulty in serving the complex needs of this group.

It is satisfying to report that the number of children attending university or taking vocational and technical training has increased.

Special Placement Services

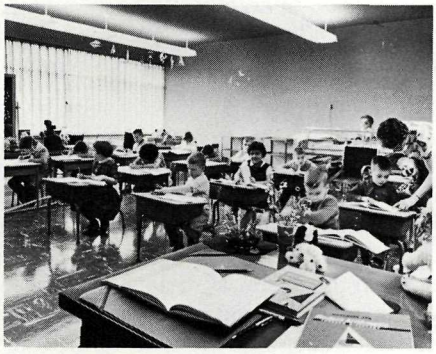
The need for more and more specialized resources for the treatment and care of children with particular or specific problems is apparent. Marked progress has been made in providing such resources and will continue as viable programmes emerge that have promise of meeting the specific needs of these children. It is with some optimism that we observe the community response in participating with the Department in building and operation of congregate care homes. In the



past several years each has shown a marked increase in the number of children served in a variety of special homes. This year under review reveals a rise of 90 to a total of 1,084.

Perhaps the most promising event of this year was the establishment of the Youth Resources Panel. This is a group of the Departmental people representing the Department of Social Welfare, Department of Education, Department of the Attorney-General, and Health and Mental Health Services, who report through their Deputy Ministers to a committee of Cabinet and are responsible for the planning and determination of special resource needs.

Co-operation between various Departments in responding to the needs of children has been growing substantially and the Youth Resources Panel gives this co-operation a legitimate mandate for action.



DAY-CARE SERVICES

This year was marked by the continual spread of day-care services throughout the Province. It has seen the development of six new full day-care centres and six more specialized centres for children with special needs. Additionally a second summer day-care centre operated for primary children and more after-school or " latch key " centres were opened.

CONCLUSION

Constant and unrelenting energy must be devoted to a search for new ways of helping all people realize their full potential. The excitement of exploration of outer space must not deflect us from exploring the inner space of man. New philosophical insights are as valuable to mankind as new technological advances. The manner in which man behaves toward man becomes vital as the dimensions of our earth become smaller and the consequence of the manner of living of one nation merges upon the dynamics of all other nations.

There are many people who have made a major contribution to the welfare of children through our programme. Appreciation and thanks to these people can only be surpassed by the realization that they have made a significant and lasting contribution to the lives of many children.

health care division reports . . .

DR. P. W. LAUNDY, *Director*

This Division, formerly the Medical Services Division, is now called the Health Care Division, but this does not indicate any change in functions which are outlined in the 1966/67 Report.

This year, nevertheless, was one of considerable change in the method of providing health benefits and there was an increase in the number of welfare beneficiaries entitled to benefits from 79,085 to 85,430.

The volume of prescriptions filled for the welfare recipient remains at a high level. The total cost of the drug programme was $2,423,798, an increase of $266,616 over the previous year.

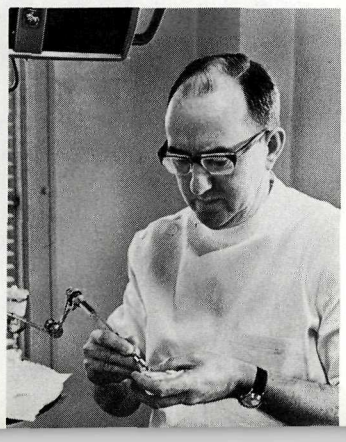
With the introduction of " medicare " came the sharing of costs by the Federal Government in physicians' services. At the same time the Social Assistance Medical Services plan developed and operated for many years by the physicians of British Columbia for social assistance recipients was incorporated in the British Columbia Medical Plan. This new plan provided for optometric examinations previously provided by this Division, and also added limited chiropractic, nursing, physiotherapy, and podiatric services.

NEW PROCEDURES

We have endeavoured where possible to simplify procedures. For example, a simplified authorizing and billing form for glasses used by optometrists and opticians was devised. Apart from being easier to complete and check, it will provide more useful statistics about the optical programme.

In co-operation with the Pharmaceutical Association, only one form is now used for the prescription by the doctor, for billing by the pharmacist and as a means of payment by the Government, eliminating much paper work for the pharmacist.

The handling of dental accounts was also simplified by removing the work from the field staff.



NEW SERVICES AND SCHEDULES

At the end of 1968, a revised fee schedule for dental work was agreed upon.

There has been an increase in the schedule of payments to both the optometrists and opticians.

Certain additions were made to the extensive drug list during the year.

division on aging reports . . .

E. W. BERRY, *Director*

During the year the Division continued to administer the *Old-age Assistance Act, Blind Persons Act, Disabled Persons Act,* and Supplementary Social Allowance to recipients of these categorical programmes as well as those receiving Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

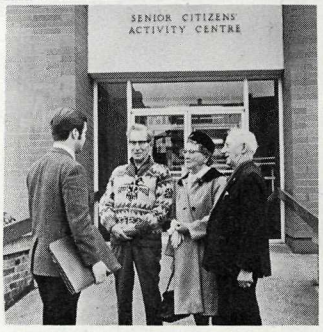
Based on 1966 Dominion Bureau of Statistics Census, there were 178,666 citizens over 65 in British Columbia. This was 9.7 per cent of the population, but in some areas because of climate, available housing, and medical and other services, a much-higher proportion of the population was living in retirement. To help this group live better with a greater sense of participation and belonging, new services are being developed in British Columbia, some Province-wide and others on a local experimental basis.

Senior Citizen Counsellors

Forty senior citizens are now serving as official counsellors, trained to help in situations concerned with housing, recreation, income maintenance, death, or sickness of spouse, and other matters of real concern to senior citizens.

Drop-in Centres

The Division offices now operate a " drop-in " Service Centre in downtown Vancouver; 3,000 elderly citizens used these services from September, 1968, to March 31, 1969. Services include: Housing Registry, assistance in writing business and personal letters, finding part-time employment.



Liaison with Province's Senior Citizens

Continuing contact and discussion with various community projects and organizations such as " Meal on Wheels," " Volunteers for Seniors," "Foster Grand Parents."

British Columbia Hydro Bus Passes

Over 10,000 senior citizens, blind, and handicapped persons in receipt of the Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement and (or) Supplementary Social Allowances purchased bus passes, good for six months, at a cost of $5. They are for use in Greater Victoria and Vancouver areas.

During the fiscal year some administrative changes occurred:—

(1) *June 1, 1968.*—The maximum allowable monthly budget/income limit for Supplementary Social Allowance to Old-age Assistance, Blind and Disabled Persons' Allowances was increased from $111 to $137.10 for a single person and from $218 to $244.20 for a married couple. This permitted recipients of these allowances to have additional earnings to meet their monthly budget. The maximum Supplementary Social Allowance payable to a recipient remained unchanged at $30 per month.

(2) *July 1, 1968.*—The administration of the free health benefits available to recipients under the Department of Social Welfare was transferred from the Division to the local district and municipal welfare offices. This change coincided with the Social Assistance Medical Services being transferred to the British Columbia Medical Plan. Recipients of Supplementary Social Allowance continued to receive the free health benefits as formerly.

(3) *January 1, 1969.*—The maximum monthly budget/income limits for Supplementary Social Allowance were increased to $139.20 for a single person and to $248.40 for a married couple to coincide with the 2 per cent increase in the Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement.

TRENDS

The lowering of the age of eligibility for Old Age Security to 67 years of age on January 1, 1968, and 66 years of age on January 1, 1969, continued to have its effect on the Old-age Assistance case load and was reflected not only by a decrease of 336 in the number of new applications received throughout the year, but by a decrease in the number remaining in the case load at the end of the fiscal year (from 2,377 as of March 31, 1968, to 949 as of March 31, 1969).

brannan lake school for boys reports . . .

J. NOBLE, *Superintendent*

Boys continued to arrive at the School in ever-increasing numbers. The increase over the years can be related quite closely to the increase in the over-all population in the Province. There was a relatively high increase in the older age-group, but this may have been due to the desire to reduce the numbers being raised to Adult Court. This would indicate the need for an intermediate resource, such as a forestry camp for older boys.

We improved our own summer camping programme and made use of other camping opportunities such as the Sea Cadet Camp at Comox, the Wilderness Campus in Jasper Park, and the Search and Leadership Training Course at Porteau Cove.

The boys in the School worked voluntarily on a wide range of community projects, including a Walkathon in Nanaimo, in which 36 boys and six staff raised $282 for the United Appeal.

A rather unusual event was the Conference in Retreat, which was a group experience of three days at an Island motel. The Minister, the Honourable Dan Campbell; the Honourable Isabel Dawson; Mr. Rickinson, Deputy Minister; the Superintendent of Child Welfare; a representative of the Attorney-General's Department; and staff members from both Brannan Lake School and Willingdon School, along with six boys and six girls from the two schools, were led in a group experience by a " facilitator." This was felt by all to have been a valuable method of increasing understanding.

As usual, a regular flow of visitors from a variety of professions and the general public passed through the School, although one stayed for three days. The Honourable Isabel Dawson had what the press described as a " live in " at the School. She made herself completely at home for the three days and spent the time in conversation with boys and staff in informal situations, such as at meal-times and in cottage sitting-rooms.

Among the boys arriving at the School, only 50 per cent had been living in a two-parent home. The loss of father through death, divorce, separation, alcohol, or nature of employment still seems to be a factor in a large percentage of cases. We rarely see at Brannan Lake School boys who have been succeeding in the community, in school, or in sports. Surely the time has come to return to the concept of community responsibility, now that delinquency in one form or another has become the No. 1 disease of childhood.

I would like to commend the staff at the School for their outstanding work in an unusually taxing form of endeavour.

Brannan Lake School Statistics

Run-aways.—83.2 per cent of the boys *did not* run away. Understandably though, run-aways from the School continue to cause concern to the local community, a serious problem for the School.

Indians.—18 per cent of the 638 boys admitted had Indian status, but 24 per cent of readmissions were from this group.

