

councils. We hope to accelerate and expand the granting of authority to band councils to manage their own funds. We will assist the councils whenever feasible to hire their own administrative staff to look after the day-to-day management of economic projects, welfare and other local services as do other municipalities. I cannot emphasize too strongly this need to encourage and assist band councils to assume responsibility for the management of their bands' affairs. This is one way by which limitations on community initiative can be progressively reduced, and individual responsibility stimulated and developed.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATION

Some provinces already have community-development programmes in operation, and we have no intention of duplicating any of these services that fill the need. Federal programmes will be "phased" into provincial or other operations whenever and wherever feasible. In some instances, as the main goals of community development are reached in Indian communities, the further development needs of these communities will probably become much like the non-Indian communities and can be met within the framework of general federal and provincial services. In this context, you are aware that a growing interest is being shown by the provincial governments in the well-being of their Indian residents and in an increasing acceptance of Indians as part of the provincial community. The provinces extend various services to Indians, including such welfare measures as old-age assistance, blind and disabled persons' allowances. We have entered a number of agreements or arrangements with provincial and private agencies to give Indians access to certain welfare and other services on the same basis as other citizens of the provinces concerned.

While these piecemeal arrangements have proved successful, they do not meet the needs for services of all kinds that Indian communities require, and it becomes increasingly necessary, therefore, to correlate federal and provincial policies and programmes in such matters as welfare, education, health, community development and municipal services. This was recognized some time ago, and because of our concern and desire for new approaches toward Indians and their needs, a full-scale federal-provincial conference was held a few weeks ago, which was devoted exclusively to Indian affairs.

CONSULTING THE INDIAN

We were all agreed that consultation with the Indians was of fundamental importance for the success of any federal-provincial effort to further extend services to Indian communities. To this end it was agreed that the Indians, through their band councils and organizations, should be approached with a view to establishing necessary consultative machinery with Indian Advisory Committees in each province or region, to provide a ready means of consulting with

Indians on questions of concern to them. Our position in this is that, while there can be no substitute for consultation with individual bands in regard to the matters which directly affect them as bands, provision should be made for the establishment of consultant bodies of band representatives at the regional level, to secure the Indians' viewpoint on matters of principle and major proposals. As now foreseen, the members of each committee will be elected by the Indian people from bands with common geographic, economic and social interest and from existing Indian associations.

Each region will develop its own system for achieving as broad a representation as is possible. Prior to the election of the regional Indian Advisory Committees, the fullest possible information on the function it will perform will be given to the electing groups. They will be informed of the type of items on which advice is likely to be sought and it will be stressed that the Federal Government is eager to have the advice of the Committees. The Regional Committees will be expected to give advice and make recommendations on broad issues of policy, proposed legislation and federal-provincial agreements, the improvement of existing programmes and the introduction of new ones. Matters submitted to them will be questions of substance and importance and their recommendations will be carefully considered in future policy making. It is intended that the Committees will be vital organizations and will play a meaningful and permanent role in Indian-affairs administration...

NEW AWARENESS OF INDIANS' PROBLEMS

The most hopeful new direction, by virtue of its scale, is the acceptance of Indians by their fellow citizens. Beginning with the ordinary citizen, we find a new awareness of the Indians' problems, and a desire to see their interests advanced. There is more than mere sympathy here; there is real appreciation on the part of very many people of the underlying needs of the Indians and a recognition of the kinds of help they require. We see it, increasingly, on the part of employers who are opening their doors to Indians. We see it reflected in the heartening response by various public and private agencies. Here, in London, for example, Indians have been helped to establish themselves through the friendly understanding of the community and the invaluable counselling aid provided by the voluntary agencies. Indians being relocated in London's industrial community are provided with professional counsel to help them through the difficult period of adjustment, and I want to pay special tribute to the work being done.

Our concern will be to give Indians their place in the progress of this nation, and I am confident that, with the co-operation of governments, and organizations such as yours, and with the growing understanding and appreciation of members of the public, they will have this....

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