

years ended March 31, 1974. In addition, the Branch has appropriated a total of \$13 million during the past four 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 1973-74 the fund provided \$12 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.

**Social services.** 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. Benefits from less specific programs, such as social assistance, are not generally available to Indians living on reserves, although they are 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 for Indians when these are not available from other sources. The criteria of 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.

**Indian consultation and negotiation.** In recent years the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has provided consultation funds to finance meetings between departmental officials and Indian associations representing bands, as well as all-chiefs conferences. An increasing number of bands have indicated that they wish to carry out consultations on their own to resolve matters of immediate concern. At the Regional Directors Conference in February 1972 it was agreed that more emphasis should be placed on meetings between regional staff and bands, and less on conferences with associations and between associations and bands.

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.

**Policy planning and research.** A Branch was established in 1972 to co-ordinate the policy planning and research functions in the Indian-Eskimo programs. Incorporated within the Branch is a unit which deals with Indian claims based on traditional use and occupancy of land and on past administrative actions which might have been contrary to treaties and rights of native people. The Branch administers a program to fund Indian research on treaties and rights. The policy planning group co-ordinates policy development and undertakes long-range planning, while the research section ensures that research projects undertaken by branches are of use to other elements of the program.

### 3.2.5.2 Inuit

Canada's 18,000 Inuit or Eskimo people, mostly resident in the Northwest Territories, Arctic Quebec and northern Labrador, are the concern of the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the government of the Northwest Territories and provincial governments.

In the past two decades various programs have contributed to drastic changes in the Inuit way of life. Federal schools have been built in every Inuit community, extending to grade six in most places and grade eight in others. Students attend residential pre-vocational or secondary schools in Inuvik, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson or Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories, Churchill, Manitoba, or in southern Canada.

Many communities have become incorporated villages governed by elected councils. At