

*Indian-Eskimo Employment Authority*

people within the public service, the division is active in promoting native employment as a result of government expenditures, the most significant example of which is the Mackenzie highway.

Hire North has been established under the territorial government, and is now involved in employing native people on a seasonal basis to perform all of the clearing for the highway, and is involved as well in a year-round operation of training native heavy equipment operators and constructing a section of the highway so as to give trainees realistic experience. With the help of the Indian Loan Fund, the Dene-Matt Co-operative was established and is being assisted to bid on a number of contracts for work on the highway and other government contracts.

The division has also established a very successful on-the-job training program with some 50 trainees now placed with government, private industry and native organizations. The program is intended to prepare mature northerners for middle management, paraprofessional and technical operations.

The Eskimo Loan Fund is also designed to promote entrepreneurship and employment opportunities among the Eskimos, and has proved so successful recently that the fund has been doubled from \$1.8 million to \$3.6 million. Its objectives are, first, to assist Eskimos to better their economic circumstances by providing them with financial assistance on a repayable basis for the purchase, construction, or repair of vehicles, vessels, canoes, aircraft, commercial buildings, furniture, shelters for fishing, hunting or trapping, repair of buildings, purchase of food, camping supplies, formation of co-operatives, business operations or purchase of tools, materials, engines, machinery, equipment or any other worth while endeavour. Second, all loans are made to improve the economic circumstances of Eskimos or to help them become established in, or expand their current capacities in commercial activities of benefit to individuals, groups or communities.

Many activities of the two territorial governments are directly involved in promoting employment opportunities for native people in accordance with their responsibilities. Special programs have been developed to encourage native people to enter the territorial public service; special vocational training programs are developed and administered and on-the-job training programs are initiated wherever a need is identified.

The education branch of the Indian and Eskimo affairs division has many programs available, directly or in association with Manpower and Immigration, to increase employment among native people. Training on-the-job provides for up to 50 per cent of salary for the first 12 months of employment training with private industry, and up to 100 per cent of salary with governments. Other programs involve payment of tuition and allowances at Canada Manpower rates for those attending university or taking professional training courses. Students who do not meet Canada Manpower criteria for training under the Canada Manpower Training Program are sponsored on these courses by the department.

Placement assistance, relocation grants and employment exploratory grants are available for those seeking employment. The off-reserve housing program enables the department to assist Indians to purchase a home where continu-

ing employment has been obtained. Counselling services are provided by this department, as well as by Outreach workers in many areas. The Outreach program is financed by the Department of Manpower and Immigration. This department has, for each of the past three years, made \$500,000 available for the employment of high school students.

The Indian-Eskimo economic development branch, under its mandate to improve employment and economic opportunities for Indians and Eskimos, in an endeavour to improve their standard of living has supported many economic ventures in a variety of ways over the past years.

Help and advice can be provided at any stage of a venture, that is to say, the branch can arrange for or provide valuable expert advice and assistance during the initial planning stage, or after it has become operative. The branch has been and can become heavily involved at any stage between these two particular points. This can take the form of financial aid, as well as technical and/or managerial assistance. Further to departmental assistance available to the Indian businessman, the branch can make available services and facilities from agencies or organizations outside the government operations. A good example of outside assistance which can be recruited is the wealth of expertise and experience available through the Canadian Executive Services Overseas Organization. This agency represents a vast sea of knowledge which, when efficiently utilized, provides invaluable support to a business especially during the start-up years.

Great emphasis has been placed on independent business ownership and operation in the hope that, with the growth of this independence, the Indian people will in fact be creating more job opportunities for their own people. This hope can be seen in the sectoral programs encouraged by the department in areas such as agriculture, forestry, arts and crafts, commercial fishing and trapping, and in the recreational field for which \$65 million has been approved in principle for the next five years. In order to assure the orderly development of these sectoral programs, ancillary and supportive programs have been initiated.

Band economic development committees, with the help of the department, are being formed across the country. As these committees are activated and begin to identify and define the economic potential of an area, it is important to have programs and services in place which will enable an orderly plan to be formulated for the development and exploitation of the known potential. This can be very critical in the more isolated areas of the country in view of the very limited employment and income opportunities.

The Indian fishermen's assistance program in British Columbia is another prime example of where government can nurture an industry. Through this program, Indian fishermen become independent and, in doing so, reward themselves with greater economic returns for their efforts as well as creating more employment. It provides a vehicle whereby the Indian fisherman can become an important factor in the fishing fleets of British Columbia.

I suggest that it would be superfluous to establish special agencies for East Indians or Chinese immigrants in British Columbia. The other day the hon. member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington) said: