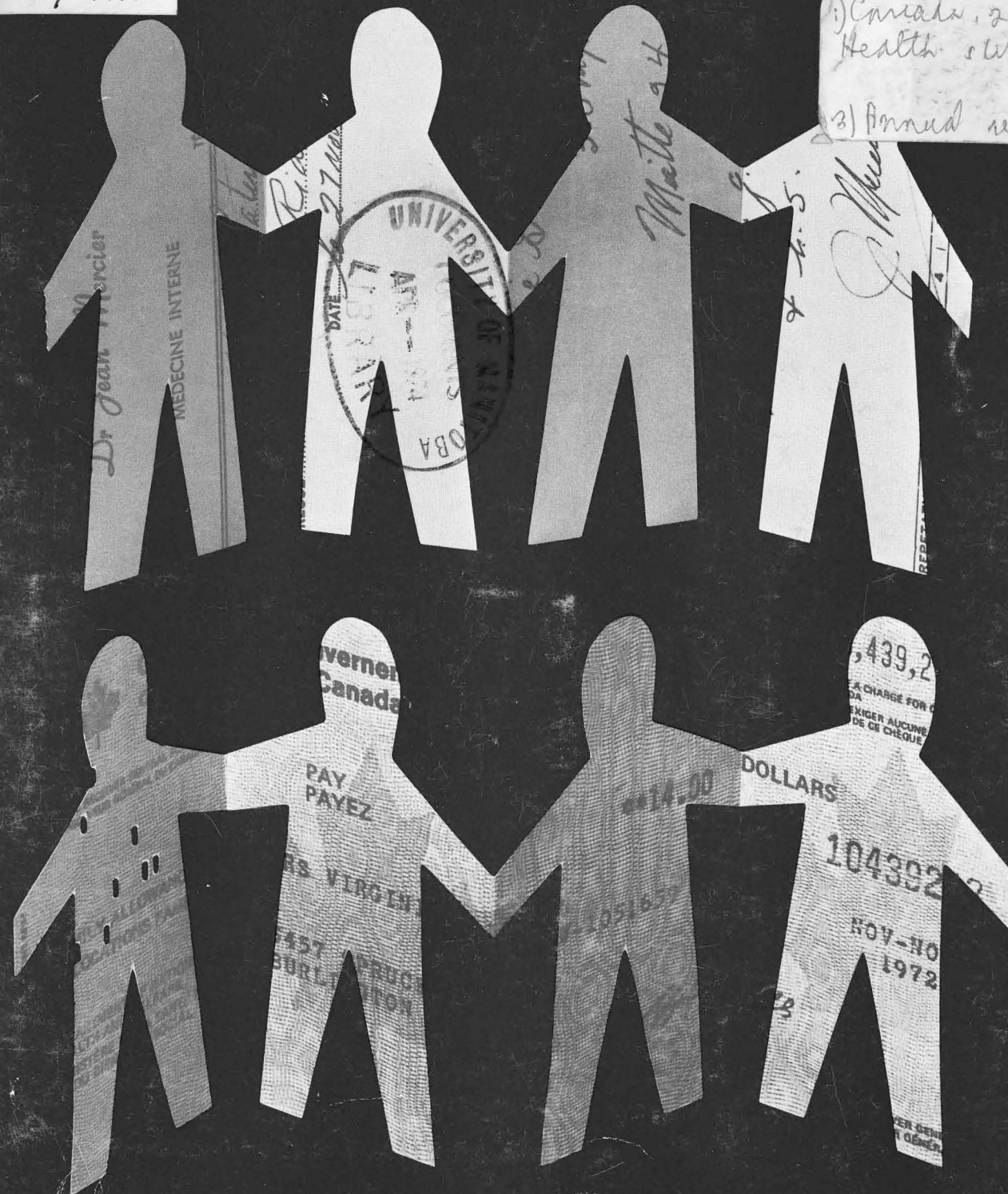


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1) Canada, 2) Dept. of National Health & Welfare C.T.

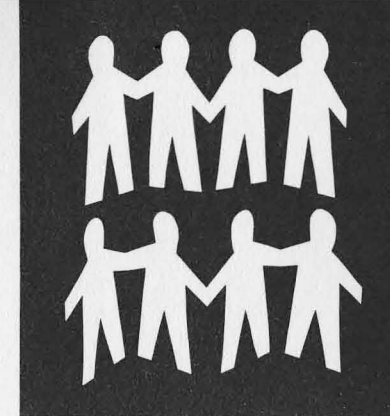
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ANNUAL REPORT 1971-72



Health and Welfare
Canada

Santé et Bien-être social
Canada



ANNUAL REPORT

for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1972

The Department of National Health and Welfare

OTTAWA

Honourable Marc Lalonde
Minister of National Health and Welfare

Sir:

We have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Department of
National Health and Welfare for the fiscal year 1971-72.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice LeClair, M.D.
Deputy Minister of National Health

A. W. Johnson
Deputy Minister of National Welfare

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As another approach to the above problem, an "Eskimo Strain Registry" has been established. Every patient receives a file containing particulars of his case history, and biochemical and susceptibility characteristics of the organism isolated from his sputum, as well as the results of phage typing.

Parasitology

The Institute of Parasitology, McGill University, continued to serve under contract as a national reference laboratory in this field. The activities of the Institute as such included examinations for helminthic and protozoal infections; serological tests for amoebiasis; hydatid hemagglutination tests and serological tests for trichinosis.

Botulism Reference Centre

In June 1971, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the British Columbia Health Branch established a botulism reference centre at the Provincial Division of Laboratories, Vancouver, British Columbia. The new reference centre is supported by the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control and provides a national botulism reference service. During the year 6 incidents of suspected botulism were investigated.

NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS

The role of the Non-Medical Use of Drugs Directorate is to provide effective assistance to Canadians in dealing with three main areas of concern relating to the problems created by the use of mind-altering drugs: research, rehabilitation and prevention.

The research program in consultation with the Joint Research Committee of the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Medical Research Council, develops, conducts

and evaluates programs to stimulate research into the causes and consequences of non-medical drug use. During the 1971-72 fiscal year, awards totalling \$410,457 were granted to 23 projects investigating these areas of concern. Support was provided to develop ultra-sensitive analytical methods for the detection of tetrahydrocannabinol and other drugs in biological fluids. In addition, research programs were supported in the behavioral studies relating to amphetamine abuse; surveys into patterns of drug use; and studies of health care systems involved in the treatment or prevention of acute and chronic problems of non-medical drug use.

The Innovative Services program awarded grants totalling \$1,442,927 to seventy-one projects across Canada. These programs are designed to deal in various ways with drug-related problems.

In an attempt to give a significant and concerned group of Canadians a better understanding of problems related to the non-medical use of drugs, the Directorate prepared and distributed a booklet entitled *A Parent's Guide to Drug Abuse*. Eight hundred thousand copies of this booklet were produced and distributed during the 1971-72 fiscal year.

MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH

INDIAN AND NORTHERN HEALTH

The Branch objective is to assist Canadian Indians and all residents of the Territories to have access to health services similar to those of other Canadian residents. In order to attain this main objective, Medical Services Branch engages in four main activities.

- (a) Health Care and Treatment Services
- (b) Public Health Services
- (c) Involvement of Indians in the Health Care System
- (d) Provision of Physical Facilities

In support of these main activities, the following new programs were added during the 1971-72 fiscal year.

Family Health Education Program

In 1971 a two-year agreement was arranged with the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood to provide training in family health education to some 800 Indian women on 54 reserves in Manitoba.

A similar agreement has been arranged with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs for the Indian population of B.C.

Alcohol Abuse Control Studies

In 1971-72 agreements with the Union of Nova Scotia Indians and the Union of New Brunswick Indians were undertaken to formulate program proposals for dealing with various aspects of alcohol abuse among Indians.

Indian-Operated Community Health Centre

In 1971 arrangements were made with the three Indian Bands at Morley, Alberta, for jointly-financed construction of a Community Health Centre. The Bands are operating the Centre with the medical co-operation of the

Faculty of Medicine of the University of Calgary and the Foothills Hospital in Calgary.

Mother and Child Care Centre Project

A Mother and Child Care Centre project has been developed as a major initiative in the constant fight to reduce Indian maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. The lead Centre, which was installed at Cross Lake, Manitoba, in June 1972, is staffed by a specially trained Public Health Nurse, a trained Day Care Centre supervisor, and five locally employed native women. Under close medical supervision, and with the co-operation of the University of Manitoba, the Centre will conduct pre and post-natal surveillance, a Home Health Aide program, Day Care activities, and a number of programs directed at home upgrading, diet and nutrition and home hygiene.

Subject to the success of the lead project, it is intended to extend the program to other Indian communities experiencing high rates of infant and maternal mortality and morbidity.

Eskimo Point Infant Protection Project

A special infant protection project with the objectives of reducing infant and pre-school mortality and morbidity, is being conducted at Eskimo Point, N.W.T.

Subject to the success of the lead project, it is intended to extend the program to other Eskimo communities experiencing high rates of infant and maternal mortality and morbidity.

New Professional Resources

Health Services to the Indian and Eskimo people have been intensified through co-operative agreements with Canadian Universities.

Clinical Training of Nurses for Medical Services in the North

The Minister signed contracts with six universities who agreed to provide two clinical training courses in 1972 for nurses of Medical Services Branch serving in Northern Canada. These universities were: Sherbrooke University, McGill University, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, University of Manitoba, and University of Alberta.

Departmental nurses serving in remote areas recognize that their general nurse training and experience had not covered areas of expertise required of them in isolated communities. In 1970, a Committee of doctors and nurses, drawn from a number of Schools of Nursing and Schools of Medicine, convened under the chairmanship of Dr. D. C. Kergin of McMaster University. From discussions and visits to Northern posts, the Committee recommended that the overall objective of a training programme for nurses, employed by or seeking employment with Medical Services in the North, was to increase the skills of the nurse in physical assessment and case management. Representatives from Medical Services Branch then proceeded to negotiate with most of the university Schools of Nursing and Schools of Medicine.

At the beginning of 1972, most of the six participating universities commenced their courses for nurses provided by Medical Services Branch.

New Dental Training Program

A dental therapist training program began in 1972 to train twenty residents of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

These dental therapists will be qualified to perform dental services of a preventive and educational nature including restorative treat-

ment to carious teeth and the removal of uncomplicated primary teeth.

Native Health Workers

At the close of the year, some 267 native people were employed as Community Health Workers and Community Aides.

Liaison Officers

The Indian Liaison Officer program was expanded during the year. This is an important means of establishing and developing trust and confidence between Indians and Health Services personnel. Seven of the eight Medical Services Regions now employ a total of 25 Liaison Officers.

Provision of Facilities

The Branch has continued to provide new, or to upgrade present facilities to meet requirements.

PUBLIC SERVICE HEALTH

The introduction of the program of periodic examinations within the Public Service has been developed and is in operation.

With the publication of additional standards and policies concerning occupational health for the Public Service, the Branch has increased its sophistication in dealing with all health facets of the work environment, and the Branch responds to all complaints regarding working environmental conditions.

During the past year eighteen new health units have been opened, bringing the total to eighty-one. Thirty-nine of these units are in the National Capital Zone, serving a working force of some 60,000 Public Servants with the remaining forty-two units being located in various centres across Canada, all units serving a total working force of approximately 121,000.