



PUBLIC HEALTH

THE HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE

No. 8 in a series
of pamphlets on
Alberta Government
Services.

Government of the
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

THE HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE

Alberta continues in the forefront in the field of Public Health Services in Canada.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Hospital Services

Alberta's hospital assistance program provides provincial grants in support of hospital costs.

Estimated cost 1952-53:

70c daily grant—	
All patients	\$1,102,000
Maternity Hospitalization....	1,200,500
Pensioner Groups	1,452,000
\$1 per day Standard	
Ward program	1,504,000
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	\$5,258,500

Alberta also provides a Hospital Construction Grant for new hospitals or additions on the basis of \$1,000 per bed. This is matched by the Federal Government.

Medical Services for Pensioners

In addition to hospitalization, medical, dental and eye services are provided for old age pensioners, blind pensioners, recipients of Mothers' Allowance and for their dependents. Provincial assistance to pensioners through these medical services during 1951-52 amounted to \$491,469.

Assistance to Local Public Health Services

City Health Departments in Edmonton and Calgary, serving 290,000 people, have been assisted since April, 1951.

Smaller cities, towns, villages and rural municipalities are assisted under the Health Unit Act. Rural health units expanded rapidly in 1951 and 1952, and are now serving 300,000 people. This program assists the local government in handling their public health responsibilities, such as school health services, inoculation programs, baby clinics, health education and control of sanitation.

	1935	1952
Edmonton and	(Estimated)	
Calgary	\$ 91,725	
Through Health		
Units	\$9,000	\$295,000

Municipal Nursing Services

The Province provides 60 percent of the cost of a Municipal Nursing Service, which includes public health nursing, plus a first aid and emergency treatment service. This is organized in communities where no medical service is available.

Number of	1935	1952
Municipal Nurses ..	15	35

Mental Health

The Province has continued its mental health program through the operation of Mental Institutions and Guidance Clinics.

Mental Hospitals—Public

Health costs 1951-52\$3,289,000

Mental Hospitals—Public Works

maintenance 1950-51\$ 406,500

New buildings provided

1950-51\$ 794,802

Bed capacity 1935, 2,141; 1951, 3,762.

Two Guidance Clinics have been established at Calgary and Edmonton for the purpose of assisting parents, schools,

courts, etc. These clinics travel, periodically, to other centres throughout the Province.

Arthritis

Clinics have been established at Edmonton and Calgary for the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Service is now provided for patients under 25 years of age, including 90 days of hospitalization if necessary.

Cases referred to clinic311

Cost to province, 1950-51.....\$36,100

Cerebral Palsy Clinics

In co-operation with several public-spirited organizations a Cerebral Palsy Clinic was opened in Edmonton in 1950 for the treatment of this crippling condition. A second clinic was opened in Calgary in 1951.

Operating costs 1951-52.....\$24,556

Tuberculosis Service

Alberta provides a complete diagnostic and sanatorium service which cost \$1,500,000 in 1950-51. Travelling X-ray units operated by the Province have visited almost all of Alberta and have taken chest X-rays of 700,000 people. The new Aberhart Memorial Sanatorium at Edmonton with room for 300 patients, was opened in February, 1952.

Cancer Service

The Alberta Cancer program was expanded from 1940 to 1952. It now provides free diagnosis, X-ray and radium treatment and surgery if indicated. Hospital service is also provided during the diagnostic period. There are three Cancer Clinics at Edmonton, Calgary and

Lethbridge. Over 10,000 patients were examined at these clinics during 1951.

Cost of Cancer Service

1950-51\$403,000

Poliomyelitis Service

Alberta was the first Province to provide a complete polio service. This includes a medical, surgical and hospital service after the quarantine period is over. A rehabilitation program also is provided.

The Province of Alberta provides adequate service in the following fields:

Public Health Entomology
Health Education
Sanitary Engineering
Public Health Laboratories.

Free Maternity Hospitalization

Commencing 1944, Standard Ward service is provided free up to 12 days for all maternity cases who are residents of the Province. 96 percent of Alberta's maternity cases are handled in hospitals.

The government this year established the payment of a \$40 cash grant to those mothers making arrangements for the birth of a child other than in hospital.

Smaller cities, towns, villages and rural municipalities are assisted under the Health Unit Act. Rural health units expanded rapidly in 1951 and 1952, and are now serving 300,000 people. This program assists the local government in handling their public health responsibilities, such as school health services, immunization programs, baby clinics, health education and control of sanitation.

1952	1951	Edmonton and Calgary Through Health Units
1952	1951	
(Estimated)		
\$ 61,725	\$ 61,725	
\$235,000	\$235,000	

Municipal Nursing Services
The Province provides 60 percent of the cost of a Municipal Nursing Service, which includes public health nursing, plus a first aid and emergency treatment service. This is organized in communities where no medical service is available.

1952	1951	Number of Municipal Nurses
35	15	

Mental Health
The Province has continued its mental health program through the operation of Mental Institutions and Guidance Clinics.

1950-51	1951-52	Mental Hospitals—Public
1950-51	1951-52	
\$ 408,500	\$ 432,800,000	
\$ 794,802	\$ 794,802	
\$ 794,802	\$ 794,802	
\$ 794,802	\$ 794,802	

Two Guidance Clinics have been established at Calgary and Edmonton for the purpose of assisting students, schools, and the community.