Readmissions.—Up 9 per cent to 30.9 per cent over last year, the success rate drops when length of stay is decreased.

Average Age of Readmissions.—15.3 years.

This reinforces our belief that the school-leaving age is the point at which the communities should concentrate their preventive efforts. Intermediate non-residential programmes are urgently required, perhaps our slogan should now be " Day Care for Delinquents." It is clear that providing alternative homes is not always the answer, since we are admitting increasing numbers of boys who have already travelled the route of several foster homes plus group-home placements. During the year we have had 93 wards of the child-care agencies admitted.

Average Stay.—Boys who left stayed for periods ranging from 1 to 28 months. We attempt to provide long-term care for those who obviously require it, but the pressures of increased admissions resulted in an average length stay of 3.3 months.

willingdon school for girls reports . . .

MISS W. M. URQUHART, *Superintendent*

Willingdon School for Girls admitted from the Courts 139 girls during the year, April 1, 1968, to March 31, 1969. In this group there were 18 repeaters. An additional 35 were recalled from provisional release and some were only held for a few days, just to bring to their attention that provisional release did imply satisfactory behaviour. Eighty girls were charged with " unmanageability " and a further 14 with " unsatisfactory probation " following an original charge of " unmanageability." Other charges ranged from " impaired driving " to " obstructing a police officer by using obscene language."

This has been a good year at Willingdon School with a few highlights in the programme, more spontaneous participation in activities by the girls, and greater awareness of the girls' problems and needs on the part of child care staff.

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

At Parksville, in June, six girls joined six boys from Brannan Lake to discuss their problems, thoughts, and ambitions with the Honourable Dan Campbell, the Deputy Minister, and other senior staff members of the Department of Social Welfare. This was an exceptional experience for those taking part and an expression to our total population of the genuine interest of adults in their thinking and outlook. This was followed by a " live in " at the School by the Honourable Isabel Dawson and frequently friendly visits to the girls since. These " happenings " have left little doubt in the girls' minds of the real desire on the part of the adults they meet at, and through Willingdon, to do all possible to bridge the communication gap.

A folk-singing group was formed by the girls on their own. The " pay-off " came when they were invited to perform at the Sunday Flower Festival in July at the Kitsilano Show Boat to an audience of several hundred citizens.

Six girls went to Wilderness Camp; the benefits of this experience have been hard to assess. After this camp finished we admitted five other girls who had also had this camp experience. As well as the regular holiday week-ends out, during the summer the girls all got away for picnics and visits to the Pacific National Exhibition. Twelve girls went to the opera *Faust,* and we plan to send a group to future performances of this nature. On the Women's Day of Prayer each year the girls join with girls around the world in a service with the Anglican Young People's worker as leader.

Our three school-teachers served an ever-changing population with girls returning to academic classes after months out of school. Many made remarkable progress. Art has been widely used in class and after school-hours by the teachers as a therapeutic process, and frequently recorded music plays quietly in the classroom as lessons and study progress in a relaxed atmosphere.

We were pleased to see in the British Columbia and Yukon Newsletter published by Indian Affairs Branch, three of our former native girls in the group of nine graduates from Vancouver Vocational School in a course for trained family aides. These girls returned to Vancouver from the far north to take upgrading, followed by this special course.

A change in the policy of the British Columbia Hairdressisg Association in November now makes it necessary for a student operator, after completing a thou-

sand hours of training, to gain a year's experience in a beauty salon before taking the Government examinations for her licence. So, the school now only prepares girls for the year's apprenticeship and can no longer graduate them as qualified hairdressers.

Our Sewing Department continues a valuable resource for the girls who are not academically inclined but have lots of manual dexterity waiting to be developed and trained.

Services from Mental Health have been minimal, with the psychiatrist from the Burnaby Clinic spending one half-day a month at the school on a consultative basis and seeing a small number of girls. Assessments at the Clinic have been done by social workers and are of limited value since they do not know the child.

Our volunteers continue their faithful and valuable work with the girls. This year the Elizabeth Fry Society has recruited a group of young university girls for visitors with excellent results. They also now admit Willingdon girls to their group homes and their social worker keeps a close liaison with the school case-work supervisor.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

In April, 1968, Dr. D. Susan Butt, Canadian Welfare Council and Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia, did a group-personality testing of our population for a " Study of Socialization," and discussed the individual results with the school social workers. This was both helpful and interesting.

STAFF

Four masters-degree students (three male and one female) joined us from September to April for their " practicum." All were group workers and carried out group counselling using discussion and activities with the cottage groups. They worked in close co-operation with the school social workers and child care staff and, as they learned, so did they enrich our programme.

A staff-training programme was started for our child care staff. The staff who participated gained insight, not just into the girls' behaviour but also into their own feelings.

COMMENTS

Some of the pleasure of life at Willingdon School was marred by irresponsible and unwarranted criticism organized by one of the new social service organizations through the media of television and radio. While this has undone some of the work that has been put into changing the public image of the institution from " reform " to " training, treatment, and loving care " it also brought forth a deeper sense of responsibility from girls both past and present and a healthy expression of their loyalty to staff and school.

" New social agencies " in the community provide ready shelter, food, and a sympathetic subjective ear for the run-aways of the Vancouver area. For the average child to run away from the institution or own home is a lark and a chance to sample life as a hippie for a few days. The seriously disturbed girls from Willingdon who used to run away and immediately go to the home of a family friend or one of the school staff are now being kept by these new agencies who apparently have no use for the older, established services or the parents and who make false

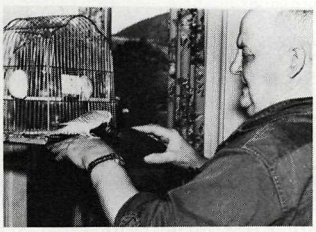
promises which they cannot carry out about finding other resources, etc. The availability of marijuana and hallucinogenic drugs such as L.S.D. and Speed (prescription drugs taken in overdoses) causes us great concern, particularly when girls who have had no previous experience are given the chance to experiment when in contact with undesirable elements. In the institution we meet with greater impact the many problems of a variety of communities.

Perhaps, however, the results of this group-living institutional programme can best be measured by the numbers of former girls now living happy, successful lives, who write, telephone, and visit, bringing husband and children and regularly keep in touch with their favourite staff.

provincial home reports . . .

G. P. WILLIE, *Superintendent*

The Home at Kamloops.



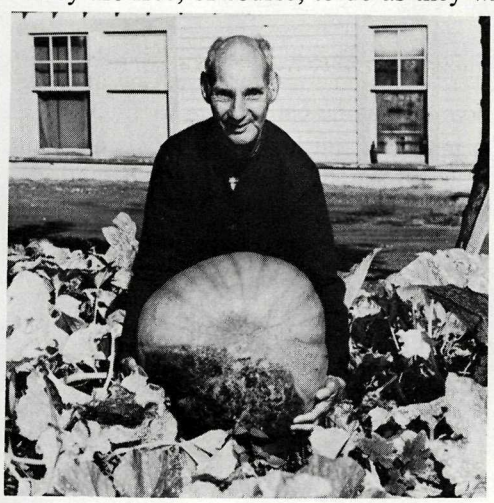
Pets add a homey touch.

Twenty-five more men are staying with us, with 144 now resident in the Home. While most of our guests are in the autumn of their lives, younger men, because of failing health, are joining us. With all their material needs met and the opportunity to share experiences with others of common interest, the Home is a happy place to live.

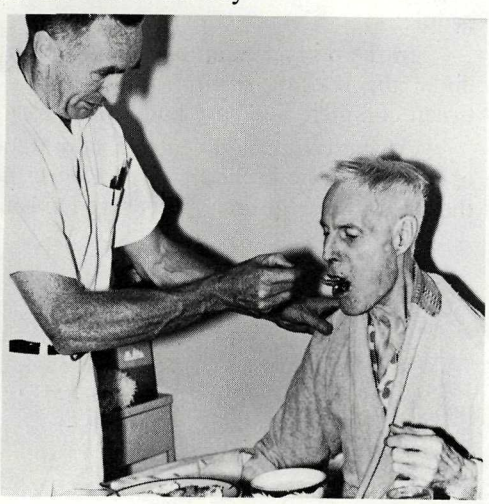
The community of Kamloops has also been kind, taking residents for drives, outings, and into their homes.

We now have a much more complete programme of health services, including an activation programme organized by the physiotherapist, regular medical check-ups, and better treatment and care facilities in our sick ward. A new development is the increasing use of the Home by the medical community to care for men who require minimal care for short periods on an emergency basis. Later, some leave for their homes, others apply for permanent residency.

Ever wondered how their day is arranged? Here's the time-table: They are awakened at 6.45, breakfast at 7.50, coffee at 10, lunch at 11.50, supper at 4.50, evening snack at 8, lights out at 10. They are free, of course, to do as they wish the rest of the day.



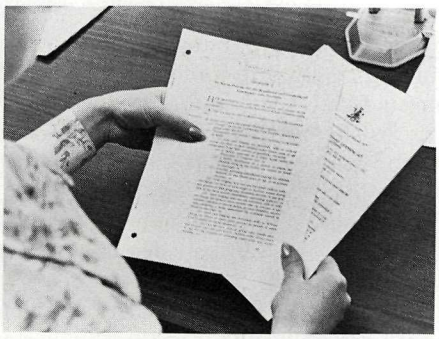
Gardeners are welcome.



Serving senior citizens.

welfare institutions licensing division reports . . .

C. W. GORBY, *Chief Inspector*



Midway through the year the Division suffered the loss of its Chief Inspector, Mr. A. A. Ship. My appointment as Chief Inspector took effect on October 1, 1968.

We began in 1968 a much-needed revision and renaming of the *Welfare Institutions Licensing Act.* A new title, *Community Care Facilities Licensing Act* was proposed for presentation to the 1969 Session. The close contacts with senior people in regard to the new legislation required that the Chief Inspector remain in Victoria. The Vancouver office operated under its senior supervisor, to whom it was necessary to grant increased responsibility.

