

**24.—Indian Population, by Province, Departmental Censuses 1949, 1954 and 1959
and Estimates 1961, 1963 and 1965**

Province or Territory	1949	1954	1959 ¹	1961 ¹	1963 ¹	1965 ¹
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	273	272	341	348	374	394
Nova Scotia.....	2,641	3,002	3,561	3,746	3,935	4,102
New Brunswick.....	2,139	2,629	3,183	3,397	3,629	3,808
Quebec.....	15,970	17,574	20,453	21,793	23,043	24,448
Ontario.....	34,571	37,255	42,668	44,942	47,260	49,458
Manitoba.....	17,549	19,684	23,658	25,681	27,778	29,957
Saskatchewan.....	16,308	18,750	23,280	25,334	27,672	29,996
Alberta.....	13,805	15,715	19,287	20,931	22,738	24,596
British Columbia.....	27,936	31,086	36,229	38,616	40,990	43,250
Yukon Territory.....	1,443	1,568	1,868	2,006	2,142	2,352
Northwest Territories.....	3,772	4,023	4,598	4,915	5,235	5,503
Totals.....	136,407	151,558	179,126	191,709	204,796	217,864

¹ As at Dec. 31.

Administration.—Pursuant to the British North America Act, the administration of Indian affairs, which had been under the management of several provinces, came under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada in 1867. From January 1950 to December 1965, Indian affairs were the responsibility of a Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. In June 1966 (SC 1966, c. 25) a new department was formed whereby the Indian Affairs Branch joined with part of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to become the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The Indian Affairs Branch is composed of a headquarters staff at Ottawa, eight regional offices and 84 field agencies. Attached to the headquarters and regional offices are specialists in such matters as education, economic development, community development, resource management, social welfare, and engineering and construction. Liaison is maintained with the Medical Services Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare, the federal agency concerned with the medical care of Indians.

It is the primary function of the Indian Affairs Branch to administer the affairs of Indians in a manner that will enable them to participate fully in the social and economic life of the country. Underlying administrative duties of the Branch include the management of Indian reserves and surrendered lands, the administration of band funds, estates management, enfranchisement of Indians and the administration of treaty obligations.

Five main objectives are being pursued vigorously in an attempt to assist the Indians in adjusting to the pace of social and economic growth. (1) An accelerated program in education places more emphasis on vocational training, retraining for employment, assistance in placement, adult education, kindergartens and a greater use of provincial schools. (2) The program of industrial and resource development has been expanded; in the past the program was mainly dependent on the traditional resources of fur, fish, forestry and farming but opportunities are now being extended to new areas by loans and other incentives to foster industrial development on the reserves and to facilitate the relocation of families to places where full-time employment is available. (3) A five-year program of reserve improvement has been instituted for which \$112,000,000 has been allotted to provide better housing, water and sewerage systems, electrification and roads. (4) To develop local self-government, Indian bands, where possible, are encouraged to operate on the same basis as local municipalities and grants are given where they are required to meet some of the financial needs of the Indian community. (5) Provincial services to Indians are being extended; some provincial services are now provided and, where bands so desire, arrangements can be made with a province to make additional services available.

Eight Regional Indian Advisory Councils have been established by the Department to provide machinery for effective consultation with representatives of the Indian people. Each Council is composed of eight to 12 Indians elected by the bands in the region, as well as representatives of Indian organizations. The consultation procedure is used to interpret