

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1969

Applicability of the Canadian Government Employees
Compensation Act to the Staff of the Commission Secretariat

by the Executive Secretary

1. The Canadian Government Employees Compensation Act provides for compensation for injury to an employee by accident arising out of, or in the course of employment, or for disablement caused by a specified industrial disease, except where the employee is disabled for fewer than a stated number of days.
2. On 25 February 1969, the Executive Secretary was advised by the International Fisheries Office of the Canadian Department of Fisheries, that the Canadian Government Employees Compensation Act could be applied to staffs of International Commissions such as ICNAF. For Commissions such as ICNAF with headquarters in Canada, coverage is for Canadian citizens, or citizens of a country other than Canada, who are not entitled to benefits under the laws of their country.
3. The further steps required to authorize coverage of employees of a particular Commission, in this case ICNAF, consist of an Order-in-Council and a declaration by the Canadian Minister of Labour.
4. Under Section II of the Act, ICNAF, as employer, would be charged with the costs of any compensation claims and their administration by a billing of such costs after the claims have been paid. The authority in Department of Labour, the declaration of ICNAF through the Order-in-Council and the declaration of the Minister of Labour will allow for the immediate payments out of Canadian Government funds. These amounts would then be charged to ICNAF for payment.
5. Canadian Department of Labour statistics show that heavy expenditures are rarely encountered under this scheme. Amounts of compensation payable to an employee at rates prescribed by the Nova Scotia Workmen's Compensation Act are computed on actual average earnings but must not, in any case, exceed the rate of \$6,000 per year.
6. Benefits in case of disability include all necessary medical care and hospitalization, cash payments during the period of temporary disability to indemnify the injured employee for loss of wages, a life pension for any resulting permanent disability, and rehabilitation services. In the case of the death of the employee, a widow is granted a monthly pension, a special lump sum of payment, an allowance for funeral expenses and a monthly payment for each child under the age limit provided by the law.
7. The Commission may wish to examine the scheme in more detail. A copy of the Canadian Government Employees Compensation Act and the Nova Scotia Workmen's Compensation Act will be available at the Annual Meeting for this purpose.
8. The Commission will be interested to know that the scheme is already in effect for the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission and for Canadian citizens who are employees of the International Pacific Halibut Commissions.

The Executive Secretary has been advised that, with this Commission's approval of the scheme, it can be put into effect by the Canadian Department of Labour with very little delay.