During 1968 there was a steady increase in day-care services to children, and there evolved several new sub-services, all requiring regulation.

During the year, private investment initiated several plans to build modern accommodation for elderly people in the Vancouver area. A few of these facilities were to be built for elderly persons of limited income as non-profit enterprises, under the *Elderly Citizens' Housing Aid Act.* Inquiries indicated that further developments would take place in the Lower Mainland and other large population centres.

Two parallel and perhaps complementary trends became apparent in 1968. Because of the development of Government-sponsored extended-care facilities under British Columbia Hospital Insurance, many private hospitals applied to become licensed, in whole or in part, to provide boarding services for ambulatory elderly people.

In the readjustment between extended-care services and those services provided under the *Welfare Institutions Licensing Act,* the need for a new service area between complete bed care and ambulatory boarding-home care began to emerge.

At the conclusion of 1968 new trends in the establishment and diversification of services to both children and elderly people forecast increasing responsibility for the Welfare Institutions Licensing Division.

new denver youth centre reports . . .

W. J. SCOTT, *Superintendent*

New Denver Youth Centre was opened in the fall of 1965 as a residential resource for the emotionally disturbed teen-age boy. The Department of Public Works has had a continuing programme of remodelling the buildings to accommodate a total of 32 boys in four cottages of eight boys each. We are extremely grateful for the outstanding co-operation received from the Department of Public Works during this period of renovation.

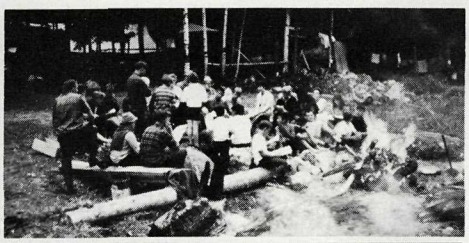
OUR PHILOSOPHY

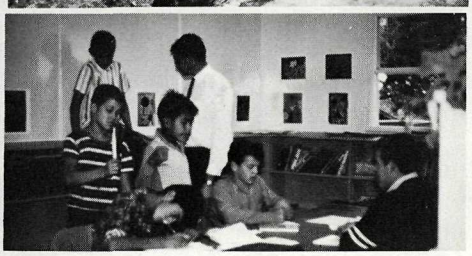
It is our belief that the young teen-age boy with special behaviour problems needs effective adult control over his life within a stable family-type living-unit. This control must be non-punitive and non-rejecting. He then feels a greater acceptance of himself as a person, and is more prepared to learn new skills in living. These are provided him through more-effective living habits, education, recreation, and individual therapy.

OUR PURPOSE

1. To provide a home for the boy where he can live in some stability in spite of his problems. In doing this the Centre protects the boy from himself as well as protecting the community from the effects of his problems.
2. To provide the boy with as many typical life situations as possible so that the staff can observe his problems of adjustment on a realistic level.
3. To provide a way of living that will enable the boy to work through his problems of adjustment.
4. To provide special services to help the boy cope with his problems, and to build up particular deficiencies that he may have.

OUR FACILITIES AND PROGRAMME





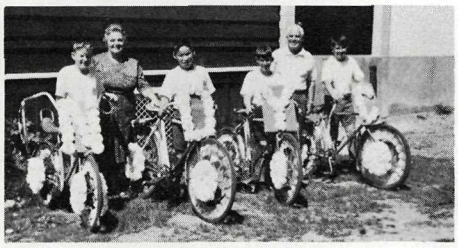
The Setting.—Located on Slocan Lake, which is nestled in towering mountains in the Kootenays. Outdoor opportunities include swimming, boating, camping, ski-ing, fishing, etc.

Family Life.—The family group is the foundation unit of life for the boys. Eight boys live in each cottage with a man and a woman team on duty at all times as houseparents. The boys are helped to learn new adjustments during the stresses of their daily life.

Education.—Two classrooms, both of them staffed with a teacher and a teaching assistant, with up to 12 boys in each, provide remedial and individual education. Ten boys who have made

Lunchtime.

Sports.



Community Activity.

sufficient adjustment are able to attend the local junior-senior secondary school. A fully equipped work-shop within the Centre teaches woodwork to the local secondary school as well as the boys in residence.

Recreation.—Numerous facilities are available in the cottages, as well as the workshop, gymnasium, craftroom, lounge, and games room. The immediate lakeshore offers great scope. Various activities in the local community are used, as well as the immediately available out-of-doors. Special emphasis is placed on work projects, such as building the waterfront.

Summer Camp.—A three-weeks camp was operated during the summer. Some 25 boys from around the Province attended with boys from the Centre. The camp period was used to assess the new boys for future admissions.

Individual Work.—The social work method is used for work with the individual boys and their problems. Psychiatric consultations were held periodically throughout the year. Individual boys received further assessment and intensive treatment in a clinical setting on the recommendation of the visiting consultants.

OUR RECORD

At the first of April, 1968, we had 24 boys in residence. There were 14 new admissions during the year and eight boys were discharged.

The eight discharges were made up as follows:—

To parents or former foster parents	5
To intensive-treatment units	2
To Brannan Lake School via Juvenile Court	1

At the request of the New Denver District Office of our Department we provided a home for a boy for a seven-week period while a suitable foster home was being found.

In the course of the year there were seven cases of boys absconding. One boy accounted for two of these. In another case the boy ran away from his own home during a summer visit. As far as is known there were no cases of damage to either public or private property.

One of the boys who was discharged during the summer to a former foster home made a request at short notice to spend Christmas with us because, as he put it, the two previous Christmases in the Youth Centre were the happiest he could remember. In granting his request we no doubt made his Christmas, but he little knew how much his request had contributed to make Christmas for all our staff.

region 1 reports . . .

J. A. MOLLBERG, *Regional Director*

Region 1 encompasses the capital city of the Province on the south, as well as fishing, logging, and mining, expanding from one end of the Island to the other. It can be compared to a Province of British Columbia in miniature, with a metropolitan centre in the south and new horizons opening up in the north. These exciting developments are responsible for a marked increase in population and case loads. The school population of Vancouver Island increased by 18.5 per cent, while the school population for all of British Columbia increased by 3.3 per cent. The total population of the Province and Vancouver Island would have also increased proportionately. From this it is apparent that Vancouver Island is one of the fastest-growing regions in the Province. Total case loads have only increased by 9.6 per cent, however, Social Allowance families have increased by 31 per cent and single people by 20 per cent. The reduced case load can be accounted for by the decrease in Old-age Assistance recipients, while the increase in Social Allowance confirms that industrial and population expansion brings a corresponding increase in social problems.

During the year a new office was opened in Parksville and a worker added to the Campbell River staff. This has increased service at the local level. The northern end of the Island is booming and a further expansion of offices will be necessary. Because of the increase in population and social problems, our staff have been under considerable pressure and an increase is required as soon as possible.

A developing problem is the migration of our Indian population from the north and west portion of the Island to Port Alberni and Victoria. These people are facing a critical housing shortage as well as problems in adaptation to a new cultural way of life. It is becoming more and more apparent that total health, education, and welfare services to Indians will have to be assumed by the Provincial Government in order to attack some of the basic causes of social problems and to implement some preventive programmes.

Housing remains one of the most critical problems within the region. Home ownership is now out of reach of many wage earners and impossible for Social Allowance recipients. We require additional subsidized housing. Possible solutions include a reduction in interest rates on mortgages and Provincial and municipal Governments developing fully serviced building lots for sale to the general public at a reasonable cost to reduce the present speculative, inflationary cost of land. The above suggestions could not only create more housing for all economic levels of society but help create necessary employment.

Our rehabilitation committee has continued to function on the Island and we have been active sending people for further education to help in their rehabilitation. A community-sponsored counselling bureau was established in Nanaimo and is performing a worthy and useful function in the community.

As a new arrival in the region, I would like to thank all staff for their sincere co-operation and help. I would also like to thank the many interested community groups who have helped to meet the needs of the people in Region 1.

region 2 reports . . .

W. J. CAMOZZI, *Regional Director*

I wish that "figures spoke for themselves," then there would be no need for annual reports. Certainly there has been an increase in volume and the flow has been enormous.

These numbers have been handled with increased sophistication as projects develop and communities move to look after proven needs. In Vancouver, our predictions as to the utilization of a large hostel have been proven far beyond our expectations. Although there are many specialized housing projects under way and opened, there seems to be no way the lower-income group, on or off assistance, can hope to have private housing within their means.

Children with problems increase in numbers, in mobility, and in the intensity and variation of difficulties. There have been great efforts to meet these phenomena by all the agencies and all are reaching out to get problems early with services and facilities to avoid greater problems later. In contiguous areas like the North Shore (population now around 140,000), project workers hired by the municipalities, together with rehabilitative committees, join to solve problems that cross boundaries. This same feeling of co-operation maintains in the New Westminster, Coquitlam, and Delta areas.

Elected representatives are more and more interested in welfare developments and spend greater proportions of their time with this concern and have gained appropriations for greater service in their communities. Burnaby and local Elks and Lions Clubs shared with the Province to start the building of two "family group homes" for children aged from 12 to 17. This is a natural development for children that is worthy of study and emulation for others. While writing with emulation it would be great if appropriate municipalities would try to secure something like the Receiving/Remand Home in Richmond. It would take some effort to organize, but it really pays off in the long run.

The adoption project in New Westminster is very successful and the group method of processing adoption applications is being applied here and in other offices in the region.

Municipalities have shown leadership in the "meals-on-wheels" idea that, with the help of Civil Defence and vocational schools, has worked well in Vancouver, New Westminster, and on the North Shore.

There has been an increase in facilities for the retarded under private sponsorship. Examples are the Ladner Farm Training School, sponsored by the Variety Club, and the Association for Retarded Children, which enlarged its training facilities and opened a home to care for children for a short stay, to give parents relief.

It also opened a unit in Burnaby and contemplates similar services on the North Shore. The Province has actively participated in this. Mention must be made of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hutson who, working out of Ryerson United Church, and with no public support, gave a marvellous " breather " service by looking after retarded children, allowing the mothers a day free.

