

remain attached to the traditional way of life, in touch with nature and the environment. An increasing number of Indian bands and individuals are active in the fields of tourism and open-air recreation. Fishing operations are, of necessity, being modernized, so as to be able to compete commercially, and fishermen have formed numerous co-operatives. The number of agricultural co-operatives has also increased somewhat, particularly for gathering wild rice.

The traditional arts and crafts are still an important source of revenue. Art and craft items made by Indians are sold commercially, which provides an important supplementary income for those producing them. A number of new, non-traditional products have been developed from traditional models and designs.

Recognizing the need to establish long-term economic aims for, and in consultation with, the Indian people, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, through its Indian-Eskimo Economic Development Branch, helps individuals and bands by creating business and employment opportunities in secondary and service industries, as well as by encouraging, in certain regions, resource-utilization and land-development, including the development of mineral resources on Indian reserves.

Many of these programs are conducted in co-operation with other federal departments, provincial governments and private organizations.

Assistance is in the form of loans, grants, loan guarantees, technical and management advice and specialized training. The loans, grants and guarantees are provided from the Indian Economic Development Fund.

The branch provides assistance in carrying out economic-development projects by supplying the Indians with a basic infrastructure and professional and technical services.

The branch is also responsible for the administration of Indian reserves and surrendered lands, as well as the administration of certain categories of Indian estates.

General

The medical care of Indians and Eskimos is within the jurisdiction of Medical Services, Department of National Health and Welfare. The National Museum of Man is the federal authority on traditional Indian culture and prehistory. Information on these matters may be obtained from the Education Section of the Museum.

General information on Canada's native peoples can be obtained from the Public Communications and Parliamentary Relations