

or fraud or by concealment of material circumstances. Where in the opinion of the Minister a doubt exists as to whether a person has ceased to be a Canadian citizen, the Minister may refer the question to the commission referred to in the Citizenship Act for a ruling and the decision of the commission or the court, as the case may be, shall be final.

Citizenship statistics. Citizenship certificates are "issued" for various reasons to persons who are already Canadian citizens; certificates are "granted" to those who become Canadian citizens by the grant of such certificates. In 1972, 107,178 certificates were issued and 80,866 granted; 30,141 of those granted went to British subjects, 59,725 to aliens. In 1973, 133,370 certificates were issued and 104,697 were granted. Of the latter, 40,424 went to British subjects and 64,273 to aliens.

The decennial census of Canada requires that each person state the country to which he owed allegiance and had citizenship rights as of June 1 of the census year. According to the 1971 Census, only 6% of the Canadian population on June 1, 1971 reported a country of citizenship other than Canada.

3.2.5 Native peoples

3.2.5.1 Indians

The federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is responsible for the 270,494 Indians registered with the Department under the Indian Act. The role of the federal government in administering Indian affairs is changing as the native people become involved in managing their own affairs, as Indian representatives and government confer before major policy decisions are taken, and as band councils plan activities and distribute funds available under the Indian Affairs program.

Community improvement. The Department's Community Affairs Branch assists with the physical development of Indian communities, which involves planning, housing, water, sanitation, electricity and the construction and maintenance of roads on reserves. Indian participation in these activities as well as in services such as school maintenance, fire and police protection and local government is increasing as the concept of band management is extended.

The federal government administers three housing programs on reserves: subsidy housing, a program of direct subsidy; band-administered housing, a scheme in which band councils are authorized to administer federal appropriations either as the sole source of financing or in conjunction with band funds and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) loans; and Indian on-reserve housing, a system of CMHC loans to individuals guaranteed by the Minister and often applied in conjunction with band funds or federal subsidies. Indians employed away from the reserve, wishing to live in non-Indian communities, are eligible for loans from CMHC or approved lenders in conjunction with a program of forgivable mortgage loans from the federal government.

Community development. Under agreements with the federal government, provincial Indian associations receive funds to administer community development programs that are jointly planned with government officials, but administered by the associations themselves. These programs are intended to help Indian people to participate in improving 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 Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Ontario. In 1973-74 these associations handled nearly \$2 million in community development funds.

Economic development. 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 and guarantees are provided from the Indian Economic Development Fund, capitalized at \$35 million for the four