Well-established agencies such as Vancouver's Central City Mission have seen the need to change traditional roles and to shift emphasis so that a differentiated service goes out to young people, and a more individualized approach is developing toward the traditional clientele in the skid row, recognizing that some are beyond redemption and simply must be housed and fed. Other services range up to those who with treatment can be useful and happier citizens. This approach is part of the " Inner City Project " in which the churches have taken a major part to provide " drop-in " off-street protection from the rain if nothing else, as well as counselling and support by graduate and undergraduate volunteers from the universities' humanity faculties.

The Foster Parents' Conference, with delegates from most of the Province in December, 1968, was a success.

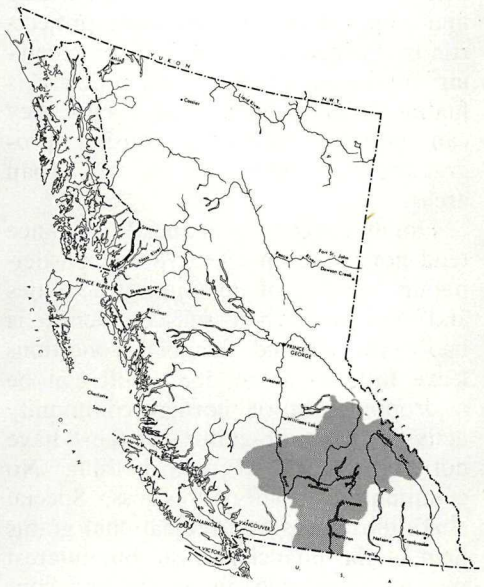
Programmes for upgrading, retraining, and rehabilitation of Social Allowance recipients have increased at a great rate. I am convinced, however, that education is not our business. The great demand from people for help in this regard, the number of judgments that have to be made, the special pleading, all tend to vitiate what was meant to be a mere pilot endeavour.

Administrative detail increases and efficiency decreases (at a geometric rate as more value judgments are made), and good programmes can be lost if they are specialized (as education is) and have to be handled with the regular housework of the Department. It's time we decided what that housework is. In any case it has not been so promulgated, understood, or stream-lined that other superstructures can be erected upon it and handled with aplomb or economy.

Congratulations to all of us in this work. There is nothing much more exciting than to realize that some good can come from our individual efforts and that the opportunity for greater service is there for the taking.

region 3 reports . . .

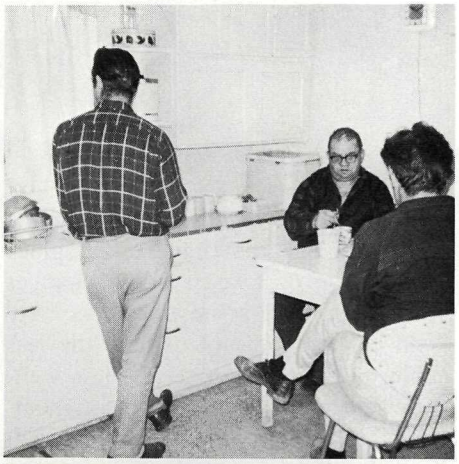
G. A. REED, *Regional Director*



This report highlights some of the developments that have taken place during the past year; some changes that occurred; some of the activity and concern of staff to help the less able, the less fortunate, the less well-adjusted, and more-troubled members of our communities. It will reveal some of our involvement and partnership with many in the community who give leadership and concern for others. The technological explosion of the space age has not eliminated the importance of people to each other. This has awakened interest in communities to know their " people " problems and to be constructively involved. Much of our concern in the future must be with the deprived and disassociated groups in our communities and to help them contribute through involvement, rather than opting out. In our service to them and in our work with communities we must seek ways of integrating them into the social and economic life of the community so that their life and that of the community is enriched. We think of special groups we try to serve—the aged and disabled, the unhappy family, the separated family, the economically deprived family, the separated child and young adult. The special resources developed or developing within this region, while having much merit within themselves, will be of little value if they separate these groups from the community, or if they are inadequate or insufficient to meet existing and changing needs.

Our case loads and costs changed very little. The total case load for all categories of service decreased slightly, while costs in financial assistance increased slightly. The latter is partly due to special allowances for children. This is especially significant in view of the population and economic growth. The turnover figures of a monthly average of 1,747 cases opened and 1,738 cases closed indicates an approximate increase of 9 per cent from the previous year and attests to the activity and concern of staff in helping others help themselves. In our concern to help those who can be usefully employed, we have enjoyed excellent co-operation and assistance from Canada Manpower, community-based rehabilitation committees, and we look forward to the added resource of the Provincial Alliance for Businessmen next year.

Hostels have been of great assistance in meeting some of the needs of transient persons. With new premises, the Kamloops Hostel can accommodate 35 persons



daily and many, with the assistance of their part-time social worker, found temporary employment. Howard House in Vernon sponsored by the John Howard Society provided a similar service.

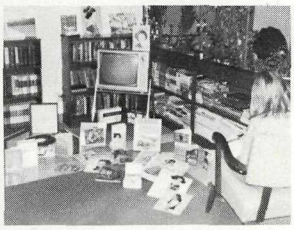
In addition they developed a " self-help " programme wherein transients find employment through work projects run by themselves. For families receiving assistance, an increasing problem is finding suitable housing at a cost they can afford. Low-cost housing programmes are indicated in the urban areas.

Families receiving financial assistance tend not to be an effective and participating member of community activities and groups. When self-confidence is badly shaken and financial conditions leave little to spare, the result can be a dropping-out of normal community activities to a sub-culture of the " have not " or " deprived " or to nothing. No community can afford this loss. Special child allowances and recreational grants help in the financial sense, but interest must be developed on all sides. In this area we sponsored financially and contributed our interest and help, along with the Health and Welfare Association, to an " Idea Exchange Class " through the Adult Education programme in Penticton. In this group, young separated mothers met as a group while their children attended play-school organized by a community group. With leadership, they exchanged ideas on home management, budgeting, child care, and relearned skills in communicating with others. In turn, mothers participated in the play-school programme and gained insights which would increase their effectiveness with their children. Much was learned about community resources such as the public library, which could be joined without cost, and how to select books. Many had had no experience on this and lacking self-confidence, feared to venture forth.

We continue our concern of the previous report about the rate of admission of children to care, especially in particular cases. Our main resource for substitute parental care has been the foster-home programme, enjoying the devoted service of many families that open their hearts and homes to children needing this care. They are a major part of the " unsung heroes " that represent community concern for others. The Foster Parent Recognition Banquet in Penticton in November, 1968, acknowledged the contribution they have made. The Foster Parent Association shared this activity with us and developed the FAN

motif on the programme, which represented the link between foster, adoptive, and natural parents. This interest and activity of foster parents has led to the establishment of local associations in Lillooet, Vernon, Salmon Arm, and Revelstoke. All major centres in the region now have local associations. The Regional Foster Parent Association held a workshop at the Naramata Centre for Continuing Education, at which foster parents, foster children, and social workers spent a week-end in mutual exploration of how we can help each other and improve service. In Lillooet, the Association has nearly completed a manual by foster parents for foster parents.

The area of community-sponsored group-care facilities for children with special needs shows development. Group-living homes, particularly for teen-agers, have or are developing in Lillooet, Kamloops, Revelstoke, Golden, Vernon, Kelowna, and Penticton. Some will be a receiving home to be shared with the Probation Department for children before Court. The end of the fiscal year saw the formation of the Human Resources Society in Penticton, whose purpose is to develop child-care resources and community-based family and children's services programmes aimed at involving the total community in preventive services to troubled families and children.



New Family Court committees have developed in Salmon Arm and Revelstoke. Another special resource is Marion Hillard Home for Unmarried Mothers at Kamloops, sponsored by the Anglican Church. In its two years of operation, 100 girls have been in residence. This has required additional placement resources for babies pending permanent planning through adoption.

Finding suitable resources for the elderly, who through infirmity or illness cannot care for themselves, has been of major concern to staff. There is increasing need for facilities for those who need partial bed care or personal services and supervision above that of room and board. Facilities for this group will delay the need for complete bed care. In Kelowna, a Volunteer Recreational Services programme has been initiated and has provided activity and interests for those in boarding and nursing care. In Kamloops, Thrupp Manor, a non-profit community-supported boarding-home for the elderly, opened in May, 1968, for 54 persons. This received a grant from the *Elderly Citizens' Housing Aid Act.* We have also helped community groups establish a " meals-on-wheels " service for the elderly in Penticton, Kelowna, and Kamloops.

Each of the four main centres now have directories or inventories of services to people within the community which we have helped prepare. In Kelowna, we participated in the formation of the Central Okanagan Community Social Planning

Council, whose purpose is to improve conditions of community life. A similar organization is developing in Vernon.

We have also sought greater utilization of existing resources within communities that can assist in our programme of service to people. We have sponsored and participated, along with Probation Services and school counsellors, two group sessions at Naramata involving disturbed young people. In Kamloops the Boys' Club and the Y.W.C.A. initiated a summer day-camp programme in which many children of families receiving Social Allowance participated as a result of the recreational grant to families.

In March, 1969, we held a three-day regional staff development with focus on understanding youth today. Fifteen youths from the Anglican Church Sorrento Training Centre participated with us. These youths greatly stimulated our staff to a renewed appreciation of them as persons and the problems they face in society today.

During the year, meetings were held throughout the region of senior representatives of other Government departments primarily concerned with human resources. The main focus was the examination of the non-achievers in the school system who could be those requiring direct services in future years.

