

GOVERNMENT OF THE YUKON TERRITORY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

**ANNUAL REPORT 1967-1968** 

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OF THE

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

### FOR FISCAL YEAR 1967/68

### General Responsibilities

This is a Department of the Territorial Government headed by a Director who is responsible to the Commissioner and Legislative Council for the direction of a comprehensive social welfare program and for the administration of the legislation relating to the variety of social services provided under this program. In view of the statutory responsibilities which devolve upon the Director of Social Welfare under various ordinances he must also hold the appointments of Superintendent of Child Welfare, and Director of Old Age Assistance, Blind and Disabled Persons Allowances.

The Department of Social Welfare administers a total public welfare program in the Yukon Territory. With the exception of services under the General Assistance program, the Department provides a full range of social welfare services to all people in the Yukon Territory, Indian and White, who are in need of such services. Social Assistance to persons of Indian status in the Yukon is provided by the Yukon Indian Agency of the Federal Government's Indian Affairs Branch.

Social welfare programs presently administered by the Department are:

- General Assistance
- 2. Categorical Assistance
- 3. Family and Child Welfare Services
- 4. Probation Service Services to Adult and Juvenile Offenders
- 5. Alcoholism Services

The Department of Social Welfare is also responsible for the operation and administration of:

- 1. St. Mary's Nursing Home Dawson City
- 2. Senior Citizens' Home (10 units) Dawson City
- District Welfare Office Dawson City
   District Welfare Office Watson Lake
- 5. Senior Citizens' Home (20 units) Whitehorse
- 6. Children's Group Home, Whitehorse
- Branch Office Whitehorse
- Residences for social workers and supervisory staff.

# Legislative Responsibilities

The Department is responsible for the administration of the following territorial legislation:

- Social Assistance Ordinance 1.
- Protection of Children Ordinance
- 3. Children of Unmarried Parents Ordinance
- 4. Old Age Assistance and Blind Persons Allowance Ordinance
- 5. Disabled Persons Allowance Ordinance

# <u>Administration</u>

The headquarters operation of the Department is located in Whitehorse. A branch office in Whitehorse accommodates the Social Assistance Division and the Alcoholism Services Division. District welfare offices are situated in Dawson City and Watson Lake with a resident social worker in charge. These offices provide services in the northern and southern areas of the Territory. Social workers from Whitehorse provide coverage along the Alaska Highway north of Whitehorse to the Alaska border and south of Whitehorse one hundred miles to Teslin, as well as along the Whitehorse-Mayo highway to Carmacks. Services to these outlying areas are provided on a regularly scheduled basis. Total staff of the Department during 1967/68 numbered 45, consisting of:

### Professional Staff:

Program Direction & Administration:
Family & Child Welfare Division:
Probation Service:
Social Assistance Division:
Field Offices:
Alcoholism Services Division

Director
Supervisor, 4 social workers
2 Probation Officers
Supervisor, 1 social worker
2 Area Social Workers
1 Alcoholism Consultant

# Administrative, Clerical and Operating Staff:

Departmental Administration: Clerical and Stenographical: Nursing Home Operation: Senior Citizens' Homes 1 Administrative Officer 10 Staff Supervisor and 17 Staff 3 Staff

A review of the caseload statistical data set out in the appended schedules will show that there has been a greater demand placed upon the Department for services in 1967/68 than in any other year of operation. With the increase in the movement of people from southern provinces to the Yukon there has been a corresponding increase in the number of referrals for service from other provinces with respect to (a) the tracing of putative fathers and deserting husbands, (b) the assuming of responsibility for supervision of children who are wards of other provinces and who move to the Yukon with their foster parents, (c) the supervising and legal completion of the adoptions of children whose adopting parents move from the province to the Territory prior to the end of the adoption probation period, and a variety of other services are provided on behalf of provincial welfare departments and private social agencies.

It will be noted that the Department handled a total of 1,507 of cases which involved 2,858 persons. This is an increase over 1966/67 of 352 cases and 391 persons. Although the Department's work increased considerably in the fiscal year there has been no increase in social work or supervisory staff.

### General Comments

At the 1967 Fall Session of Territorial Council the Yukon's first Social Assistance Ordinance was passed which, in addition to providing for the granting of assistance to persons in need and for other social welfare services, also provides the necessary authority for the signing of an agreement with the Government of Canada under the Canada Assistance Plan. Previously, general assistance has been granted under authority of the Supply Bill and in accordance with approved policies and schedules of rates of assistance. As stated, this new territorial ordinance will enable the Yukon Territory to enter into agreement with the Federal Department of National Health and Welfare under the Canada Assistance Act which provides for Federal cost-sharing in respect of social assistance granted to persons in need and provides also for Federal contributions towards the costs of other general welfare services.

The Canada Assistance Plan is designed to provide the Territories and Provinces with the encouragement and financial assistance that is necessary to assist in the development of more comprehensive and flexible social welfare programs. One of the main objectives of the Plan is to provide the provincial and territorial governments with the necessary framework within which an integrated approach to public assistance can be developed. The new Plan will broaden Federal sharing of costs of assistance

to cover costs not previously shared under the Unemployment Assistance Agreement such as (1) costs of health care services for persons in need, (2) child welfare maintenance costs of wards and non-wards in the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare -- this includes the costs of operating government-owned child care facilities, (3) costs of assistance to employed persons where their income is insufficient to meet the total basic needs of self and family, for example employed widows and deserted wives with dependent children, (4) the added costs of improving public assistance standards, and the strengthening and necessary expansion of existing welfare services as well as the development of new social services, including new services in the child welfare field. An agreement will be signed with Canada in the new fiscal year as soon as policy and procedures have been developed to a point where Regulations under the Social Assistance Ordinance can be prepared which are consistent with the provisions of the Federal act and Regulations. Shareable benefits under the Plan are retroactive to April 1, 1966.

