

**Welfare.**—Indians are eligible for all welfare assistance provided under federal legislation and financed by the Federal Government, including family allowances and old age security. They are also eligible to receive old age assistance, disabled persons' allowances and blind persons' allowances, which are financed jointly by the federal and provincial governments. In addition, the Indian Affairs Branch has an active interest in assisting Indian individuals and communities to achieve and maintain a standard of living comparable with that of non-Indians in similar socio-economic conditions. Although there is no federal legislation establishing Branch welfare programs, public assistance (food, clothing, fuel, house equipment) is provided on a means-test basis to indigent and dependent Indians living on reserves.

The Branch negotiates cost-sharing agreements with various governmental and private welfare agencies to ensure that existing programs of welfare assistance and social benefits are made available to Indians on the same basis as to non-Indians. In British Columbia a joint federal-provincial arrangement provides for the issuance of welfare assistance to Indians at point of need and application in the non-Indian community. The Indian Affairs Branch reimburses the province the cost of assistance for those Indians who have not lived for a full year on a self-supporting basis in the non-Indian community.

In Ontario, under the General Welfare Assistance Act, Indian bands may be considered as municipalities for purposes of relief administration under the provisions of that Act; 34 bands administer assistance under provincial regulations. When necessary, the Indian Affairs Branch assists bands with limited financial resources up to a maximum of 20 p.c. of the total costs of relief, which is the municipal share for which a band is responsible under this arrangement. In Ontario and Manitoba, departmental agreements with the respective provincial governments and Children's Aid Societies allow for the extension of child welfare services to Indian children on reserves. The Federal Government contributes financially to the administrative costs of the Children's Aid Society and pays the established per diem rate of maintenance for Indian children placed in foster homes and institutions as wards of the child care agency. The Federal Government has similar agreements with the Governments of the Yukon Territory and of Nova Scotia. In all provinces, to bridge the gap between the welfare needs of Indian communities and the availability of local resources, the Branch finances and administers a foster home care program for abandoned Indian children and a boarding home and institutional care program for dependent adults.

In the field of rehabilitation, departmental agreements with the Manitoba Sanatorium Board, the Saskatchewan Council for Crippled Children and Adults, and the Alberta Tuberculosis Association permit the establishment of rehabilitation programs on behalf of physically and socially handicapped Indians. The Branch contributes toward administrative costs of the programs and assumes responsibility for maintenance and training costs.

Assistance is also given in the area of housing. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1963, 1,085 new houses became available on the reserves and 291 were under construction at the end of the year. The total cost of the housing program was \$3,705,873, of which 52.8 p.c. was from federal welfare appropriation, 27.0 p.c. from band funds, 19.8 p.c. from personal contributions and 0.4 p.c. from Veterans' Land Act grants.

### **The Eskimos\***

Collectively and as individuals, Canada's 13,600 Eskimos living in the Northwest Territories, northern Quebec and Labrador continued to move ahead in their development from a nomadic way of life to one not too unlike the pattern of living in some areas of Southern Canada. Eskimos are becoming settled in established communities where opportunities are greater for education, health services and employment. In addition to those self-employed as members of co-operatives, Eskimos have jobs in a variety of fields. They work as civil servants and as DEW-line employees. Eskimos are clergymen, miners, carpenters, mechanics, diesel and tractor operators and oil drillers. An Eskimo is manager of the CBC radio station at Inuvik and an Eskimo girl produces Eskimo-language

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