

that time on, a continuing administrative organization has been maintained for the protection and advancement of Indian interests.

Until 1860, the Imperial Government was responsible for the management and expense of Indian affairs in Ontario and Quebec, but in that year it was decided that the Province of Canada should assume the charge. Accordingly, the management of Indian affairs was brought under the control of the Crown Lands Department on July 1, 1860, with the Commissioner of Crown Lands being appointed Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs. In other parts of the country, existing Indian affairs administration was under the management of the various provincial or colonial jurisdictions.

By a special provision in the British North America Act of 1867, the administration of Indian affairs came under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada. Indian affairs were made the responsibility of the Department of the Secretary of State at the time of Confederation and, in 1873, they became the responsibility of a branch of the Department of the Interior. In 1880, a separate Department of Indian Affairs was established, which continued until 1936, when Indian Affairs were again assigned to a branch, this time of the Department of Mines and Resources. From January 1950, Indian Affairs was a branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration; in January 1966, it became a part of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

A primary function of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is to assist the Indian people to participate fully in the social and economic life of the country. To this end, the department has brought into effect a broad range of programs in the fields of education, economic development, social welfare and community development -- including housing, road construction and maintenance, sanitation facilities, child and adult education, band business enterprises on reserves, etc.

Among the more important functions of general Indian administration are: the administration of Indian reserves and surrendered land; the administration of band funds; descent of property, and Indian treaty obligations.

Administration is carried on through a headquarters staff at Ottawa and regional and district offices in each province or territory. Medical services are provided, as required, by the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Indian treaties Early in the settlement of North America, the British sovereign recognized, as a matter of policy, an Indian interest in the lands they occupied -- which could be extinguished by agreement with the