Construction of the Department's first Children's Group Home was commenced in June 1967, however, due to various delays in construction work the building, which was due to have been completed in November 1967, was just nearing completion as we ended the fiscal year. Recruitment for a suitable and experienced married couple to act as Houseparents is proceeding and complete furnishings for the home have been ordered. It is anticipated that the Group Home will be in operation in May 1968. This facility will provide a group living situation for twelve to fourteen adolescent children of both sexes who have been made wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare under the Protection of Children Ordinance and under the Juvenile Delinquents Act. These are children with behavioural problems and special needs for whom foster home or institutional care is contra-indicated or where such care is unavailable.

In June 1967 the Director of the Department attended the annual conference of the Canadian Directors of Child Welfare which was held in the Confederation Centre at Charlottetown, P.E.I. Since 1956 the Directors of Child Welfare from each Province and the two Territories have gathered together each year for discussions of child welfare practices and legislation, program policies, new concepts and changing trends, and generally to endeavour to resolve mutual problems in the field of child welfare services. These conferences are considered to be vitally important to the progressive advancement of the child welfare program in the Yukon Territory, and to the achievement by the Canadian Directors of a standard of uniformity in child welfare practices, as well as to the development and implementation of necessary constructive changes in child welfare and adoption legislation.

Work on a completely new Child Welfare Ordinance has now been completed by the Legislation Programming Committee and instructions for the draftsmen are now in the process of being prepared by the Superintendent of Child Welfare. The existing legislation pertaining to the Protection of Children, adoption, and Children of Unmarried Parents, which are now separate pieces of legislation, will be extensively revised and updated and be consolidated into the one piece of legislation to be called the Child Welfare Ordinance.

In co-operation with the Yukon Indian Agency, the Department constructed a large log house, complete with all modern facilities, for use as a group foster home for Indian status wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare. The home is located in the Whitehorse Indian Village and is occupied by a very capable Indian foster mother, who has cared for foster children for the past four years. The traumatic effects of placement with white foster parents of pre-school Indian children from Indian reserves and outlying Indian villages can be substantially minimized by their placement in the familiar environment of a foster home where the foster mother and other children in the home are of the same culture.

During the year under review, planning was commenced on a new Senior Citizens' Home to be located in Whitehorse where the greatest need exists for this type of accommodation and where all major facilities, services and amenities are available. Territorial Countil approved the

architectural design and location at the 1967 Fall Session and appropriated the necessary capital funds. A survey of need for residential accommodation of the aged was carried out by the Department and results indicated that accommodation would be required for an estimated 90 persons in the five year period 1967-1972. Existing facilities which are presently filled to capacity, provide accommodation for 30 persons, leaving a need for additional facilities which would provide accommodation for approximately 60 persons over the next five years. The survey also reflected a great need for accommodation for married couples. Present facilities provide single accommodation only, however, out of necessity a number of married couples have had to be placed in these units. Other needs brought out during the survey were: (a) the need for self-contained accommodation in which the married couple, or individual, could maintain complete independence in their suites, (b) for hostel type units without kitchenette facilities and (c) for congregate feeding facilities where meals could be provided for the occupant of the hostel type suites.

On the basis of these findings, the new building was architecturally designed to meet a variety of needs. The new Senior Citizens' Home is designed to provide 23 living units with each unit designed to function for any combination of occupancy, single or double. This flexibility in design will enable the Department to make the fullest possible use of the facility. The proposed. Home, in actuality can provide accommodation for 46 persons, but due to the fact that certain conditions may preclude some single persons of the same sex from sharing a living-unit, and since the Home really should provide accommodation both for married couples and for some single persons, it is anticipated that the in-residence population probably will be made up of 15 married couples (30 persons) and 10 single persons for an estimated total occupancy of 40 persons.

The architectural plans indicate that the design of the new facility is quite functional in relation to the needs of the elderly people. Each unit contains a bedroom, bathroom, living-room and storage room and is sufficient in size to accommodate two tenants. Ten units are provided with kitchenettes for those married couples who are fully capable of taking care of their complete needs and who will wish to retain complete independence in the privacy of their suites. Thirteen units are identical in design with the exception that there are no kitchenettes provided in these suites. For the occupants of these units, congregate feeding facilities are to be provided. This arrangement of providing meals to a certain group of residents in the Home is based on the need to fill a gap that exists in our present program of residential accommodation for the aged. We refer here to the increasing number of elderly residents who are not nursing home candidates but who require a boarding home type of accommodation where meals can be provided to them. The main objective is to insure that the elderly person receives an adequate and proper diet and to prevent malnutration which leads to a state of debilitation in health, and accelerates the process of dementia, all of which eventually necessitates hospitalization or custodial care in a mental hospital or nursing home. This type of feeding arrangement, in addition to insuring the provision of adequate meals and enabling the supervisor of the Home to exercise supervision over the dietary habits of the occupants, will also reduce the risks of fire or injury to those aged persons who, if required to cook and eat in their own living units, would have a tendency to be forgetful and somewhat careless in the meal preparation and cooking.

In this type of structure where there is a common dining-room and a kitchen equipped to provide meals to a percentage of the population in the Home, it is possible also for meals to be provided to residents who may be temporarily bedridden in their suite due to illness or a temporary physical handicap. An added feature in a combined apartment and hostel type of building such as the presently designed structure is that a small number of units can be converted, without any difficulty, into domiciliary care units where occupants of the Home who reach a point where they require some bed care, supervision with their medication, and tray service, can continue to be cared for without removing them to a nursing home or domiciliary-care institution. These persons would be transferred to a nursing home only when intensive care became necessary; however, the ability to

provide this extended care to the elderly occupants in the familiar environment of the one facility will do much for their physical and emotional well-being. The economies effected over the years as the result of a diversification of services within the one facility, thus enabling a variety of needs of the elderly people to be met should be considerable since the availability of all these personal services will defer, in many cases, the need for early admission to nursing home care where maintenance costs are considerably higher.

The proposed new Home is designed to permit future expansion. The main building services will have a capacity large enough to accommodate the addition of eight double units. With the expansion of this facility within two-three years by the addition of another 8 units capable of accommodating 16 persons; the building could provide accommodation for a total of 56 persons which is close to meeting our anticipated total need of accommodation for an additional 60 persons.

### GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The services provided under these two programs are as follows:

# 1. General Assistance

- a) Social Assistance
- b) Supplementary allowances
- c) Services for the care of the aged
  - (1) Nursing Home Care
  - (2) Senior Citizens' Homes
  - (3) Boarding Home Care

### 2. Categorical Assistance

- a) Old Age Assistance
- b) Blind Persons Allowance
- c) Disabled Persons Allowance

## General Assistance

With the appointment of a Supervisor to the Social Assistance Division at the beginning of the fiscal year, better supervision and control can now be exercised over the total program. All social assistance cases in the district offices also come under the Supervisor's direction. A more effective service can now be provided and periodic reviews are regularly made of the circumstances of welfare recipients to establish their continuing eligibility. The casework in the Whitehorse area is shared between the Supervisor and the social worker. This permits the carrying of manageable caseloads thus more time is spent with clients and more intensive counselling is provided in exploring employment opportunities, vocational training, etc. As a result, alternate solutions are often found to problems rather than extending social assistance.

During the year assistance was granted to individuals and families (white status only) who were unable to provide for themselves and their families the basic necessities or meet unusual needs. Every effort is made to administer financial assistance in such a way that individual initiative is stimulated and the normal desire to accept personal responsibility for the support of oneself and one's family is encouraged. Allowances were also granted on the basis of need to non-Indian recipients of Old Age Security and Territorial categorical assistance in order to supplement their pensions or allowances, and enable them to meet their total needs and maintain an adequate standard of living. Public Assistance to registered Indians is a Federal Government responsibility and this service is provided to Yukon Indians by the Yukon Indian Agency of Indian Affairs Branch.

It should be mentioned that medical and other health services are provided as required by recipients of social assistance and their families as well as to our aged people. Health services are also provided to those who are not welfare recipients but who cannot afford needed medical treatment or drugs due to their limited financial resources or near indigent state. In these cases, the necessary services are provided where a needs test has been carried out to determine eligibility for this form of medicare.

The General Assistance caseled for 1967/68 was 459 involving 721 recipients. The number of cases decreased by 25 in comparison with the previous fiscal year. As the fiscal year ended, there were 124 active cases involving 340 recipients.

The following Tables A, and B provide a comprehensive breakdown of the 1967/68 caseload:

TABLE A

Major Reason for Assistance	Caseload at April 1,1967	New Cases	Total Caseload Carried	Cases Closed	Caseload as at Mar.31/68
Death of a Breadwinner	7	2	9	1	8
Deserted or Separated Health (physically or emo-	17	2 8	25	13	12
tionally handicapped)	18	9	27	5	22
Medically indigent	23	11	34	18	16
Old Age	47	18	65	26	39
Transients	8	163	171	171	•
Unemployed Employables	41	87	128	101	27
	161	298	459	335	124

TABLE B	-	Distribution of Caseload at March 31, 1968.	Total
1.	1.	Social Assistance - Whitehorse Region - Dawson City Region - Watson Lake Region - Provincial - Transients - Non-Resident - Medical Only - Yukon	40 cases 13 cases 4 cases 11 cases - 3 " 16 "
	2.	Supplementary Allowances - Yukon - Provincial	11 "
	3.	Senior Citizens' Home (Indigents) - Whitehorse - Dawson City	9 " 5 "
	4.	Nursing Home Care - Whitehorse - Dawson City - Provincial - Private, Yukon	2 " 8 " 0 "
			124 cases

Services for the care of the aged are also provided under our General Assistance program including boarding home care, nursing home care and residential accommodation in senior citizens' homes for these capable of complete self-care. Both the Dawson Senior Citizens' Home and the Whiteherse facility are filled to capacity. In Whiteherse, a waiting list for entry into the Home does exist, mainly from married couples, and it is hoped that construction of the proposed new Senior Citizens' Home will get underway in Whiteherse early in the new fiscal year.

### Categorical Assistance

The Department extends its categorical assistance program to all residents of the Territory with the costs of assistance being shared with the Federal Government. As at January 1, 1968 Yukon residents 65 to 67 years of age are eligible for Old Age Assistance up to a maximum of \$75.00 per month on the basis of a means test. There has been a continuing decrease in the number of recipients of Old Age Assistance and this is due, of course, to the lowering of the age requirements for Federal Old Age Security in yearly stages from age 70 years to 65 years in 1970, at which time the Territorial Old Age Assistance program will be retired.

Blind Persons Allowance is available to residents 18 years of age and over who are handicapped by loss of sight, and Disabled Persons Allowance is available to residents, 18 years and over, who are totally and permanently disabled. Both allowances are in the amount of \$75.00 per month and can only be granted on the basis of a means test.

Caseload figures and other statistical data pertaining to the General and Categorical Assistance programs may be found in the appended schedules.

### FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

A very extensive program of Family and Child Welfare services is provided throughout the Yukon Territory by the staff of our Main Office in Whitehorse and the two district offices in the northern and southern areas of the Territory. The full range of services are extended to Indian children and families regardless of their location in the Territory. By this, it is meant that the Yukon Government provides services to Indians whether they are living in the reserve areas, Indian villages or in the municipalities and other organized communities.

### Family Service

This is a social service designed to provide professional guidance and counselling to help resolve problems in the family, keeping in mind the prevention of family breakdown and their consequent higher social and financial costs. During the year under review, there has been a considerable increase in the domand for this specialized service and counselling services were provided in the areas of marital conflict, behavioural problems of the children, particularly in the adolescent stage of maturation, and with other causes of family stress. Every effort is made to maintain family unity and, where constructive, to bring families together where separation has already taken place. Family counselling is a vital service, particularly in the far northern communities, for the development of a sound and healthy social climate. In view of the priority that must be given to the Department's statutory responsibilities in the public assistance and child welfare fields, the Department is not able to provide the intensive service that is really needed in this area.

Towards the end of the fiscal year, a clinical psychologist joined the staff of Northern Health Services at the Whitehorse General Hospital, and the assistance provided to our Department by the psychologist, particularly in the area of psychological assessments of our emotionally disturbed children, has been invaluable.

