



CHAPTER 62.

An Act to provide Social Assistance.

[Assented to 28th March, 1945.]

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Social Assistance Act."

Short title.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

Interpretation.

"Director" means the Director of Welfare appointed pursuant to section 11:

"Minister" means the Provincial Secretary:

"Social assistance" means:—

(a.) Financial assistance:

(b.) Assistance in kind:

(c.) Institutional, nursing, boarding, or foster home care:

(d.) Aid in money or in kind to municipalities, boards, commissions, organizations, or persons providing aid, care, or health services to indigent, sick, or infirm persons, and in reimbursing expenditures made by them:

(e.) Counselling service:

(f.) Health services:

(g.) Occupational training, retraining, or therapy for indigent persons and mentally or physically handicapped persons:

(h.) Generally any form of aid necessary to relieve destitution and suffering.

3. Social assistance may be granted out of funds appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose to individuals, whether adult

Purpose.

or minor, or to families, who through mental or physical illness or other exigency are unable to provide in whole or in part by their own efforts, through other security measures, or from income and other resources, necessities essential to maintain or assist in maintaining a reasonably normal and healthy existence.

Aid to municipalities and relation to "Municipal Act."

4. Notwithstanding any provisions of the "Municipal Act," or of any other Act relating to municipalities or villages, in respect to suitable provision being made for its destitute and poor, financial aid may be granted out of moneys appropriated for the purposes of this Act to any municipality or village to defray the costs of social assistance, but it shall be a condition precedent to the granting of such aid that the municipality shall provide and maintain social assistance and relative social administrative services on a basis consistent with the standards established by the rules and regulations made pursuant to this Act.

Municipalities not relieved from duties in relation to poor.

5. No municipality or village shall be relieved by any of the provisions of this Act from any of the duties imposed upon it by law in relation to the relief of the poor or other persons.

Need for beneficiary to report income and resources.

6. (1.) If at any time during the continuance of social assistance the recipient thereof becomes possessed of income or resources in excess of the amount previously reported by him on an application form for assistance, it shall be his duty to notify the authority providing assistance of this fact immediately on the receipt of possession of additional income or resources.

(2.) If any person fails to notify as required by subsection (1) he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

"Residence and Responsibility Act."

7. The receipt of social assistance under this Act in the nature of counselling service, health service, or occupational therapy shall not be deemed to be social assistance for the purposes of clause (a) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the "Residence and Responsibility Act."

No discrimination based on race, etc.

8. In the administration of social assistance there shall be no discrimination based on race, colour, creed, or political affiliations.

Obtaining social assistance by fraud.

9. Any person who by fraud obtains or attempts to obtain or aids or abets any person to obtain social assistance under this Act to which he is not entitled shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Penalty.

10. Every person who is guilty of an offence against this Act shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of not more than two hundred dollars or to imprisonment for not more than three months, or both such fine and imprisonment.