

by the Department of National Health and Welfare.

### *Indian treaties*

Early in the settlement of North America, the British recognized, as a matter of policy, an Indian interest in the lands the tribes occupied—which could be relinquished only by agreement with the Indians, and then only to the Crown. This gave rise to the practice of making agreements or treaties, as they were afterwards called, with various Indian tribes. The policy began in British colonial times in what is now the United States and was afterwards introduced into Canada.

As settlement began in what later become southern Ontario, treaties were made with the Indians for the surrender of their interests in the land. In return, the Crown undertook to set aside reserves and provide additional benefits such as cash payments, annuities, educational facilities and other considerations.

After Confederation in 1867, Canada followed the policy, with regard to Indians with whom no settlement had been arrived at, of making treaties, first in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario, next in the greater part of the West and Northwest, and finally throughout all of northern Ontario. In British Columbia, the provincial government did not recognize that Indians

had any title and considered the land question settled with the setting aside of reserves. However, in 1926 a special committee of the Senate and House of Commons recommended that, in lieu of treaty moneys payable in other areas, a sum of \$100,000 be expended annually for the benefit of B.C. Indians who had not been brought under treaty. (Because of their peculiar geographical position and close relation with Alberta Indians, the Indians of northeastern British Columbia had been brought under Treaty No 8 between 1899 and 1910 notwithstanding the position taken by the province with respect to Indian title.)

About half the Indian population of Canada is under treaty. This does not include the Indians of Quebec and the Maritimes, whose territorial claims had passed to the French. The British did, however, guarantee to these Indians all lands that French authorities had set aside for their use. Also not included in the treaties are the Iroquois of Brantford and Tyendinaga and certain other groups that came to Canada from what is now the United States and were given reserve lands. The needs of Indians not under treaty, however, receive no less attention from the Federal Government on that account.