Federal agreements with provincial governments and private organizations

In addition to the child-welfare agreements, the Federal Government entered into an agreement with Ontario in 1965 under which all provincial welfare programs are made available to Indians living in the province.

Under service contracts, private social agencies in Quebec provide professional social services to Indian communities within the

province.

Indians are eligible for family and youth allowances, Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, which are administered and financed by the Federal Government. Certain provincial allowances in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia are also available to Indian residents.

Social development

The Department defines social-development services as services intended to encourage and help the Indian people to participate in improving the social, economic and cultural conditions of their community life. These services are provided by the Indian associations under agreements with the Federal Government. These organizations hire social workers who meet with community residents, initially on an

individual basis and later in small groups, to help them determine what local problems they need to solve and to advise them on an appropriate course of action. The object of this program is not so much to solve the specific problem chosen by the community as to use that problem as an opportunity for residents to learn, through experience, the skills involved in working together to resolve a particular problem.

The development of leadership is encouraged by the Federal Government in co-operation with the provincial governments and certain Canadian universities. An increased demand for responsible leadership for Indian councils, voluntary organizations and other groups in Indian communities has resulted in a marked expansion in training courses, workshops and short courses related to local needs.

Economic development

Because of the rapid changes taking place in Canadian society, more and more Indians are leaving hunting, fishing and trapping as a means of making a livelihood and turning to the business world.

This does not, of course, mean that the traditional pursuits have disappeared. New programs are constantly being developed with the purpose of increasing the income of those Indians who