The number of Family Service cases for the twelve month period was 131 involving 397 persons. There were 98 cases closed during the year leaving a total of 33 cases still open at the fiscal year end. A large number of the cases handled during the year were referrals from other provinces for our assistance in contacting husbands, or wives, who had separated or deserted their families and who were now located in the Territory. A number of referrals were also received from the United States and England.

### Child Welfare Services

The Department is fully responsible for the provision of child welfare services throughout the Yukon Territory and there are no private agencies involved. These services are extended to Indians by virtue of a special agreement with the Federal Government's Indian Affairs Branch. Family Allowances for all children in the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare are administered by the Department.

Under this program, a variety of services are provided for children and their families as follows:

- 1. Protection of Children
- 2. Child Care (foster home, group home and institutional care)3. Foster Home and Adoption Home Finding
- Adoption Placements and Supervision
- 5. Services to Unmarried Parents.

The Protection of Children program has two separate and distinct areas of work. One area of work relates to the carrying out of the provisions of the Protection of Children Ordinance which involves the investigation of all complaints of child neglect, the apprehension of neglected children or the taking of the children into the protective custody of the Superintendent of Child Welfare, and the placement of these children in foster-home care or in a child-caring facility. The other area of protection work, in which the Department was extremely active during the year under review, was in the provision of preventive services which are aimed towards the prevention of child neglect and the improvement of conditions in the home with a view to stabilizing the family situation. The Department really does not have a statutory responsibility to provided services to children in their own homes where neglect is potential but not present in the legal sense; however, agency services given at an early stage of the development of family problems help to prevent the family situation from deteriorating to the point where the child, is, in fact, neglected with the consequent risks so often presented when the child has to be separated from his own family. From the financial point of view as well, an intensive program of preventive services usually leads to economies in child care.

During the year the Department was required to provide services in 189 Protection cases involving 863 individuals as compared with 170 cases and 827 individuals during the 1966/67 fiscal year. Of the total caseload carried during the year in review 102 cases were closed leaving an active caseload of 87 at March 31st, 1968. The greatest percentage of the Department's child protection work is with the poverty-stricken groups made up largely of Indian and Metis people.

The Child Care program covers a broad field of activity, and services under this program include:

- a) foster home and institutional placements and the complete care and maintenance of children who are in the legal custody of the Superintendent of Child Welfare,
  - b) supervision of children in foster homes and child caring institutions,
  - c) supervision of their immunizations and health care,d) constructive planning for all children-in-care,

  - e) casework services with parents of children-in-care with a view to re-establishing the family as a unit once again,
  - f) administration of family allowances for all children-in-care.

The child care program was an extremely active one in 1967/68. In the majority of cases, the primary reasons for having to take children into care continue to be 1) continual abandonment by the parents, 2) inadequate child care and 3) physical and emotional neglect. The majority of these children have been emotionally neglected to some degree and most of the parental neglect and continual disregard of parental responsibilities can be directly related to excessive drinking in the home, which, it is

recognized, is usually symptomatic of other social and cultural problems. Again, the largest percentage of children-in-care come from Indian and Metis families in the marginal income and poverty-stricken groups.

A total of 358 children were provided ward and non-ward care in 1967/68, this is an increase of 51 children in comparison with the previous year's caseload. During the year 168 children were discharged from care and 190 children still remained in care at March 31st, 1968, as compared to 154 children still in care at the end of the previous fiscal year, an increase of thirty-six.

The extent of the activity in the child care program during 1967/68 is reflected in the number of placements made and the number of days of care provided. During the year under review the number of placements increased from 464 in 1966/67 to 539 for 1957/68, an increase of 75 placements. Total number of days of care provided during 1967/68 increased by 5,586 from 51,263 days in 1966/67 to 56,849 days of care in 1967/68.

### Adoptions

The legal completion of both agency and private adoptions is handled by the Department with the assistance of the Yukon Government's Legal Adviser. There is no charge by the Department for this service, and the adopting parents' only expense is the Court fee for registration of the necessary legal documents and the cost of the child's new birth certificate. All private adoptions are fully investigated by the Child Welfare Division of the Department and it is the usual practice of the Territorial Court not to grant an Order of Adoption without the report and recommendation of the Superintendent of Child Welfare.

Adoption Statistics - April 1, 1967 - March 31, 1968:

Adoption homes under supervision at April 1, 1967 Children placed on adoption probation during year	11 <u>14</u>
Total Adoption homes under supervision	25
Agency adoptions completed (Adoption Orders granted) Case Transfer - Supervision transferred to Manitoba	-12 - 1
Adoption homes still under supervision at March 31,1968	12

In addition to the above, there were 6 Private Adoption cases handled by the Department making a total of 31 adoption cases carried during the fiscal year. Of the 14 agency adoption placements made in the 1967/68 fiscal year, 10 were made by the Yukon Department, 2 by the Alberta Child Welfare Department and 1 by the British Columbia Department. Of the 12 Orders of Adoption issued during the year in respect of agency placements, 11 were granted in the Yukon Territorial Court and 1 Order in respect of a child placed by our Department was granted in the Territorial Court of the Northwest Territories. Adoption Orders were granted in all 6 Private Adoption cases thus a total of 17 Orders of Adoption were granted during 1967/68 in the Yukon Territorial Court.

During the year under review, 15 children were relinquished by unmarried mothers to the Yukon Superintendent of Child Welfare for adoption placement. The majority of these children have been successfully placed in approved adoptive homes, and with the exception of one child not yet medically fit for placement, it is hoped that homes can be found early in the new fiscal year for the other children who are of Indian racial origin. Religious consents have been given by the natural mothers of these children, therefore religion of the child is not the problem in finding homes but rather the difficulty lies in the shortage of applications for Indian and Metis children. The Department is having good success in placing its Indian and Metis children as is evidenced by the fact that 6 of the 14 agency placements made during the year were children of Indian racial origin.

# Services to Unmarried Parents

There was an increase in activity in this program during 1967/68. Services were provided in 63 cases as compared with 41 cases in the previous fiscal year, an increase of 22 cases.