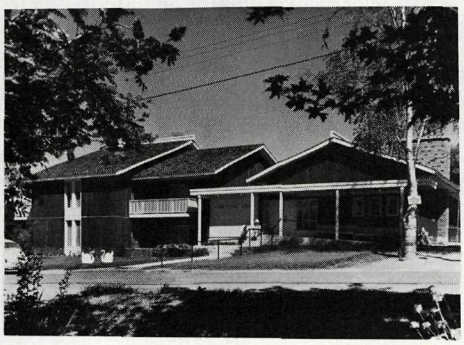
The emphasis in this report has been our greater involvement with the communities we serve. We have appreciated the interest, concern, and help of many community persons, and to them we express our thanks. Our progress is due to the conscientious and dedicated effort of Provincial and municipal staff, and their effort, activity, and creative energy is greatly appreciated.

region 4 reports . . .

W. H. CROSSLEY, *Regional Director*

Changes in population, both in numbers and age-groupings, have been a dynamic factor in " forcing " change in the region. These are complicated by new, different attitudes in sections of the younger population toward education, society, and families.

Throughout the region there is an increasing number of senior citizens requiring care out of their home, such as boarding-home, intermediate, and extended care, or else adequate accommodation at a reasonable rate. Creston notably is a retirement area, on a small scale similar to the Sechelt Peninsula for the Greater Vancouver area. There is a particular problem in areas with a long-standing Doukhobor population where the percentage of older folk who came in immigration waves around the turn of the century is high.



The challenge is to provide facilities —the response from communities is encouraging and wide-spread. In Creston, a non-profit society was formed and approved for a grant under the *Elderly Citizens' Housing Aid Act,* and a 38-bed boarding-home, Swan Valley Lodge, opened September 16th. In Grand Forks, a similar society has been approved to build a 30-bed boarding-home. The plans are approved, so work should commence in the forthcoming year. The Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, jointly in Trail, have now been actively working toward a 54-bed boarding-home. In this instance the City of Trail and the Regional Government of West Kootenay aided considerably. The old buildings have been cleared from the site and tenders called.

Three communities, Castlegar, Nakusp, and Cranbrook, are active in planning or building low-rent apartment complexes for senior citizens. The Rotary Club is sponsoring a 12-unit one in Castlegar and opened a larger one in Cranbrook this year. In Nakusp, a society formed jointly by the Rotary Club and Senior Citizens Group, was actively moving toward approval for a 10-unit complex.

" Meals-on-wheels " service became available to the senior citizens of Nelson. They serve three hot meals a week to an average of 17 senior citizens. Reasonably priced meals are prepared at Mount St. Francis, and all driving and delivery is done

by volunteers. This service is pleasant and preventive, and was sponsored and started by the Nelson Homemakers Society.

New extended-care beds in Cranbrook and those planned for Trail will help our staff better aid disabled persons who can no longer remain at home.

Another noticeable population change affecting all offices in the region with greatest impact in Trail, Nelson, and Cranbrook has been an increase in the 13- to 20-year age-group needing service. In fact, a very high percentage of children admitted to care in Trail this year has been in the teen-group. Selkirk College at Castlegar, Notre Dame University, the British Columbia Vocational School, and Kootenay School of Art in Nelson are, of course, helpful, but they attract young people to the area who are restless in the communities which lack social outlets for them. Their modern outlook and in some cases " hippy " ways have caused concern because of an attendant incipient drug problem. Unfortunately, this most affects not the students themselves but younger copiers unequipped to cope, such as marginal secondary-school students, school drop-outs, or youngsters in conflict at home or in society. The community has looked to us for leadership in meeting this problem. We are faced with a challenge in offering it, since we must go beyond our comfortable, traditional role.

In the Trail area a new pilot project was initiated to help teen-agers. It offered prevention and treatment, a rare combination. In co-operation with Grant McKeen, Executive Director of Youth Resources from Vancouver, our Special Placements Section, and the Trail office personnel a series of three week-end camps were held in the spring at a camp donated by the Girl Guide Association. Each camp went from Friday night until late Sunday afternoon. Every camp was made up of the same group of 17 youngsters, from 12½ to 17, 10 girls and 7 boys. There were six children from Social Allowance families, two from Probation, and the rest wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare. They were all socially accident-prone. The camp made use of volunteers from different sections of the community, as well as Trail staff and Youth Resources excellent staff. Much was learned and we are firmly committed to the expansion of the programme next year. This typifies our increasing belief in this region that, except for unusual situations, little is accomplished in sending children out to expensive treatment resources where liaison with our staff, relationships, and on-going treatment with families or co-ordinated training with foster parents cannot be firmly maintained. Does it help a child to change him but leave his return environment as is? We must develop local alternatives and resources.

In January the Nelson and District Child Care Society, after several years' hard work and great community support, opened the Wesley Black Child Care Home, a receiving and observation home for eight children, ages 6 to 15. The home was named after the Hon. Provincial Secretary, due to his unflagging help and interest. Such a home for different age-groups is basic to our programme and needed in each large community in Region 4. In Trail, the Knights of Columbus have formed a committee to start on the development of such a resource.

A tremendous step forward in acquiring knowledge about social needs was made in September with the completion of the first half of the Community Welfare Re-

sources Development Project. This Federally shared project employed a master's degree student aided in the final months by two talented staff members in between university terms. In brief, the project catalogued existing resources, measured their utilization, and determined the need for resources as seen by our staff in each office and by a cross-section of professional and semi-professional people in the larger communities in the region. In one town we were also able to include a client sample for their ideas. The results are helpful to us for future planning and guidance in community work.

Another population and economic growth which affected our work took place in the East Kootenay, first in the Cranbrook area due to pulp-mill construction which led to increased population and a transient labour influx, and then in the Fernie area as a result of the Kaiser Coal developments. Unfortunately, the work for unskilled, non-union men was largely illusory. As a result, Cranbrook and Fernie offices were under heavy pressure. The escalation in rentals in Fernie worked a hardship on our fixed-income portion of the case load.

In Fernie we were forced to move office space due to a large company renting our cramped office space at a rent we had no desire to compete with. We were more than lucky to obtain more attractive, efficient space at a reasonable rental. Office Administration Division installed a streamlined accounting system and file-control method. This has enabled the staff to cope with the rising load to date. This system was installed in Grand Forks office in the same week. It is our aim to have it in every office next year.

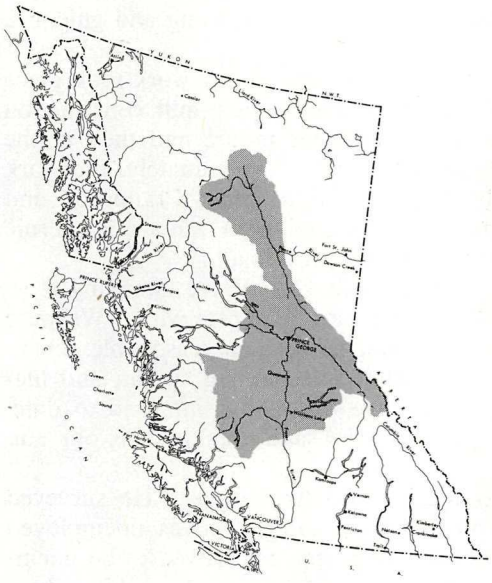
In the summer an extra worker was available in Cranbrook. He surveyed over 120 single men in our case load who had been categorized as unemployed employables on intake. These men, when thoroughly studied, proved to be unemployable due to health, age, a social functioning, lack of education or skill. In a sense they were employable, but realistically no employer with a choice would hire them. There were 30 who would be really employable and another few who might be rehabilitated. Do we in pressured offices give a false statistical picture this way? I think we do.

In summary, total numbers in our case loads have not increased greatly, but the shift in cases is significant. Our pension case loads have decreased due to changed Federal programmes, but cases requiring much social work time have increased. There is a growing demand and need for community involvement. Our project showed that this fell most heavily on the District Supervisors or experienced workers. The trend to a sharing with community groups in tackling mutual problems is good, but we will have to refine techniques, improve communication, and make more staff time available to meet this exciting challenge.

So many groups, individuals, and fellow professionals have co-operated fully with us that our task in trying to fulfil a changing, sometimes confusing new role as a Department and as individual social workers has been lightened.

region 5 reports . . .

V. H. DALLAMORE, *Regional Director*



During this fiscal year the rate of population increase in Region 5 slowed down according to estimate, but our case loads continued to increase at a disturbing rate. The total case load on March 31, 1969, was 5,848, an increase of 16.6 per cent over the total of 5,012 which existed one year earlier.

In general, the enlargement of the case load was continuous, the year-end total being the greatest of the monthly figures for the year.

The major area of change was in the Social Assistance case load. This category of service increased from 2,742 to 3,568, a disturbing 30.1 per cent. This particular area of service grew to 61 per cent of the total case load, compared with 54.7 per cent at the beginning of the year.

A feature of this change was the shift toward the Prince George District. There the increase amounted to 746 cases, whereas in Quesnel it was 103, and in Williams Lake 31. In Vanderhoof the case load total decreased by 44. The Prince George case load amounted to 61 per cent of the total for the region on March 31, 1969. One year earlier it occupied 55.7 per cent of the regional total.

Our statistics reflect the growth of the City of Prince George as an urban centre participating in the long-lived shift of population from the smaller communities and rural areas. It is estimated that the population increased approximately 5 per cent in the year. Many of the newcomers have come to stay, but also many are transient visitors.

Transiency contributes to the rather substantial numbers of short-term assistance cases. In Prince George there are between 300 and 400 new applications for service each month. The Hostel for transient single men, with a capacity of 44, is regularly unable to provide for those needing its type of accommodation. The overflow has been mostly accommodated by the Salvation Army's Harbour Lights, up to a high in January of 548 man-days.

Although the economy in general has stabilized with more industry functioning on a steady year-round basis, the weather causes periodic unemployment. This year a delayed break-up caused some unemployment in the spring and a continued period of severely cold weather added to it in the winter. Logging and construction were the hardest-hit industries.

Development was most significant in the Fort St. James area of the Vanderhoof District. Work proceeded on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and the spur line to Fort St. James was officially opened in the summer. Development at Pinchi Mine and work in mining and construction of housing provided much employment.

Fort St. James and the surrounding area occupies one social worker full time, and it seems likely that a separate office will have to be opened there soon.

