

### 31. *A program of health education and health services is the responsibility of the Dominion Government.*

A program of health education and a promotion of health services is a necessity among Indians as their health has been deleteriously affected by their rough and insecure mode of living in proximity to the white man. Health services and social benefits have been sadly inadequate to cope with their needs. Since Indians are beyond the jurisdiction of any provincial scheme, it is the responsibility of the Dominion of Canada to organize a health program to ameliorate their conditions.

To combat the present high mortality rate among Indians, a vigorous program designed to halt the spread of tuberculosis, trachoma and social diseases is needed. There should be provided hospitalization, adequate nursing services, ambulance service on the larger reserves and pre-natal and infant care to prevent the present high rates of infant mortality.

There should be supervision by trained welfare workers in applying remedial and preventive measures and establishing good health habits on Reserves. Health education should be taught in all schools and emphasis should be placed on the formation of healthy habits.

All existing unsanitary conditions on reserves, including dilapidated houses and other conditions contributory to disease and general ill-health should be immediately removed.

### 32. *Living conditions and housing.*

A housing program should at once be undertaken to provide accommodation which will be conducive to decent home life and afford proper privacy for the occupants. Adequate water supply and sanitary arrangements should be provided and their utilization supervised by competent authorities.

### 33. *Rations to aged and indigent.*

The present system of supplying rations to aged and indigent is wholly inadequate; clothing issued—much of it already worn, is not conducive to high morale, and there is great need for Indians to be treated upon an equal basis with other people in Canada. The typical rations at present for Indians in these classes is as follows:—

SCALE OF MONTHLY RATIONS FOR INDIANS ON RELIEF

Flour (2nd grade) .....	24	36	49	61	80	98
Rolled Oats .....	6	9	12	15	18	18
Baking Powder .....	1	1½	1½	2	2	2
Tea .....	1	1½	2	2	2	3
Sugar .....	2	4	5	7	8	10
Lard .....	3	5	8	10	10	13
Beans .....	5	5	7	7	8	8
Rice .....	2	3	5	5	7	7
Cheese .....	1	1½	1½	2	2	3
Meat or Fish .....	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.25

Salt—10 cents or 15 cents per month per family.

Matches—10 cents to 20 cents per month per family.

NOTE: Indians under the age of 12 years shall be considered children, and over that age as adults. Issues of rations for each child, of flour, rolled oats, sugar, lard, beans, rice, cheese and meat or fish, shall be one-half the quantities specified for one adult.

This schedule of supplies indicates that entirely inadequate provision is being made at present to meet the needs of Indians who, being human beings, have the same hungers, and suffer the same pains from the elements, from illness and old age, as others, and that the need for more humane treatment of aged, ill and indigent Indians is a pressing necessity.

The present ration system should be extended to a decent and adequate standard based on a varied diet, vitamin content and general nutrition value.