

quarters in the Mohawk Valley, in what is now the State of New York. The establishment of this office was the genesis of future Indian administrative organization in North America. Following the American Revolution, the Indian office was moved to Canada. Since that time, 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 financing of Indian affairs in Ontario and Quebec; in that year however, it was decided that the Province of Canada should assume the responsibility. Accordingly, Indian affairs were brought under the control of the Crown Lands Department, 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 and was made the responsibility of the Department of the Secretary of State. In 1873, it became the responsibility of a branch of the Department of the Interior. In 1880,

a separate Department of Indian Affairs was established, which existed 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 present Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is to help the Indian people to participate fully in the social and economic life of Canada. 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 and road construction, maintenance, sanitation facilities, child and adult education, band business enterprises on reserves and so on.

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

Administration is carried on through a headquarters in Ottawa and regional and district offices in each province or territory. Medical services are provided as required