Williams Lake enjoyed a generally good economy and there was particularly substantial activity in building. In the 100 Mile House area of the Williams Lake District, work on a large land-development scheme provided many jobs.

Child Welfare services changed very little. Whereas the increase in the previous fiscal year amounted to 8.4 per cent, this year it was 1.3 per cent. The number of children in care actually decreased by nine to a total of 586, as compared to the rest of the Province, which increased slightly. This is a gratifying outcome of the determined efforts of heavily laden staff to improve the general standard of child welfare in the region.

The most frequent reason for admitting children to care was " desertion or abandonment." That reason ranked fifth in the Province as a whole. The second most-frequent reason for admission was " awaiting adoption placement." In the Province that reason ranked first.

The reasons for discharge were primarily for return " to parents or relatives " and, secondly, " apprehended but not presented," coinciding with the Province as a whole.

The significance of the reasons for both admissions and discharges, particularly " apprehended but not presented " lies in a community behaviour pattern of the area. Many children are deserted by their parents for a short period while a drinking bout is on. Most children are returned when their parents sober up.

Admissions to care pending adoption placement are largely related to illegitimate births. An increasing number of these are by women coming here from other areas but, nevertheless, births to local unmarried parents seem to be remaining high in number. We do not have accurate statistics about the number of unmarried parents we have served, as many are included in the Social Assistance statistics. However, the 58 unmarried parent cases included in the March 31, 1969, statistics for the region is more than double to 26 reported in the case-load statistics for March 31, 1968.

Family Service has increased slightly, from 210 to 226. This relates to casework in " own homes," forestalling the removal of children for placement in foster homes or helping families to continue to provide adequately for children returned to them.

An outstanding feature of the year was the increase in public awareness of welfare problems and steps taken to do somethin about them locally. Some examples follow:—

In Prince George the Community Welfare Council and the Resource Planning Board continued to examine needs, determine priorities, and encourage organizations concerned with health and welfare services in the local area.

The Prince George Receiving Home Society officially opened a receiving-home for children under 12 years of age, November 25, 1968. They went on with plans for a group-living home for boys and a group-living home for girls to be ready for occupancy in the fall of 1969. They also looked forward to erecting a receiving-home/reception centre for adolescents.

The Island Cache Project, started in August, 1968, as a demonstration of

community development in a specific community on the outskirts of the City of Prince George.

First steps were taken to organize a United Appeal to be operative in the fall of 1969.

In Quesnel, preliminary discussions took place about formation of a Community Welfare Council. Also broad community support of plans for a youth centre was forthcoming, while expansion of the senior citizens' facilities took place.

In Vanderhoof the Retarded Children's Association started to enlarge their services by erecting a residence to enable more out-of-town pupils to attend their school. They received broad community support and now expect to have this facility operate in 1970.

In Williams Lake the Community Welfare Council continued to meet and is giving thought to resource needs in the area. The Catholic Women's League give an annual drive to adoption-home finding by sponsoring a public meeting.

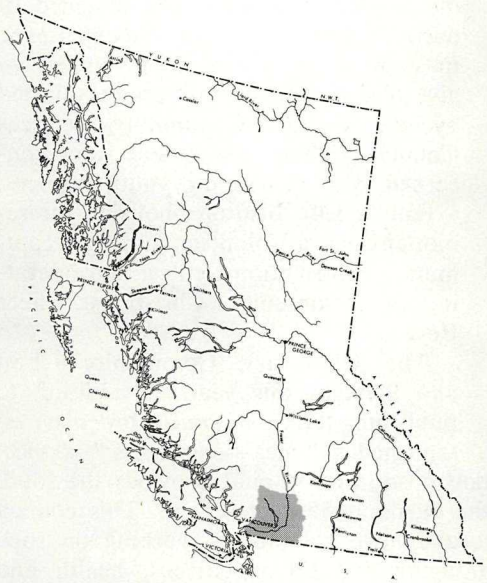
Needless to say, staff were deeply involved in these and other community development activities. The latter include the development of a Foster Parents' Association in Prince George, which has given much help in developing our foster-home programme. Group sessions for teen-agers were started in Prince George and in Williams Lake District.

In Prince George and Vanderhoof, prospect for more effectiveness in all areas of work came with the appointment of two District Supervisors in December, 1968. This broadened the establishment to three Supervisors resident in Prince George, with one of them travelling weekly to Vanderhoof.

In closing, I want to congratulate and thank staff for the job they have done. I also want to thank the many persons in the local communities who have contributed so much to the welfare programme in their areas.

region 6 reports . . .

A. E. BINGHAM, *Regional Director*



We serve a population of about 220,000, spread unevenly across 16 municipalities and unorganized area in the Fraser Valley.

We have been told that the Fraser Valley is one of the fastest-growing areas in Canada. At the same time this growth is taking place, rapid changes are occurring all about us. Changes in our value systems, our individual economic status, our goals, our geographic locations, our everything. Change is characterized by some degree of turbulence. One of the challenges faced by Social Welfare is to design and carry out relevant measures to meet the new areas of stress and deprivation caused by rapid social change.

Our services within the region have taken progressive steps in the past year.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

One of the trends, sparked by our Minister, is involvement of the community. There is a dynamic force in community involvement and we must increasingly call upon it if we are to experience real success in meeting the challenges of the 70's.

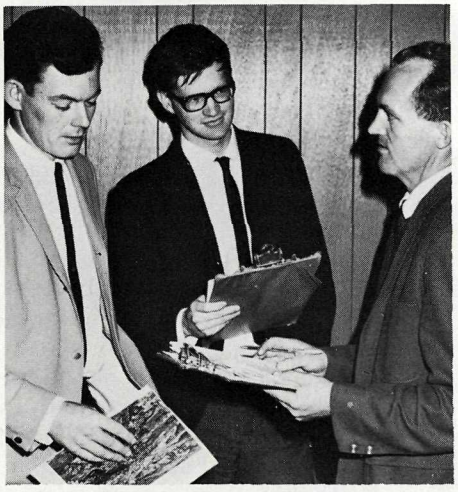
In Abbotsford, in part with Department stimulation and leadership, the Matsqui, Sumas, Abbotsford Community Services Council was formed. This council is specifically interested in health and welfare planning and action on a community basis.

The Chilliwack area is served by a similar council under the Chilliwack Community Chest and Services. Both of these councils resulted in increased citizen involvement and active participation of people with social concern.

For a variety of reasons, there are in each community many social and human needs that are not, and cannot be met by existing health and welfare services. These councils are seeking out unmet needs, establishing a list of priorities, and then attempting to develop a system

to meet them. In this way, citizens have a large and professional opportunity to participate in the solution of problems they feel are important.

Each of these organizations compiled and published a Directory of Community Services, and a Department grant was made to assist with the costs.



Two students in their master's year at the School of Social Work assigned to our Abbotsford office for field experience in community organization helped to give direction to committees established by the M.S.A. Community Services Council. These committees were concerned with developing youth services, a Family Life Institute, housing for senior citizens, a Volunteer Bureau, a community Information Centre, and operating a community Christmas Cheer Bureau.

The Chilliwack Community Chest and Services this year, in addition to publishing the *Community Directory,* established a " meals-on-wheels " service. The Soroptomists look after administration costs, the hospital provides the food, and the volunteer organizations deliver the meals at 55 cents each. This council also administers the Homemaker Service and have committees working on such things as recreation, corrections, youth, aging and senior citizens, health and rehabilitation, Volunteer Bureau, family and child welfare, community priorities, and United Appeal.

Surrey Social Service Department is to be congratulated on the appointment of a qualified, full-time community development worker.

USE OF GROUPS

We are making increasing use of group experiences to provide social services to individuals and families. This has unlocked new potentials to serve people in a space-age world. The groups were established through interest of our social workers, which led them to try various approaches. Different types of groups were formed and group structures were evolved according to different purposes, to provide information to prospective adopting parents, to provide support and enrichment experiences for one-parent families, and to provide socialization and counselling for children in group foster homes. For one-parent families and for children in group homes, we found it helped with personal problems and to reduce feelings of isolation.

Case Aides

An important occasion was the introduction of case aides. All human-service occupations face manpower shortages, and a case aide can relieve the caseworker of much of the financial fact-finding investigation, so that the social worker has more time to devote to those families in the case load requiring more time and skill.

MINI YOUTH CONFERENCE

A one-day " Mini Youth Conference " held in December was organized by Bob Stanbrook of the Chilliwack staff. It was attended by interested adults, social workers, group-home parents, and the young people from four group foster-homes.

A panel of young residents of group homes discussed topics such as " do we live in a pill-conscious world? " How do adults set examples for us as far as drugs, pills, and alcohol are concerned? Do school sex-education programmes help young people? They also discussed modern music, religion, the Department of Social Welfare, and the pros and cons of group homes.

ADULT EDUCATION

We are making increasing use of adult education resources in each community. One of the difficult problems is that of providing suitable upgrading for those unemployed, whose basic education is less than Grade X (which is usually necessary for entrance to vocational training courses at the British Columbia Vocational Schools). During the year under review, Adult Education in Surrey, along with Surrey Social Service Department and Manpower, set up a full-time five-month course for upgrading to Grade X. The first class of adults graduated in February. Twenty-two people graduated, of which 17 were Social Welfare referrals.

MISSION OFFICE

A district office was opened in Mission in June. This will make our services more available to the residents of Mission and area. Previously the service was provided from Abbotsford.

FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS

Two Foster Parent Associations were formed in the region, one at Haney and one at Abbotsford. They are educational and supportive in nature. They give foster parents an opportunity to share experiences within the groups, and enhance foster parents' ability to cope with difficult children and situations and better utilize agency services.

HOMEMAKER SERVICE

There are four community-based Homemaker Services organizations in this region, located in Langley, Chilliwack, Central Fraser Valley (Abbotsford and Mission), and Surrey, each receiving grants from the Department of Social Welfare, providing certain in-home services to help maintain and strengthen family life and safeguard the care of children and the functioning of dependent adults. The Surrey V.O.N. Homemaker Service extended to cover the City of White Rock. The White Rock Soroptomist Homemaker Society withdrew in June, 1968, after they had pioneered and demonstrated the need for the service. We appreciate their good work.

