

With the consent and participation of the bands concerned, surveys are being undertaken to establish present and potential use of reserve lands. Where required, Indians are being trained to develop and manage their own lands and are assisted in acquiring the equipment necessary for such development. Greater interest is being shown by many bands in utilizing their reserve lands for industrial and commercial purposes and the development of resources on or near reserves is leading to the formation of co-operatives and other processing facilities at more remote reserves. The adaptation of Indian people to Canadian industrial and business life is encouraged, in their reserve communities, by financial and professional help in operating small businesses.

In 1965-66 (latest figures available), Indian people produced about \$1,200,000 worth of handicraft items for sale and for their own use. Interest in their traditional crafts and expanding markets is bringing about a steady growth in this important industry and encouragement is given by the Indian Affairs Branch which maintains a marketing and advisory service, conducts national promotional programs and gives technical and financial assistance. Many Indian people have established successful enterprises based on the production and sale of arts and crafts.

Community Development.—The Community Development Program launched by the Indian Affairs Branch in 1964 has been instrumental in much closer involvement of the Indian people in the management of their own affairs. In their efforts to accept such responsibility, many Indian bands across the country are developing their own municipal type of administration. Forty-eight community development workers hired by the Indian Affairs Branch are assisting and encouraging the Indian people to plan their own future. A Grants-to-Bands Program has been initiated to enable bands to gain program experience and to assist them financially. The cost of the program increased from \$66,892 in 1965-66 to \$445,300 in 1966-67.

Federal-Provincial Community Development Agreements to extend provincial services to the Indian people have been signed with the Provinces of Ontario and Alberta and, as in the past, provincial services have been supplied to the Indian people through informal arrangements in other parts of Canada. In general, under these agreements and informal arrangements, provincial services are available to the Indian people, with the cost shared on a population basis where both Indians and non-Indians are involved.

A program was started in 1965 to develop and perpetuate Indian culture through encouraging Indian fine arts and crafts, literature, dancing, folk songs and related activities. Incentives include grants, subsidies and scholarships to individuals, groups and organizations for the development of their creative and performing talents.

Physical Development of Reserves.—Early in 1966 a plan was announced by the Federal Government for the expenditure of \$112,000,000 over a five-year period for the physical improvement of Indian reserves. The program provides for assistance for housing, safe water supply, sanitation facilities, electrification of homes and improved roads in Indian communities. Following a study of housing conditions on reserves, completed in February 1965, it was indicated that there was a need for 12,000 new homes in the five-year period. The objective of the program is to build these homes with about \$75,000,000 in public funds in conjunction with band funds and personal contributions; 1,769 houses were constructed in 1966-67 and the objective for 1967-68 is 1,959 houses. Some \$10,000,000 will be spent to supply safe drinking water and proper sewage disposal and a rural electrification program is being undertaken, using public utilities wherever possible, at a cost of about \$7,000,000. The remainder will go toward providing better roads. Expenditures on these projects during 1967-68 will amount to approximately \$21,178,000.

Welfare.—The provision of general welfare assistance and services to indigent Indians is an essential factor in assisting them to raise their social and economic status. The welfare program administered by the Indian Affairs Branch includes public assistance (food, clothing and shelter) to dependent Indians and certain categories of non-Indians