By Julian Reed M.P.P. Halton-Burlington CHILD ABUSE

Ontario, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia are the only four provinces which actually define "abuse" in child welfare legislation. Definitions vary, but they all incorporate references to physical harm and sexual abuse.

The concept of "child abuse" includes a variety of injuries inflicted upon a child by a parent or guardian. These have been categorized broadly by professionals as follows: (1) Physical assault: obvious signs of battering, ranging from bruises to scars or fractures. (2) Sexual abuse: incent, molestation, rape, pornographic exploitation, etc. (3). Emotional abuse: constant criticism, lack of care or affection, and other behaviour which may endanger the emotional and mental welfare of a child. (4). Physical neglect: this usually involves food or deprivation or inadequate hygiene.

Virtually every Canadian province has enacted legislation which imposes a duty to report cases of child "abuse" or children "in need of protection". Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec prescribe additional reporting obligations for professionals. There are variations from province to province on the specific conditions under which a report must be made, and the designation of offences and penalties for non-reporting. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island fail to maintain central registries of data on abused children or children requiring protection.

In Ontario, it has been proposed that the same mandatory reporting provisions apply to all persons, including professionals and officials. It has also been recommended that the possibility of a fine for failure to report be limited to certain professionals and officials. Judge H. Ward Allen, in his report on the death of Kim Ann Popen, has recommended that it be "an offence for anyone (not just professionals (having information about any incident of child abuse or suspected child abuse to fail to report such information".

VARIATIONS There are some variations from province to province as to when a report must be made. Here in Ontario, this should be done when individuals have "Information of the abandonment, desertion or need for protection of a child or the infliction of abuse upon a

Professionals have a additional responsibility an obligation to report where, in the course of their duties, they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has suffered or is suffering from abuse that may have been caused or permitted by a peson who has or has had charge of the child.

Ontario is among the provinces which provides for cases of child abuse to be recorded in a central registry created by legis-

Two significant studies have recently been released in Ontario: The Children's Act Consultation Paper and the Popen

Inquiry. The Children's Act Consulation Paper covers such questions as: Grounds for Involuntary Intervention and Reporting Requirements; Action by Agency; Custody during Adjournment; Disposition by the Courts; Revlews of Court Orders; Agency Placement of Children; Teenage Mothers; the Role of the Lawyer: Detention of Children in Observation and Detention Homes; A Child Abandoned in an Institution; Lay Panels; Native Children and Fa-

Chapter 4 of the Act leaves a number of questions open for further discussion.

HARM

For example, although scrious emotional harm and abandonment have been included in proposed grounds for intervention when a child is apparently in need of protection, should both be excluded?

Again, should reporting be mandatory only if the child is suffering severe physical abuse, with reporting for emotional and sexual abuse excluded?

. The paper requests comments on the central child abuse register

whether it should be aboiished or how it may be

rehension of children in

need of protection is ex-

improved. Emotional harm as a basis for emergency app-

cluded: in addition, comments are requested on whether or not sexual

abuse should also be eliminated as a ground for emergency apprehension.

Born in Toronto, Ted, (Edward Arthur), son of the late Emily Ann and Edwin Henry Hicken, resided for most of his life in Georgetown, passing away Jan. 25, 1983 at age 65. In Pembroke where he and his wife, the former Lillian Irene Tarxwell have resided for about five years.

Enlisted early in 1940 with the Lorne Scots, was with the 48th Highlanders when he went overseas in 1941, was transferred to the Headquarters Squadron of the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade and after further training was with Field Marshall Montgomery's 8th Army in the Invasion of Sicily and Italy in 1943 where he remained in Italy

After his discharge in 1946 and taking a course

SECTION B, THE HERALD, Wednesday, March 16, 1983 - Page 7 in Plumbing and Heating he returned to Georgetown, working in this line of business.

A few years later he and his brother-in-law, Thomas Clapham formed a partnership and built the Service Station and Restaurant at the corner of Maple Ave. West and Trainigar Road. He carried on with the Service Station after Thomas Clapham left in 1960, until he sold it to Wayne Tucker.

He leaves one son, Melvyn Edward, grandsons Edwin Ashley and Jason Edward of Cobden, Ontario and sisters Lucy E. Emslie, May E. Clapham and Patricia June Ross of Georgetown.

A funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Christopher Dunn of St. Patrick's Anglican Church at the Fraser-Norris Funeral Home, Cobden, Ontario.

Obituary Highlanders military record





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