I wish to express my gratitude to those concerned people in the communities, men and women of Provincial and municipal staffs who have given the community and Government agencies such as Health, Education, Manpower, Probation and others, the news media for their ideas and practical help to our Senior Administration, who, by their concepts of decentralized decision-making, enabled us to be creative and innovative.

region 7 reports . . .

A. J. WRIGHT, *Regional Director*

Economic development in the region remained at an all-time high during the past year. Pulp-mill development accounted for the largest increase. Both Eurocan and Bulkley Valley started construction, resulting in an increase in population and job placement. These mills are located at Kitimat and Houston. This effected the economies of the neighbouring cities of Terrace and Smithers, where a corresponding increase in demand for services in the communities resulted. Unfortunately, Terrace was not as well prepared for this as was Smithers and a severe housing shortage resulted. It is anticipated that in the next two years a large increase in population will result in the central part of the region, which will result in an increase in the demand for services from this Department.

With a setback in the mining situation because of a strike in the Stewart area, the anticipated growth in this area did not materialize. Elsewhere in the region there was a continued production, which resulted in some stability. Prince Rupert fishermen continued to have a fairly good year with no interruptions, although there was some indication that some canneries would not open the following year. This caused concern among a large group dependent upon these canneries for their livelihood.

There was no significant increase in the staff complement during the past year. The case load increase was not to the extent anticipated, nor was it evident in all offices. Only small increases were noted in Terrace, Smithers, and Kitimat, where large increases were expected. Prince Rupert decreased and Burns Lake remained fairly constant. While service demands by clients in receipt of Social Allowance changed very little, there was a large increase in costs resulting when clients had to pay higher rents to retain accommodation. A severe winter resulted in a sharp increase in requests for assistance due to an unusual number of lay-offs and a shortage of fuel among those people in receipt of continuing assistance.

Because of the pulp-mill expansion, we also saw a large increase in the number of transient single people and families in search of employment. This caused a severe overloading at times on the two hostels in Terrace and Prince Rupert which were operating at times far in excess of their capacity. The influx of transients also resulted in the office in Smithers negotiating with a local hotel to open its doors to handle transient men.

With four Senior Citizens' Homes operating to capacity in Burns Lake, Smithers, Terrace, and Prince Rupert it became apparent that a second home in Prince Rupert was necessary. As a result negotiations were started in an effort to purchase

land and start the building of this second development. It is hoped this will be completed in 1970. A homemakers' group was also established in Prince Rupert, which has been of great value, particularly to the older population of that city.

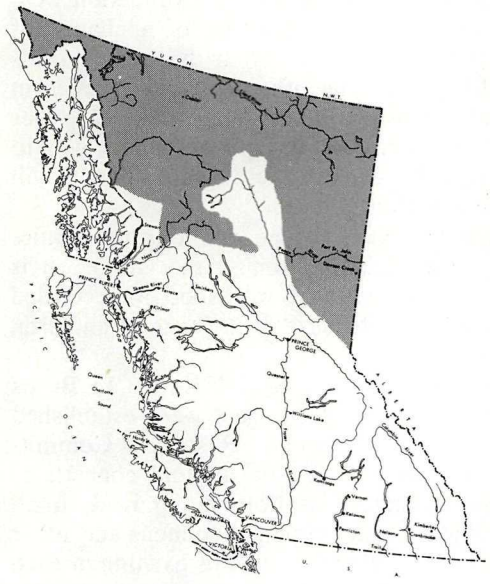
Child Welfare resources in the region continue to operate to full capacity and the need for further ones are evident. Applewhaite Hall for teen-age boys was filled to capacity after six months of operation and appears to be serving its function well. McCarthy House for girls has not done as well, chiefly because of a change of houseparents resulting in a move for the girls in residence from the home. It is hoped that the home will reopen later this year. The other receiving homes in Terrace and Hazelton are always full and perform a worth-while service to our younger citizens. In both Kitimat and Prince Rupert building is well under way to provide permanent foster homes. It is hoped that each of these establishments will provide a permanent home for eight of our children in care.

A notable development for the region has been the negotiations to acquire the Experimental Farm in Smithers by the Retarded Children's Association. It is hoped this farm can be developed to provide a sheltered workshop for retarded children whose parents are residents of the north. Because of its location and size, this will be a tremendous resource for these children.

Work with community groups occupied a good deal of staff time. In Burns Lake, Prince Rupert, and Smithers, coffee-houses for teen-agers were established and were well received by the teen-agers of each community. Resources Committees in Terrace and Kitimat continue to discuss problems of mutual concern to various organizations in the communities. Contact has been maintained in all municipalities with the Courts, Probation Officers, and municipal councils and other interested groups in an effort to focus attention on juvenile problems existing in each community. This has resulted in the formation of Juvenile Court Committees in most communities.

region 8 reports . . .

R. K. BUTLER, *Regional Director*



There have been a number of interesting changes and encouraging developments which have affected the demand for and the delivery of services in Region 8.

Unemployment remained a problem. The region showed a decrease in the number of employables applying for and obtaining Social Allowance. The opposite was true in the area served by the Dawson Creek District office, where there was a definite increase in unemployment. The economy of the South Peace River area has been affected by a 25 per cent reduction in the number of persons registered for employment, which is a direct result of the completion of the Peace River power project, and nothing to replace it. There was a sizeable decrease in the number of jobs available and an increase in the number of females registered for employment, which was an attempt by the women to supplement their husbands' reduction in wages which occurred when the power project was completed. The Fort St. John District showed a sizeable reduction in the number of employables granted assistance during the year. This area experienced a 20 per cent increase in its labour force, and double the number of job placements over the year. The greatest increase in the labour force and job placements occurred in Fort Nelson, which is explained by the increased mining activity. Most of the region continues to depend on seasonal employment. The City of Fort St. John increased its population with the incorporation of Aennofield on April 30, 1968.

Another important change in the region was the increase of 20 per cent in services to the one-parent Social Allowance group. Marital incompatibility resulting in family crisis and desertion is one of our major social problems. Severe hardships are created for the wives and the children because of economic and social changes in their family-life style. This area of our work has been the most time-consuming for our staff, and has pointed out the need for delivery of family service by our most experienced and knowledgeable staff and the need for preventive programmes. Prevention must entail education that counselling is available, so families will request services before complete breakdown occurs, better collaboration between the professional groups that have a specific service to offer, early detection of children presenting problems, and premarital counselling. That marital incompatibility is a major problem is further supported by our 34 per cent increase in the family-service category. A 5 per cent decrease in the number of children in care over the year was in part a result of the staff's emphasis on family service, prevention, and development of supportive services.

There were two factors that became vividly apparent while providing financial services. The first was the great indebtedness of an increased number of families applying for assistance, an indebtedness that gave no hope of resolution. Our social workers need to be better prepared in the area of debt counselling. The second factor was the increasing demand by Social Allowance recipients for academic upgrading and vocational training.

Over-all there was only an increase of nine cases in the region between March 31, 1968, and March 31, 1969.

Resource development and collaboration with other agencies and community groups has been most rewarding. We were fortunate in having a Manpower office opened in Fort St. John on April 10, 1968. Our referral system between Canada Manpower and ourselves is a positive and successful programme, resulting in a more-thorough assessment and a more-appropriate plan for our clientele. In Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, the Rehabilitation Committees' multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving and resource finding has benefited clients and increased understanding of the roles and philosophy of the various organizations involved. The latter, through the work of the Deputy Ministers' Interdepartmental Committee at the local level, resulted in defining areas of service gaps. Our relationship with the vocational school in Dawson Creek and our Adult Education Departments in the region have been most fruitful. The Adult Education Director in Dawson Creek was responsible for the development of a Basic Preparatory Course to upgrade individuals to the Grade X level to allow them to enter the vocational school system for further training. The number of persons applying for and being sponsored in training by Canada Manpower, Division of Rehabilitation, and ourselves has increased. Demands have been placed on staff to ensure the client taking training has the best possible chance to succeed.

The Open Door Society for retarded children, supported by the local Kinsmen Club in Dawson Creek, have been studying the feasibility of establishing a training workshop and assessment centre for the mentally, socially, and physically handicapped. The Nawican Indian Friendship Centre is continually improving its programme and increased its membership. It provides an excellent meeting place for the Indian people of the Peace River area. The Dawson Creek Homemaker's Association notices a greater proportion of its services utilized by non-clients. The Council of Women in Fort St. John expect to establish a Homemaker Association for their city in the coming year. In November, 1968, our group home for teen-age children in Dawson Creek, sponsored by the Dawson Creek Rotary Club, was completed, and the first children were admitted the next month. This is an excellent example of a number of groups and governments working together to meet the needs of our youth. The City of Dawson Creek was most helpful in the development of this group home and supporting the Homemaker Association, and their present project is the construction of subsidized housing units throughout the city. The Peace River Haven Society of Pouce Coupe continue their plans to develop boarding-home facilities for our senior citizens to be located in Pouce Coupe close to the 26-bed extended-care facilities of the Pouce Coupe Hospital, which officially opened on October 26, 1968. There is still a need for the development of day-care facilities throughout the region, particularly with the increase in one-parent families.

In June, 1968, a case aide joined the Dawson Creek District office, resulting in an improvement of our practical services to our clientele. In March, Dr. W. R. Duncan, Assistant Director of our Medical Services Division, conducted a workshop on the role and policies of our Department with respect to medical services. In May, Mr. John A. MacDonald, Assistant Professor of the School of Social Work,

University of British Columbia, led a regional institute on " Basic Law for Practising Social Workers." In November our regional staff-development conference was held in Dawson Creek, to which we invited the clients representing one-parent families, our Indian and Metis community, and parents and children experiencing conflict to discuss our programmes.

