

also may be placed in varying degrees within their administrative orbit. A Departmental contribution program has been developed to assist in financing many of these local projects. The right to vote has been extended to Indian women, many of whom are taking a keen interest in band affairs and are playing an effective part in band administration.

**Finances** The Indian Trust Fund is made up of capitalized annuities and moneys derived from Indian assets.

Revenue to the Fund began with the settlement of Upper Canada, and the surrender for sale of Indian lands in that province. Today, major items of income to the Fund are derived from leases of Indian reserve lands, timber sales, oil royalties, the leasing of oil and gas exploration rights and the sale of gravel.

Before 1859, moneys were held for investment in commercial securities, municipal debentures and so on. In that year, the Government assumed the investments because investments in securities and debentures involved possible loss to the Fund and security was of prime importance.

It should be noted that the Trust Fund is not owned in common by all Indians in Canada but belongs to various bands. Some bands have well over \$1 million, others have only a few dollars, while a considerable number of bands have no moneys at all and therefore no interest in the Trust Fund. This seeming inequality arises from the fact that some bands chose reserves rich in agricultural land, timber or minerals, and have been able to dispose of their surplus assets, depositing the proceeds in their trust accounts. Other bands chose reserves because of their suitability for hunting and fishing and these often lacked other resources from which revenue could be derived.

Expenditures from the moneys of a band held in the Trust Fund are permitted for any purpose considered in the interest of the band or the individual members thereof. Requests for expenditures originate with the councils of the respective bands.

Under the Indian Act, an Indian band may be permitted by Order in Council to control, manage and expend in whole or in part its revenue moneys. To date, 335 bands have been granted this authority. However, whether or not such authority has been granted to their bands, all band councils are encouraged to take the lead in planning for the expenditure of band funds.

When an Indian becomes enfranchised -- that is, when he gives up his Indian status and is no longer entitled to the rights and privileges