### PROBATION SERVICES

During the year under review the Probation Division handled 77 adult probation cases and 59 juvenile probation cases. There were 5 parole referrals from the National Parole Board. At the beginning of the fiscal year there were 4 juveniles in provincial correctional institutions and 4 more juveniles were committed by the Juvenile Court during the year, -- four were discharged from the institutions and are presently receiving after-care services whilst 4 juveniles still remain in institutional care at March 31, 1968.

In the 12 month period, the probation officers in Whitehorse and the two area social workers, (who provide probation services in their respective districts) prepared 69 pre-sentence reports on adults and 33 pre-sentence reports on juveniles.

Services provided by this Division during 1967-68 consisted of:

# Juvenile Offenders Program

- (a) Preventive Services
- (b) Court Services
- (c) Probation Services
  (d) Institutional Care
- (e) After-Care Services

### 2. Adult Offenders Program

- (a) Court Services
- (b) Probation Services
- (c) Parole Services
- (d) After-Care Services

### ALCOHOLISM SERVICES

During its second full year of operation, the program of acceptance into the community of therapeutic facilities initiated by the Service during its first year has been successfully completed. The Alcoholism Service is now considered a continuing, effective, needed resource which is known, readily available and often utilized by the therapeutic community.

This educationally-oriented Service, established by Council and implemented in February, 1966, has made a definite impact on the constellation of problems facing the community as a result of undisciplined, excessive drinking. Northern Health Services indicates in their annual report that there has been a reduction in hospital admissions for alcoholism and related problems since the implementation of the Service and particularly during this current reporting year. The local Alcoholics Anonymous group's active membership has increased five-fold since the implementation of the Service. It is felt that the Service's continuing treatment and education program has, to a significant degree, contributed to these results.

The Service's treatment program continues to advance with 87 files opened during the reporting year, making a total of 243 case files carried by the Alcoholism Service, with 45 presently open and in active treatment. Although this progress is encouraging, it is unfortunate that the necessity for the Alcoholism Consultant to carry such a high caseload and, in addition, to be on twenty-four hour call seven days a week, necessarily inhibits the amount of time available to be spent on the long-term educational program which, hopefully, will be the eventual answer to the excessive drinking problems in the Territory.

Several field trips were undertaken during the reporting year, although the pressure of treatment and other commitments in the Whitehorse area made it impossible to schedule these on a regular basis throughout the Territory. In spite of these limitations, the field program was carried out vigorously with a major activity being undertaken during the month of

January when a full-length feature film was utilized as an educational device in most of the smaller communities of the Territory. This proved to be a popular and effective educational device and a similar plan will be utilized where possible during the forthcoming year.

Our Consultant's two years of active involvement with the alcoholic in the Yukon Territory have pointed up one major overriding problem, and that is that under the present situation there is virtually no opportunity to isolate the alcoholic, who wishes to alter his drinking behaviour, from the heavy drinking social situation with which he is surrounded. This is particularly important during the initial phases of treatment when it is extremely difficult for the individual to maintain sobriety. This, coupled with the continuing emphasis on personal freedom and the recent Supreme Court decisions in the United States, indicate that within the very near future arrests for drunkenness will not be tolerated by our society except when that drunkenness directly interferes with the rest of society. When this occurs, alternate facilities other than gaols, must be ready to handle the alcoholic and the inebriate.

It is our view that immediate consideration should be given to the planning of a comprehensive, continuing care centre which will allow all of the treatment disciplines presently available in the Territory to be brought to bear in a concentrated, effective fashion on the alcoholic. Proper planning and development should allow us to avoid the necessity for having a plethora of facilities, such as in-patient facilities, continuing care centres, half-way houses, in-treatment centres and out-patient clinics. By utilizing our unique situation in the Territory to operate all of this necessary activity under one roof, with minimum staff, utilizing volunteers in the community to handle, as much as possible, the routine operation of such a centre. The operation of such a centre in conjunction with appropriate legislation made available to the courts will, beyond the shadow of a doubt, guarantee a considerable reduction of the number of persons incarcerated for alcohol problems. The different nature of such a centre, compared to gaol and no rehabilitation program, should result in a substantial reduction of the necessary budget of our correctional institutions as well as the reduction of policing costs and the lowering of other direct and indirect levies on the taxpayer's purse.

Our Alcoholism Service continues to maintain the standards of treatment recommended by the Canadian Foundation on Alcoholism and is recognized as a continuing, necessary part of our community's therapeutic team. Our program of alcoholism services has now been recognized nationally with the admission of the Yukon Territory to full membership in the Canadian Foundation on Alcoholism. During the year the National Foundation appointed the Yukon's Director of Social Welfare to the Board of Directors of the Foundation and the Territory's Alcoholism Consultant was appointed as a member of the National Program Committee.

Consultant services are utilized on a regular basis by medical, legal, welfare and other agencies within the community. During the course of the reporting year, several businesses and industries have utilized the services of the Consultant to begin to develop alcoholism programs for their employees. With such acceptance, the Yukon Alcoholism Services continues to fill an important role in providing a much-needed resource within the Territory.

## **CONCLUSION:**

A public housing program to be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare for needy families was approved by Territorial Council at the 1968 Spring Session of Council. Under this program a small number of homes will be constructed in order to alleviate the hardship and suffering in the poverty-stricken group of non-Indians. The purpose of this program is to improve the present deplorable living conditions and endeavour to reduce the incidence of disease and social problems amongst this group of people. So long as the present serious housing problems and poor living conditions remain unsolved, the Department will be seriously hampered

in it's effort to provide effective social services and strengthen family life. Family and Child Welfare Services are neither effective nor appropriate remedies for bed'housing and squalid living conditions.

It is hoped that, in the near future and with the assistance of professional consultants in the Federal Department of National Health and Welfare, we shall be able to develop a research project which will help us to define more specifically the nature and extent of some of the social problems existing here in our Territory and provide the social data which will assist in the development and application of new methods and techniques of dealing more effectively with these complex social problems. Although the Department of Social Welfare has intensified its programs of preventive services in the family and child welfare fields, social problems continue to increase. The causation of these problems is related to many complex factors many of which are out side of the area of services provided under our public welfare program. The amelioration of these social ills will require a total involvement by various governmental agencies, social institutions and the community in general. We are hopeful that the proposed social research project will do much to help us plan a positive course of action.

