

A special \$1,000,000 revolving fund has been set aside by the Government as a source of credit for Indians who live on reserves. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1961, 135 loans totalling \$177,029 were approved. Most of these loans were for agricultural purposes, including the purchase of machinery and cattle.

Welfare.—A public assistance program is provided by the Indian Affairs Branch for Indians who are unable, for various reasons, to maintain themselves and their families. In the field of rehabilitation, handicapped Indians are helped, through training and selected placement, to the fullest utilization of their abilities. Care of neglected children rests for the most part with the Branch but, increasingly, the co-operation and assistance of provincial accredited child-caring agencies are being employed. Housing is another important item of Indian welfare services—more than 10,000 houses were built and thousands of others repaired during the past decade.

7.—Housing on Indian Reserves, by Region, Year Ended Mar. 31, 1961

Region	Houses			Expenditures				
	Started before, Completed during Year	Started and Completed during Year	Started during Year but Not Completed	From Welfare Appropriation	From Band Funds	From VLA Grant	Personal Contributions	Total
	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Maritime Provinces.....	2	26	7	84,166	—	5,842	7,000	97,008
Quebec.....	19	117	14	302,796	13,155	5,203	63,335	384,489
Ontario—								
Southern.....	21	41	42	110,102	46,276	5,898	172,546	334,821
Northern.....	9	102	27	251,311	54,055	3,895	43,575	352,836
Manitoba.....	33	126	17	276,149	16,009	2,080	56,179	350,418
Saskatchewan.....	12	248	31	361,899	152,729	—	66,326	580,954
Alberta and Northwest Territories.....	67	211	41	353,247	586,869	—	29,217	969,333
British Columbia and Yukon Territory.....	33	158	68	453,281	104,458	2,320	211,602	771,661
Canada.....	196	1,029	247	2,192,951	973,551	25,238	649,780	3,841,520

Every effort is made to reach agreement with provincial governments which will make possible the application of normal provincial welfare services and benefits on reserves. Several bands in Ontario now participate in the Ontario General Welfare Assistance Act. Throughout Canada, Indians are paid family allowances, old age security, old age assistance, blind persons' allowances and disabled persons' allowances, and in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec mothers' allowances are available to needy Indian mothers.

Community Development.—Community development on Indian reserves is progressing at an ever-increasing rate. Leadership training courses are conducted under Indian Affairs Branch auspices to help Indians identify and understand community problems and become familiar with accepted methods of community organization. Indian women are encouraged to form homemakers' clubs patterned after rural women's institutes and the Branch assists the clubs through counselling and material aid. Indian band councils are encouraged to exercise to the fullest extent the powers and duties granted them under the Indian Act.