

Financing from the Department of the Secretary of State provides for administrative and functional operations of Indian associations and supports at least one all-chiefs meeting per province each year.

Research and liaison. A Policy Planning and Research Branch of the Department was set up late in 1972 to develop stronger liaison with Indian bands and associations, to carry out research activities for the Indian-Eskimo program and to collect and analyze data on program activities. The Indians have expressed a desire to administer many activities at the band level and still others at the association level. Responsibilities for local administration and for economic and community development are being progressively transferred to the Indians themselves but the transfer presents difficulties that will not be easily or inexpensively overcome. Transfer techniques, financial arrangements, agreements and training programs are being developed and implemented in preparation for a phase-out of federal staff when the Indians are adequately trained. Meanwhile, the Branch must maintain and improve the reasonably effective dialogue that has now been developed with most of the Indian associations.

4.2.5.2 Eskimos

At present the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is responsible, either directly or indirectly through the Northwest Territories government, for the 17,000 Eskimo people, or Inuit as they prefer to be called, in the Northwest Territories, Arctic Quebec, Labrador and Manitoba.

In the Northwest Territories, education, welfare, municipal services and most provincial-type functions are administered by the territorial government with federal financial support. In other parts of Canada the Department administers these services. The Northwest Territories Council enacts health ordinances but the federal Department of National Health and Welfare provides all health care services to northern residents. The territorial government operates a health insurance plan and coverage was made available to all residents on April 1, 1971. Most settlements of more than 250 have nursing stations; complicated medical or surgical cases are flown to larger centres.

The federal Northern Housing Program has resulted in the construction of 2,200 modern housing units most often rented fully serviced to the Inuit, but there is a provision for ownership with part of the rent applied to the purchase price. Because the Eskimo tenant associations manage these rental projects, the program is contributing to community development and independence.

Co-operatives, run by the Eskimos themselves with technical assistance from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, represent a further step toward financial and administrative autonomy. Co-operatives in 27 Eskimo settlements have contributed more than \$5 million to the local economy in wages and salaries, through the marketing of such products as handicrafts, sculpture and Arctic gourmet foods.

4.2.6 Departments, boards, commissions and corporations

In Canada the work of government is conducted by federal departments, special boards, commissions and Crown corporations. During the past quarter-century this last type of organization, the Crown corporation, has been used frequently for administering and managing many public services in which business enterprise and public accountability must be combined. The historical evolution of Crown corporations is described in the *1972 Canada Year Book*, p. 153. Part VIII of the Financial Administration Act (RSC 1970, c.F-10) provides a uniform system of financial and budgetary control and of accounting, auditing and reporting for Crown corporations. In addition, that legislation defines a Crown corporation as a corporation that is ultimately accountable, through a Minister, to Parliament for the conduct of its affairs and establishes three classes of corporation — departmental, agency and proprietary.

Departmental corporations. A departmental corporation is defined as a Crown corporation that is a servant or agent of Her Majesty in right of Canada and is responsible for administrative, supervisory or regulatory services of a governmental nature. The following corporations are classified as departmental corporations in Schedule B to the Financial Administration Act:

Agricultural Stabilization Board