Our working relationship with other government and private agencies across Canada continues to be a pleasant and harmonious one. Good public relations have been maintained throughout the year with the local judiciary, legal profession, medical profession, police officials, clergy and Federal Government agencies and departments. A good deal of progress has been made during the year in all areas of the Department's work and development of existing welfare programs is continuing in the light of changing conditions and existing needs in the Yukon Territory.

Total vote expenditure for 1967/68 was \$627,135.72 as compared with an expenditure of \$540,715.18 for 1966/67 -- an increase of \$86,420.54. Of this increase the amount of \$43,217.77 relates to the additional program of Probation Services for which the Department of Social Welfare assumed responsibility April 1st, 1967 and which program previously had been the responsibility of the Department of Corrections. The transfer of this particular program accounts for 50% of the departmental expenditure increase. There was an increase of only \$12,530.84 in Administration and this is related mainly to salary increases and annual increments to staff. The only other major increase, e.g. \$34,112.16, was in the Child Welfare program and this is due to a) an increase of 51 children who were provided care during the year resulting in an increase of 5,586 days of care provided, b) increase in the per diem rates by institutions and specialized child-caring facilities, c) increased costs of clothing and other basic necessities for the children-in-care.

It is to be noted that in spite of increasing costs of food and supplies, utilities, fuel etc., during the year the increase in operational costs of the St. Mary's Nursing Home in Dawson City was very slight, e.g. \$6,058.32, and can be related mainly to salary increases for staff. There were decreases in expenditures in the public assistance programs amounting to approximately \$15,000.00. Recoverable expenditures during the year in review amounted to \$275,544.76 leaving a net expenditure of \$351,590.96 for the fiscal year 1967/68.

Expenditure breakdown, per capita costs and other statistical data pertaining to the programs administered by the Department will be found in the attached schedules.

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SCHEDULE "A"

COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL DATA ON SOCIAL WELFARE VOTE					
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDIN	G MARCH 31, 19	968			
VOTE 15 - SOCIAL WELFARE	1967/68	1966/67	Increase or + Decrease -		
<u>Establishments</u>					
1500 administration	\$155,043.48	\$142,512.64	\$12,530.84 +		
1501 Child Welfare Services	167,694.54	133,582.38	34,112.16 +		
1502 Social Assistance	3,868.38	1,482.40	2,385.98 +		
1503 Unemployment Assistance	85,889.28	94,180.40	8,291.12 -		
1504 Old Age Assistance	11,800.80	18,765.99	6,965.19 -		
1505 Blind Persons Allowance	5,063.64	5,625.00	561 <b>.</b> 36 <b>-</b>		
1506 Disabled Persons Allowance	3,150.00	2,700.00	450.00 +		
1507 Alcoholism Services	12,005.50	10,273.19	1,732.31 +		
1511 Welfare Training Grants	nıl	nil			
1512 St. Mary's Nursing Home - Dawson	111,982.49	105,924.17	6,058.32 +		
1515 Senior Citizens' Home - Whitehorse	12,737.37	13,061.03	323 <b>.</b> 66 <b>-</b>		
1516 Senior Citizens' Home - Dawson	6,162.22	4,218.87	1,943.35 +		
1517 Childrens' Group Home - Whitehorse	309.33	nil	309.33 +		
1520 Whitehorse Welfare Staff Residences	987.51	714.00	273.51 +		
1521 Dawson Welfare Office and Residence	1,984.87	1,741.79	243.08 +		
1522 Dawson Nursing Home & Staff Residence	e 1,422.07	2,169.14	747.03 -		
1523 Watson Lake Welfare Office & Residen	ce 3,816.47	3,764.18	52.29 +		
1526 Juvenile Detention	14,048.45	nil	14,048.45 +		
1527 Probation Services	29,169.32	nil	29,169.32 +		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE - VOTE 15	627,135.72	540,715.18	86,420.54 +		
Summary of Total Vote Expenditure					
(a) Administration	\$155,043.48	\$142,512.64	\$12,530.84 +		
(b) General & Categorical Assistance	109,772.10	122,753.79	12,981.69 -		
(c) Child Welfare Services	167,694.54	133,582.38	34,112.16 +		
(d) Alcoholism Services	12,005.50	10,273.19	1,732.31 +		
(e) Adult & Juvenile Probation Services	43,217.77		43,217.77 +		
(f) Operation of Nursing Home, Senior Citizens' Homes & other facilities	131,191.41	123,204.07	7,987.34 +		
(g) Operation of Staff Residences and District Welfare Offices	8,210.92	8,389.11	178.19 -		
	\$627,135.72	\$540,715.18	\$86,420.54+		

# EXPENDITURE RECOVERIES - NET EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1967-68

<u>Establishment</u>		Amount of Expenditure	Expenditure Recoveries	Net Expenditures
1500 Administration	\$	155,043.48	10,000.00	145,043.48
1501 Child Welfare Services		167,694.54	82,945.00	84,749.54
1502 Social Assistance )		3,868.38	(1) 6,062.65 )	81.46
1503 Unemployment Assistance )		85,889.28	(2)83,613.55)	
1504 Old Age Assistance		11,800.80	6,101.65	5,699.15
1505 Blind Persons Allowance		5,063.64	3,460.23	1,603.41
1506 Disabled Persons Allowance		3,150.00	1,800.00	1,350.00
1507 Alcoholism Services		12,005.50	(3) 6,668.40	5,337.10
1511 Welfare Training Grants		Nil	Nil	
1512 St. Mary's Nursing Home		111,982.49	(4)44,822.30	67,170.19
1515 Senior Citizens Home - White- horse		12,737.37	(5) 4,662.50	8,074.87
1516 Senior Citizens Home - Dawson		6,162.22	(6) 587.50	5,574.72
1517 Childrens Group Home		309.33	-	309.33
1520 Welfare Staff Residences		987.51	-	987.51
1521 Dawson Welfare Office and Residence		1,984.87	-	1,984.87
1522 Dawson Nursing Home Staff		1,422.07	-	1,422.07
Residence 1523 Watson Lake Office and		3,816.47	-	3,816.47
Residence 1526 Juvenile Detention		14,048.45	(7) 9,909.99	4,138.46
1527 Probation Service		29,169.32	(8) <u>14,910.99</u>	14,258.33
TOTALS:	\$	627,135,72	275.544.76	<u>351,590.96</u>
Comparative figures for 1966/67	'	540,715.18	225,925.47	314,789.71

