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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Manitoba | 29e | 4e | Remarques préliminaires à l’étude des crédits du Ministère de la Santé | 23 mai 1972 | Rene Touplin | Minister of Health and Social Development | NPD |

Mr. Chairman, it is my duty and privilege to introduce the Expenditure Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Development for the year 1972/73. The Department continues to operate as a member of the administrative team which this government uses for the social development of this province. Our particular mandate and responsibility is the designing and operating of an increasingly effective delivery system for Health and Social Services. The Department continues its efforts in providing a more decentralized, a more co­ordinated and a more community-oriented delivery system. This has meant that over the past year we have pursued a reorganization of departmental function and activities.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to briefly report that the reorganization as set forth has set the department on a base of four divisions. These are:

1. Operation Division.

2. The Inter-Regional Operations Division.

3. and Program Development Division and

4. The Resources Division.

A more detailed explanation of these four divisions, their functions and responsibilities will be found in the Department’s Annual Report "Review 1971" which has been tabled in this House. Briefly, the Community Operations Division provides direct social and health services to Manitobans and their community or regional levels. These include those services provided out of our existing regional offices. The Inter-Regional Operations Division also provides direct health and social services but does so out of a variety of institutions which serve Manitobans on a provincewide basis. These two divisions therefore provide the direct service delivery of our department on an operational day to day basis.

The Research, Planning and Program Development Division is responsible for the evaluation of existing programs in health and social development as well as the planning of those new programs and services we will require to meet the human needs in a changing social environment. An important facet of this division's work is the continuing audit and assessment of the external programs financially supported by the department. The division's internal program development will be expected to assess how effective our present operations are and will also design those measures necessary to prevent many of the health and social problems which face the people of Manitoba. Our approach here when you leave out all the fancy language is simply the old fashioned principle of "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Effective preventive measures not only lead to healthier and happy individuals and families, they also lead to a sharp drop in the human and financial cost such social problems create.

The fourth pillar of our department is the Resources Division. This Division assumes responsibility for many of those support tasks which make it possible for the rest of the department to operate at all effectively. These support services include financial and specialist services. Among these are the budgeting, accounting and control systems.

I am confident that the department will further refine its administrative capacities with a continuing increase in its capacity to offer integrated and regional services. Related to this revised structure are discussion papers on a number of topics of immediate and vital concern to the department. These include papers on the delivery of health services and adult and juvenile corrections. Still in the development stage is a guaranteed annual income proposal. As you know, we have also asked Professor Barber to investigate and report on the abuse of welfare in this province. On that very point, it may interest the members to learn that unlike past administrations, we are proceeding the laying charges of fraud and taking our cases to court whenever we are advised that a demonstrable abuse of welfare money has taken place.

Now we're going to need some money to run the Department of Health and Social Development in this fiscal year's on the Expenditure Estimates for 1972/73, let me submit the following:

For 1972/73 these Estimates total some $191 million, compared to $165 million for 1971/72. The increase of $26 million is required for three basic reasons: First more than half of this increase - some $13.8 million - is accounted for by increased income security programs. Second, more than one-quarter of the increase, or some $7.1 million, is accounted for by increased hospital and medical insurance programs. And third, the $5 million balance is accounted for by the general rising cost for the operation of our many institutions and the other area of the department's activities.

While we are now considering the expenditure side of the ledger, I would also point out that the departmental’s revenue 1972/73 will increase by an estimated $7 million made up of the federal share of cost-shared programs. It took a very aggressive position by the province to get these additional funds from Ottawa and although $7 million are not to be sneezed at we intend to push federal financial participation even more. The Federal Government has a double responsibility. It has implemented economic policies that have created more unemployment and general economic insecurity than has been the case for decades. Also, the Federal Government has shown the growing reluctance to fully use and extend Federal-Provincial cost-sharing programs. This has meant that we in the Province of Manitoba are being asked to spend more of our moneys on programs dealing with problems whose origins can be traced to federal policies, Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, this is the Liberal idea of a just society; just for 95 corporations, lousy for the rest of us.

It will come as no surprise to you, Mr. Chairman, that we intend to continue a most vigorous approach to Ottawa for the revenues that Manitoba needs and deserves. Considering the 1972/73 Estimates for the Operations Divisions, I would like to begin with the Community Operations Division. This division is responsible for the delivery of services in the areas of public health, probation, child protection, dental services, nursing services and income security programs. It also participates in interdepartmental programs such as the Northern Manpower Corps. The estimated expenditure of the Community Operations Division total some $90.9 million, an increase of $15.7 million over last year. Of this increase, $13.8 million is represented by increased costs in the delivery of income security programs. These are primarily under the Social Allowance Act of Manitoba but also include services in the area of child maintenance, reimbursement to municipalities, provision of uninsured health care and for vocational rehabilitation as well as for work activity projects.

