

34. *Social benefits are responsibility of Federal Government.*

The Indians recommend that the Federal Government finance and extend to them the benefits of Old Age Pensions, aid to the blind, mothers' allowances and all other social benefits that may be provided, from time to time, by legislation, for Canadian citizens.

It is realized that particularly acute cases brought to the attention of the Indian Affairs Branch have received consideration, but such assistance should not be limited to cases of dire need, but should be extended to the Indians on as wide a basis as is extended to non-Indians.

Family Allowance Benefits have been extended to the Indians only partially. For nine years of his life the Indian child receives no benefits because he is presumably in the residential school. However, on many reserves some children cannot go to school because of inadequate school accommodation and in practice these children are still ineligible. The Family Allowance Benefits must be administered more efficiently and consideration must be given to such local factors if unfair discrimination is to be removed.

34. *Aid and pensions for the sick.*

When the Indian requires hospital treatment, his or her dependents suffer from neglect, and therefore, arrangements should be made by the Department of Health and Welfare (Indian Branch) to make adequate provision for the maintenance of these dependents until the sick person is strong enough to resume gainful activities.

Many Indians undergoing severe operations are, for a considerable period, unable to earn money for their own support, or for the support of dependents. Such operations are the removal of ribs in the treatment of tuberculosis. Such Indians should be provided with a reasonable pension for maintenance during the period that they are unable to work.

E. BENEFITS TO VETERANS AND OTHER REHABILITATIVE MEASURES

35. *Indian veterans should be accorded the same benefits as other Canadian veterans.*

Thousands of Indians volunteered in two world wars, fought and many of them died. Their blood flowed with the blood of their Canadian brothers-in-arms, and it is just and fitting that they should be accorded the same treatment as other Canadian servicemen. This means, in effect, that they should enjoy equal benefits under the provisions of the Veterans' Land Act, and under the law relating to the payment of war services gratuities, the provision of educational and vocational grants, and employment preference, both in private industry and in the civil service. In administering these benefits, due consideration and respect should be given to the traditions and practices of the Indian tribes and where it is the custom on an Indian reserve to hold land communally, the requirements that a location ticket be received or that an allotment of land be made before the veteran receives his land grant should be abolished.

36. *A comprehensive study of living conditions on reserves is needed.*

A comprehensive study should be undertaken of all reserves in order to ascertain whether the reserves can maintain the present population and whether facilities will permit of a reasonable standard of living for the natural increase in population. Such a study would reveal the state of living conditions on the reserves and could suggest means and methods by which the Indians might better utilize their lands.

37. *The study should be followed by developmental projects, wherever feasible.*

The expenses of such a study would, of necessity, have to be borne by the Indian Affairs Branch. However, if such a study were undertaken and a