### Explanatory Remarks:

- (1) Recoveries from social assistance recipients, also remittances from Public Administration in respect of claims against estates.
- (2) This amount represents recoveries made under the Unemployment Assistance Agreement for 50% of public assistance costs and includes also 50% of the net operating costs of the Nursing Home, and the two Senior Citizens' Homes which costs are shareable with Canada under the Unemployment Assistance Agreement.
- (3) & (8) Grants made by National Health and Welfare under the Welfare Services Grants program.
- (4) Recovery of costs of services provided by Nursing Home to Hospital operation located in same building. Includes also contributions made by nursing home patients toward costs of their maintenance.
- (5) & (6) Amounts represent rentals paid by occupants of these facilities.
- (7) Recoveryof maintenance paid on behalf of Indian status children in Institutional care.

# 1. Proportion of Total Vote Expenditure

	1967	7/68	1966/67		
MAIN SERVICES	Amount	%	Amount	%	
Administration	155,043.48	24.7	142,512.64	26.3	
General & Categorical Asst.	109,772.10	17.6	122,753.79	24.7	
Child Welfare Services	167,694.54	26.7	133,582.38	24.7	
Alcoholism Services	12,005.50	1.9	10,273.19	1.9	
Adult & Juvenile Offenders Serv.	43,217.77	6.8	* Nil	-	
Operation of Nursing Home,) Sen.Citizens Homes etc. )	131,191.41	20.9	123,204.07	22.8	
Operation of Staff Residences & District Offices	8,210.92	1.3	8,389.11	1.6	
	\$ 627,135.72	100.0	540,715.18	100.0	

<sup>\*</sup> This is an additional program assumed by the Department of Social Welfare in 1967-68. During the previous fiscal year this program was under the administration of the Corrections Department and expenditures for 1966-67 were charged to Vote 17 "Corrections".

NOTE: Salaries of professional and clerical staff, as well as all other expenses relating to the administration of the total welfare program, are included in "Administration" costs, and not under the category of service. This is not applicable, however, to the Nursing Home and Senior Citizens' Homes where staff salaries, etc., are included in the operating costs of these facilities.

2.	PER CAPITA COST	1967/68	1966/67	Increase or <u>Decrease</u>
	(a) Based on Total Gross Expenditure and population 17,000	\$ 36.89	36.05	0.84 +
	(b) Based on Total Net Expenditure and population 17,000	20.68	20.99	0.31 -
3.	PER CASE COST			
	(a) Based on Total <u>Gross Expenditure</u> and total caseload carried	\$416.15	468.15	52 <b>.</b> 00 <b>-</b>
	(b) Based on Total Net Expenditure and total caseload carried	233.30	272.55	<b>3</b> 9.25 <b>-</b>
4.	PER RECIPIENT COST			
	(a) Based on Total <u>Gross Expenditure</u> and total recipients in caseload	219.43	219.18	0.25 +
	(b) Based on Total Net Expenditure and total recipients in caseload	123.02	127.56	4.54 -

# CASELOAD STATISTICS - FISCAL YEAR 1967/68

	Case- load at	Cases Opened During	Total Case- load	Number of Per- sons In-	During	Active Caseload at
CATEGORY OF SERVICE	1967	Year	Carried	volved	Year	Mar.31/68
1. FAMILY & CHILD WELFARE SERVICES *						
Child Care Protection of Children Adoption ) Agency ) Private Unmarried Parents Family Services	173 124 11 0 15 53	185 65 14 6 48 78	358 189 25 6 63 131	358 863 75 18 87 397	168 102 13 6 31 98	190 87 12 0 32 33
2. ADULT & JUVENILE OFFENDERS SERVICES *						
Adult Offenders: On Probation Parole Referrals	42 2	35 3	77 5	77 5	43 3	34 2
Juvenile Offenders:						
Committed to Training Insts.	4	4	8	8	4	4
On Probation	39	20	59	59	29	30
3 GENERAL ASSISTANCE **	161	208	heo	721	77C	124
Social Assistance Services	101	298	459	721	335	124
4. CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE *						
Old Age Assistance Blind Persons Allowance Disabled Persons Allowance	15 7 4	7 1 	22 8 4	34 11 5	13  	9 8 4
5. ALCOHOLISM SERVICES *						
Cases in Treatment	28	65	93	140	48	45
$\mathtt{TOT}_{L}\mathbf{L}$	678	829	1507	2858	893	614
COMPARATIVE CASELOAD FIGURES						
FISCAL YEAR 1966/67	445	710	1155	2467	627	527
Increase (+) in Caseload	233 +	119 +	352 +	391 +	266 +	87 +

<sup>\*</sup> Program services extended to Indians. Caseload includes Indian and White Status cases.

<sup>\*\*</sup> General Assistance services are provided to persons of White status only. Social Assistance Services to status Indians are provided by the Federal Government's Indian Affairs Branch.

# COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL DATA ON MAJOR PROGRAMS FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1968.

1. TOTAL DEPARTATE	TAI CASELOAD	Number of Persons involved in	Caseload Increase+
Fiscal Year	Total Caseload Carried	Caseload Th	Decrease-
1963-64	1183	2441	139 +
1964/65	1057	2107	126 -
1965/66	1036	1992	21 -
1966/67	1155	2467	119 +
1967/68	1507	2858	352 +

# 2. FAMILY & CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

# (a) Caseload of Total Program by Category of Service

	<u> 1967/68</u>	1966/67	1965/66	1964/65	<u> 1963/64</u>
Child Care Protection Adoption Unmarried Parents Family Service	358 189 31 63 131	307 223 53 41	300 116 81 29	302 140 76 30	271 156 68 17
•	772	624	526	548	512

# (b) Child Care Caseload (Includes White and Indian Status Children)

	1967/68	1966/67	1965/66	1964/65	1963/64
No. of children in care at $\lambda$ pril 1st	173	154	137	140	138
New Admissions	185	153	163	162	133
Total in Care * Discharged from Care	358 168	307 134	300 146	302 165	271 131
Still in Care at Fiscal Year End	190	173	154	137	140

<sup>\*</sup> Returned to parents, placed on adoption, etc.

