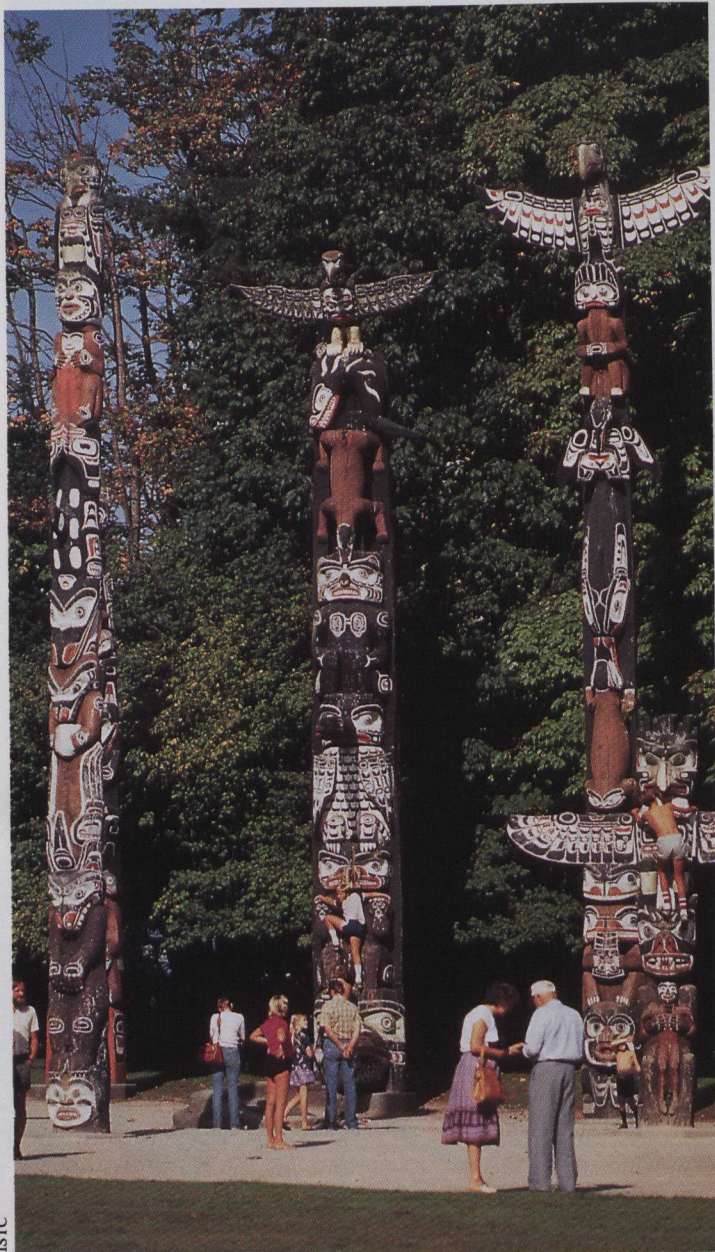




ISTC

Kehewin Indian Reserve in Alberta. A new water treatment plant is also planned for the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Reserve in Ontario.

Many such projects under way throughout the country will greatly improve standards of Indian living on reserves. For example, construction improvements on reserves are increasing. In 1989-90, more than 4 050 new dwellings were built and about 4 300 dwellings were renovated.

Improved living conditions on reserves also means safe living conditions. The federal government has increased funds

by \$116.8 million over the next five years to improve and expand Indian policing services on reserves. Another five-year plan, with \$36 million in funding, is designed to help counteract family violence on reserves.

Striving to improve conditions on reserves has resulted in the development of a variety of projects for specific Indian bands. In Manitoba, a \$4.3-million health services agreement gives the Pequis First Nation control over all its own health services. The Big Cove Indian Band in New

Brunswick has received \$3.5 million to expand its school. These projects are just two examples of the range of opportunities opening up to Indian bands.

Many native people are worried about the relationship their communities have with the rest of Canada. They are concerned about the current laws that say how Indians should live and be governed. Working groups of chiefs of the First Nations are suggesting alternative legislation to the Indian Act, the law currently governing Indians. Their suggestions focus on changes that would improve the management of such crucial areas as Indian lands, forestry and monies.

The federal government will also be working with native people to make Canada's justice system more equitable and inclusive of aboriginal peoples.

All these measures — both the all-encompassing programs for First Nations people throughout the country and those for specific Indian bands — are crucial steps on the way to improvement of the quality of life on Indian reserves.

The Movement Toward Self-Government

The authority and right to manage their own affairs are of utmost importance to all peoples, and no less so to Indian peoples. Indian bands, which form the local government on Indian reserves, now administer many social, education and economic programs in their communities. In 1990-91, 74.5 per cent of the total budget of DIAND was managed by bands. Self-government agreements are being negotiated and will further increase the control Indian people have over their own lives.

Indeed, there is a deep desire among both native and non-native Canadians for the establishment of a new relationship based on dignity, respect and economic independence. Federal initiatives under the Native Agenda are helping to bring about this new relationship. The Government of Canada's constitutional proposals will move this country to a more equitable society in which aboriginal self-government will finally be entrenched in the Canadian Constitution. 🍁

Redrawing the Map

After 15 years of negotiations, the Canadian government and the Inuit of the Northwest Territories — once known as Eskimos — announced that they have tentatively agreed to the largest land-claims settlement in Canadian history.

Under the terms of the agreement, the eastern two thirds of the Northwest Territories would become a new territory called Nunavut. To be administered by an elected territorial government, Nunavut will cover almost 2 million km² — one fifth of Canada's land-mass. The Inuit will receive title to 352 238 km² — or more than one fifth — of Nunavut, and mineral rights to about 10 per cent of their titled

land. They will also receive \$580 million to be paid over 14 years — which, with interest payments included, will total more than \$1 billion — as compensation for renouncing all other land claims.

The parties will continue negotiations on an implementation plan for the final agreement and on the resolution of overlapping interests with other aboriginal groups. It is anticipated that the final agreement will be ratified by an Inuit vote in April 1992 and then it will be subject to parliamentary approval.