

provided for capital investments in community improvements, and \$7.4 million for operating expenditures. Further to proposals of the National Indian Brotherhood, the Department is now preparing recommendations for a housing policy.

The role of the federal government in the administration of programs for Indian people is changing from that of direct program management at the local level, to that of acting in an advisory and consultative capacity as the Indian people assume responsibility for managing their own affairs under the Department's Local Government Program. Emphasis is placed on the definition of needs and priorities by both the Department and Indian bands working jointly, and on the development of close consultation for deciding both policy and administrative matters.

Under agreements with the federal government, provincial Indian associations receive funds to administer community development programs that are planned jointly with government officials, but administered by the associations themselves. These programs are intended to help Indian people to improve the social, economic and cultural conditions of life in their communities.

Since the first such agreement was concluded with the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood in 1969, others have been entered into with Indian associations in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. In 1973-74 these associations handled over \$2 million in community development funds.

The Department, through its Indian-Eskimo Economic Development Branch, works to raise the economic status and increase the independence of individuals and bands by assisting in the creation of business and employment opportunities in service and secondary industries and in areas of resource utilization and land development, including the development of mineral resources on Indian reserves. Many of these programs are conducted in co-operation with other federal government departments, provincial governments and private organizations. Assistance is in the form of loans, grants and contributions, loan guarantees, technical and management advice, and specialized training. The loans are provided from the Indian Economic Development Fund, capitalized at \$60 million for the five years ended March 31, 1975. During 1974 a new guaranteed loan fund of \$30 million was established. In addition the Branch has appropriated a total of \$23.7 million during the past five years in grants and contributions to be used to encourage economic activity through the provision of basic infrastructure and professional and technical services. For the fiscal year 1974-75 to January 31, 1975, the fund provided \$30.4 million in loans, guarantees, grants and contributions. The Branch also administers the Indian reserves and surrendered lands as well as certain categories of Indian estates.

Indians are eligible for benefits from a number of welfare programs which are administered by different levels of government, Indian bands and private agencies. Like other Canadians, not all Indians have the same programs available to them, as some programs vary not only between but also within provinces and on and off reserves.

Some Indian bands administer social assistance and child care for persons living on the reserve of the band. The criteria of eligibility and rates of payment for social assistance are based on those of the province in which the band is located. Family allowances, old age security and the guaranteed income supplement are paid to Indians by the Department of National Health and Welfare on the same basis as they are paid to other Canadians.

Indians are eligible for benefits from some, but not all, provincial welfare programs except in the Northwest Territories, where they are eligible for benefits from all territorial welfare programs. Generally speaking, Indians are eligible for benefits under provincial programs for specific categories or persons, such as the blind. Generally, benefits from less specific programs, such as social assistance, are not available to Indians living on reserves, but they are available in some parts of some provinces.

The federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development provides social assistance, care for children and care for physically handicapped adults when these are not available from other sources. The criteria for eligibility and the rates used in calculating the amount to which an applicant for social assistance is entitled are based on those of the province in which the person applies for assistance. Also, that Department and the Department of National Health and Welfare have an expanded program to deal with problems of alcohol abuse among native people. The native people themselves will be invited to formulate and