# (c) Total Caseload with Total Costs (Includes both Indian and White Status Children)

Fiscal Year	Total Number of Children in Care	Gross Expenditure	Average Cost Per Child	Total Days of Care	Average Per <u>Diem Cost</u>
1963/64 1964/65 1965/66 1966/67 1967/68	271 302 300 307 358	\$ 91,560.00 103,142.00 105,743.21 133,582.38 167,694.54	341.53 352.47 435.12	37,884 42,889 45,113 51,263 56,849	\$2.4168 2.4048 2.3439 2.6058 2.949

# SCHEDULE "F"

# 3. GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE

## (a) General Assistance - Caseload Statistics

	Caseload At Apr.l	New Cases Opened	Total Caseload Carried	No. of Recip- ients	Cases Closed	Activee Cases at Mar. 31	Average Monthly Caseload
1963/64	188	383	571	1,143	415	156	192
1964/65	156	243	399	802	235	164	144
1965/66	164	236	400	789	274	126	128
1966/67	126	358	484	931	323	161	135
1967/68	161	298	459	721	335	124	127

(1) Per Capita Cost	1967/68	1966/67	Decrease -
based on Total Expenditure for Social Assistance and Unemployment Assistance and population figure of 16,000	\$5.61	6.38	0.77 -

# (2) Per Case Cost

based on Total Expenditure as (1) above and the total General Assistance caseload for fiscal year

195.55 197.65 2.10 -

# (3) Per Recipient Cost

based on Total Expenditure as in (1) above and the total number of Recipients in caseload

124.49 102.75

21.74 +

# (b) Categorical Assistance - Caseload Statistics (Old Age Assistance, Blind and Disabled Persons Allowances)

	Caseload at Apr.l	New Cases Opened	Total Caseload <u>Carried</u>	Cases <u>Closed</u>	Active Cases at Mar. 31
1963/64	51	16	67	25	42
1964/65	43	13	56	13	43
1965/66	39	11	50	16	34
1966/67	37	10	47	21	26
1967/68	26	9	35	14	21

# 4. CARE OF THE ELDERLY

(a) Nursing Home Care	Numbe Patie		ys of re	Patients Transferre or Decease		
(1) Whitehorse General Hospi al (Special Care Unit)	t <b>-</b> 5		625	3	2	
(2) Nursing Homes in British Columbia	4		614	4	0	
(3) St.Mary's Nursing Home, Dawson (operated by Terr torial Government.)	i- 13	4,	059	<u>4</u>	9	
TOTALS	22	5 <b>,</b>	298 <del></del>	11	11	
Total Costs of Nursing Care:						
	Maint- enance Costs	Number Patients	Da	tal Per ys Patien re Cost	Per t Dlem Cost	
Expenditure for (1) and (2)\$ 5,391.69 Expenditure (Net) for (3) 87,784.45						
_	3,176.1		5,2	98 \$4,235	.28 \$17.587	

(b) Financial Report on the Operation of the St.Mary's Nursing Home, Dawson, Y.T.

	Fiscal	Gross Operating Costs	Less Recoveries of Expenses *	Net Operating Costs	Number Batient Dayo:	Per Pat- lent Day Operat- Ling Cost
**	1963/64 (7½ mos)	\$ 56,621.06	\$16,843.12	\$39,777.94	2,554	\$15.575
	1964/65	86,907.81	19,539.57	67,368.24	4,302	15.66
	1965/66	92,462.06	18,317.60	74,144.46	4,107	18.04
	1966/67	105,855.87	16,931.52	88,954.05	3,935	22.63
	1967/68	111,101.12	23,316.57	87,784.45	3,989	22.01

- \* Recoveries from St. Mary's Hospital for rantal of space in Nursing Home building and for services provided (e.g. meals, laundry, etc.)
- \*\* Note: The Territorial Government assumed responsibility for the operation of the Nursing Home/Hospital in Dawson August 16th, 1963, thus the operating costs for 1963/64 cover a 7½ month period only.

Fiscal Year	Net Operating Costs	Less Con- tributions <u>by Patients</u>	Actual Net Expenditure	Number of Patient Days	Net Per Diem Cost
1963/64	\$39,777.94	\$ 5,267.50	\$34,510.44	2,554	\$13,512
1964/65	67,368.24	11,756.50	55,611.74	4,302	12.926
1965/66	74,144.46	17,542.44	56,602.02	4,109	13.775
1966/67	88,954.05	12,988.74	75,965.31	3,935	19.375
1967/68	87,784.45	21,100.48	66,783.97	3,989	16.742

# (c) Senior Citizens' Homes

# Dawson - opened December 1, 1961

Fiscal Year	Number of Occupants	Occupancy Days	Costs of Operation	Per Diem Cost	Per Occupant <u>Cost</u>
1963/64	12	2,520	\$3,622.40	\$1.437	\$301.87
1964/65	12	2,581	5,007.36	1.94	417.28
1965/66	10	2,448	4,170.73	1.703	417.07
1966/67	9	2,214	4,218.87	1.905	468.76
1967/68	8	2,329	6,162.22	2,645	770.25

Occupancy movement during 1967/68:

At April 1/67	New Admissions			Occupants at March 31/68
7	1	8	1	7

# Whitehorse - opened November 1, 1963

1963/64 (5	mos) 8	884	\$4,100.00	\$4.638	\$512.50
1964/65	16	3,544	8,950.00	2.526	559.37
1965/66	20	5 <b>,</b> 625	11,407.61	2.028	570.38
1966/67	24	6,078	13,061.03	2.148	544.20
1967/68	27	7,007	12,737.37	1.817	471.74

# Occupancy Movement during 1967/68: Total Occu

At April 1/67	New Admissions		, v	March 31/68
20	7	27	6	21

