

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, the leasing of oil and gas exploration rights, sale of gravel and sales of surplus portions of reserves which have been surrendered for sale by the interested bands of Indians.

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.

With very few exceptions, suggestions for expenditures originate with the chiefs and councils of the respective bands. It should be remembered that the Trust Fund is not owned in common by all Indians in Canada, but belongs to various bands. Some bands have as much as a million dollars, others have only a few hundred, 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 account. 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.

When an Indian chooses to leave his reserve, thus giving up his Indian status with the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Indian Act, he is paid a per capita share of the Trust Fund of the band to which he belongs.

EDUCATION

In Canada, education is generally under the jurisdiction of the provinces, but education of Indians is the responsibility of the Federal Government.

The educational programme is carried out through the operation of schools for Indian children. A number are also educated in non-Indian schools under provincial or private auspices, the cost of tuition then being assumed by the Federal Government.

In order to provide educational facilities for children who cannot attend school in association with other groups and to meet particular problems, the Government has established four types of schools.

On the majority of reserves, day schools are established to provide an education for children who can attend from their homes.

Residential or boarding schools are operated, under the auspices of various religious denominations, to care for orphaned children, children from broken homes or those who, because of isolation or the migratory way of life of their families, are unable to attend day schools.

Neither of these schools adequately serve the migratory population, particularly in the far North. In order to meet the unusual problems presented by these groups, seasonal schools have been established at places where migratory families gather during the year.