In the coming year we foresee a further stabilization of the economy throughout our region and continuing effort of our communities toward the establishment of resources to improve the social conditions of their people. It is with pride that I thank all the individuals, agencies, and groups throughout the region for their concern with identifying and alleviating social problems and for their co-operation with our Department.

LEGISLATION

ACTS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 111)

This Act establishes the Department of Social Welfare as having jurisdiction of all matters relating to social and public welfare and social assistance.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 360, as Amended)

The purpose of this Act and its regulations is to provide financial assistance and other services that are essential for a reasonably normal and healthy existence to individuals and families who are unable to maintain themselves by their own efforts.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 303, as Amended)

The purpose of this Act is to provide protection and care for children who are neglected, abused, abandoned, or without proper supervision or guardianship.

CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 52, as Amended)

This Act is to ensure that the interests of the mother and her child born out of wedlock are protected.

ADOPTION ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 4, as Amended)

The purpose of this Act is to provide the same rights and privileges for adopted children as those of children born to both parents in a family.

OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 270)

The purpose of this Act is to provide financial assistance to persons between 65 and 68 years of age who have limited assets or income.

DISABLED PERSONS' ALLOWANCES ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 113, as Amended)

This Act provides financial assistance to persons over 18 years of age who are totally and permanently disabled and who have limited assets or income.

BLIND PERSONS' ALLOWANCES ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 29, as Amended)

This Act provides financial assistance to blind persons over 18 years of age and who have limited assets or income.

TRAINING-SCHOOLS ACT
(1963, Chap. 50)

The purpose of this Act is to provide training, reformation, and rehabilitation of children committed to the training schools.

WELFARE INSTITUTIONS LICENSING ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 406, as Amended)

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that adequate standards of care and supervision are provided for persons who receive services from such institutions as boarding homes, orphanages, maternity homes, hostels, crèches, day-nurseries, play-schools, and kindergartens.

PROVINCIAL HOME ACT
(R.S.B.C. 1960, Chap. 307, as Amended)

The purpose of this Act is to provide care for persons who are unable to maintain themselves by their own efforts.

STATISTICAL REPORTS AND TABLES

A Statistical Report of the Department of Social Welfare's activities for the fiscal year 1968/69, to compare with activities reported in previous Annual Reports, is available on request from Division of Office Administration and Public Information, Department of Social Welfare, Parliament Buildings, Victoria.

TABLE 1.—COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF CASES BY CATEGORY OF SERVICE IN THE PROVINCE AS OF MARCH 31, 1968 AND 1969

Category	Cases at March 31st—		Minus or Plus Change	Minus or Plus Per Cent Change
	1968	1969		
Family Service	2,041	2,102	+61	+0.03
Social allowance—				
Single person	20,619	22,020	+1,401	+6.8
Couple	2,111	2,452	+341	+16.2
Two-parent family	6,417	7,150	+733	+11.4
One-parent family	8,463	10,191	+1,728	+20.4
Child with relative	951	1,127	+176	+18.5
Totals	38,561	42,940	+4,379	+11.4
Blind Persons' Allowance	607	574	−33	−5.7
Disabled Persons' Allowance	2,874	2,991	+117	+4.1
Old-age Assistance	4,974	3,985	−989	−24.8
Old Age Security	24,432	23,783	−649	−2.7
Adoption home pending	858	729	−129	−17.7
Adoption home approved	183	296	+113	+61.7
Child in adoption home	1,003	977	−26	−2.7
Foster home pending	1,051	942	−109	−11.6
Foster home approved	2,865	2,937	+72	+2.5
Child in care	5,956	6,241	+285	+4.8
Unmarried parent	999	962	−37	−3.8
Welfare institution	832	853	+21	+2.5
Health and institutional service	23	90	+67	+91.3
Area development project	51	.....	−51	−100.0
Totals	87,310	90,402	+3,092	+3.5

TABLE 2.—NUMBER OF CASES RECEIVING SERVICE IN THE PROVINCE BY CATEGORY OF SERVICE DURING THE YEAR 1968/69

Category	Cases Open First of Year	Cases Opened during Year	Cases Closed during Year	Cases Open End of Year	Cases Served during Year
Family Service	2,041	2,627	2,566	2,102	4,668
Social allowance—					
Single person	20,619	63,011	61,652	22,020	83,630
Couple	2,111	5,206	4,981	2,452	7,317
Two-parent family	6,417	14,575	13,975	7,150	20,992
One-parent family	8,463	13,429	11,577	10,191	21,892
Child with relative	951	1,252	1,078	1,127	2,203
Blind persons' Allowance	607	231	261	574	838
Disabled Persons' Allowance	2,874	1,176	1,024	2,991	4,050
Old-age Assistance	4,974	2,406	3,181	3,985	7,380
Old Age Security Supplementary Social Allowance	24,432	7,956	8,843	23,783	32,388
Adoption Home pending	858	1,775	1,856	729	2,633
Adoption home approved	183	1,087	963	296	1,270
Child in adoption home	1,003	1,962	1,950	977	2,965
Foster home pending	1,051	1,123	1,208	942	2,174
Foster home approved	2,865	1,409	1,348	2,937	4,274
Child in care	5,956	4,834	4,521	6,241	10,790
Unmarried parent	999	1,713	1,739	962	2,712
Welfare institution	832	346	325	853	1,178
Health and Institutional Service	23	471	404	90	494
Area development project	51	8	59	.....	59
Totals	87,310	126,597	123,511	90,402	213,907

Cases served during year is total open first of year plus cases opened during year.

For Individual Categories.—Cases open first of year plus cases opened during year minus cases closed during year does not equal cases open at the end of the year as redistributed cases have been subtracted from open and closed, and these are sometimes opened in one category and closed in another. Total open and closed redistributed balances.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER OF CASES BY CATEGORY OF SERVICE AND BY REGIONS, AS OF MARCH 31, 1968 AND 1969

Category	Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6		Region 7		Region 8	
	March 1968	March 1969	March 1968	March 1969	March 1968	March 1969	March 1968	March 1969	March 1968	March 1969	March 1968	March 1969	March 1968	March 1969	March 1968	March 1969
Family Service	248	277	448	497	515	468	121	131	210	226	300	309	103	65	96	129
Social Allowance—																
Single person	2,403	3,106	9,654	10,221	2,264	1,907	1,179	1,282	1,397	1,634	2,555	2,741	744	716	423	413
Couple	256	324	696	796	334	327	208	253	164	235	304	364	87	85	62	68
Two-parent family	935	1,177	1,516	1,759	920	843	468	447	560	852	1,287	1,317	392	444	339	311
One-parent family	1,148	1,577	3,495	4,166	915	1,049	499	584	544	729	1,291	1,424	295	329	276	333
Child with relative	137	170	219	225	152	176	54	87	77	118	114	132	152	159	46	60
Totals, Social Allowance	4,879	6,354	15,580	17,167	4,585	4,302	2,408	2,653	2,742	3,568	5,551	5,978	1,670	1,733	1,146	1,185
Blind Persons'Allowance	57	49	251	216	67	65	24	22	37	38	63	53	38	37	10	11
Disabled Persons' Allowance	406	423	1,121	1,134	343	339	209	195	67	63	399	418	50	57	29	31
Old-age Assistance	459	241	1,510	1,061	426	218	327	168	153	102	511	203	86	81	39	47
Old Age Security Supplementary Social Allowance	3,807	3,515	12,328	12,279	2,359	2,245	1,453	1,359	598	619	2,990	2,787	255	236	230	200
Adoption home pending	150	145	228	198	91	106	52	40	89	75	161	96	51	44	36	25
Adoption home approved	26	38	46	82	28	40	22	27	16	23	29	67	10	8	6	11
Child in adoption home	143	174	308	295	154	131	66	48	80	73	146	160	65	60	41	36
Foster home pending	118	130	124	99	248	219	111	71	127	128	160	160	102	87	61	48
Foster home approved	512	550	657	625	491	519	245	262	250	255	496	515	122	114	92	97
Child in care	986	1,078	1,103	1,162	1,182	1,302	436	473	595	586	1,022	1,059	408	367	224	214
Unmarried parent	76	84	550	524	81	83	31	32	26	58	157	114	17	21	61	46
Welfare institution	212	191	275	297	112	116	46	46	21	33	136	136	22	25	8	9
Health and Institutional service	11	3	3	.....	4	82	1	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2
Totals	12,090	13,252	34,532	35,636	10,686	10,235	5,552	5,529	5,012	5,848	12,121	12,055	2,999	2,935	2,082	2,091

Region 2 does not include Division on Aging.

TABLE 4.—COMPARISON OF GROSS EXENDITURES AND PER CENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE BY MAJOR CATEGORIES OF EXPENDITURE FOR FISCAL YEARS 1967/68 AND 1968/69.

Main Service	1967/68		1968/69	
	Value	Per Cent	Value	Per Cent
Administration	$899,874	1.2	$906,468	1.0
Institutions	1,199,708	1.6	1,293,253	1.4
Field Service	3,554,038	4.6	4,113,573	4.4
Maintenance of dependent children	11,831,129	15.3	14,386,541	15.3
Medical services, drugs, etc.	5,659,512	7.3	5,026,363	5.3
Social Allowances, etc.	43,784,078	56.7	58,250,133	61.9
Old-age Assistance, Blind Persons' Allowances, Disabled Persons' Allowances, and Supplementary Social Allowances for aged and handicapped	9,027,750	11.7	7,625,137	8.1
Grants in aid of construction of homes and recreation centres for elderly citizens	1,258,259	1.6	2,469,835	2.6
Totals	$77,214,348	100.0	$94,071,303	100.0

Summary of Gross Welfare Expenditures in 1968/69

	Value of Services	Per Cent of Total	Per Cent of Increase or Decrease over Previous Year
Administration	$906,468	1.0	+0.7
Other services	27,289,565	29.0	+22.7
Allowances	65,875,270	70.0	+24.7
Totals	$94,071,303	100.0	+23.8

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