I take particular pleasure in our work activity projects as being a viable alternative to chronic unemployment and welfare. For about 145 persons in the community of Amaranth, Pelican Rapids, Mollard, Duck Bay, Crane River and Camperville, the projects have been de­ signed to meet the needs of the breadwinners and their families caught in the conflicts of multiple social and economic problems. The ultimate goal of all participants is full employment. For some this will mean training beyond the projects and/or relocation to other employment centres. The projects are jointly controlled by the government and a citizens' board. We feel quite strongly that this is a much better solution to the problems of the participating families than the conventional welfare handout that we've seen in this province for so many years.

While we are doing whatever we can, Mr. Chairman, about the escalating welfare costs, I want to emphasize that my department is as dedicated to providing for those unfortunate people in the province who are most in need as we are committed to prevent abuses of public welfare by a sly minority. For those in need, those who qualify for social assistance we will administer the program in a humane and compassionate fashion.

Our Community Operations Division is moving toward an integrated community approach and we are in the process of developing further programs to deal with the problems of work incentives, social upgrading, work and employment upgrading, rural dental services, the incidence of venereal disease and programs such as the work activity projects I have briefly described earlier, No matter how far along we are in the post-industrial age here in the Province of Manitoba, it remains the aspiration of the overwhelming majority of our people to secure a decent income from a decent job.

The next division I would like to briefly speak on is the Inter-Regional Operations Division, This division you will recall is responsible for the operation of institutions largely in the correction and mental health fields, I have already mentioned that I hope to present you in the very near future with a position paper on where Manitoba might be headed in the area of correctional programs. I can also tell you that studies are under way in the areas of mental health and mental retardation. Mr. Chairman, I cannot tell you now what the conclusions and results of these studies will be. I do know that they will play an important role in the future development in these areas and that they will emphasize the preventative and rehabilitative aspect of these programs.

I can also report progress in these areas: We have continued to upgrade facilities and services at Headingley Correctional Institutions; and our large juvenile reception centre is well under construction in Tuxedo. It is expected that the juvenile centre will be operational by December of this year,

We are also continuing to upgrade facilities at the Manitoba School for Retardates and we

are providing assistance to the St. Amant Ward of the St. Vital Hospital for the development of additional facilities for retarded children.

We have made provision for the use of currently available facilities as detoxification and treatment centres, In contemplating the establishment of a detoxification centre we have worked with the Foundation and earmarked $840, 000 to cover the cost of the facility.

The estimated expenditures for the Inter-regional Operations Division in 1972/73 comes to a total of $25, 9 million; an increase of some $3.1 million over that of the previous year.

I now wish to direct your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the Manitoba Health Services Commission, The total appropriation from Provincial Revenues which we estimate will be required to maintain the programs of the Manitoba Health Services Commission for 1972/73 comes to a total of about $71 million, As you know the Commission derives additional revenues from premiums, from cost sharing arrangements with the Federal Government as well as from interest and other miscellaneous incomes, Because the Commission operates on the calendar year basis as do the hospitals, detailed explanation will need to convert the Commissions' financial year to our fiscal year. The anticipated 1972 hospital costs are some $117.5 million, Health service costs are obviously continuing to increase rapidly and we shall hold a full discussion on the direction health care may take in the future when we bring forward our paper on Health Services Delivery.

Mr. Chairman, we estimated that there will be an increase of $3. 7 million in the cost of fees paid to doctors because of increased volume from utilization and population growth, The Manitoba Medical Association has requested a review of the fee schedule which would result in an over-all increase, but we have made no provisions for such an increased fee schedule for 1972.

Mr. Chairman, the current pier for my department is one of consolidating the gains of the past two years and developing the plans for the future.

Before relinquishing the floor I would like to mention the civil servants in my Department and in the Manitoba Health Services Commission, The past year has seen many changes take place; changes which have been constructive and progressive. These changes however like all changes have required a degree of adaptability and flexibility on the part of all persons concerned, It is to the credit of the staff of the Department that they have both adapted to these changes and have seen the reorganization as desirable and necessary if we are to adequately meet the constantly shifting demands of those citizens whom we all attempt to serve.

I am proud of my staff, Mr. Chairman; I am grateful for their efforts and I gladly take this opportunity to thank them publicly. I have now completed my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, and would invite detailed consideration and approval of these Estimates of Expenditures for the Department of Health and Social Development for the year 1972/73.