

The Government is prepared to take the following steps to create this framework:

First, to propose to Parliament that the Indian Act be repealed and take such legislative steps as may be necessary to enable Indian people to control Indian lands and acquire title to them.

Second, to propose to the governments of the provinces that they take over the same responsibilities for Indians that they have for other citizens in their provinces. The take-over would be accompanied by the transfer to the provinces of federal funds normally provided for Indian programs, augmented as may be necessary.

Third, to make \$50 million available over the next five years for economic development in Indian communities and for Indian people.

Fourth, to wind up that part of my Department which deals with Indian affairs; the residual responsibilities for the Federal Government to be transferred to other appropriate federal departments.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION

The Government will appoint a commission to consult with the Indians and to study and recommend acceptable procedures for the adjudication of claims. The commissioner will be appointed soon.

I intend to meet with the executive committees of the Indian associations as soon as possible. I shall seek meetings with the provincial premiers or their representatives in early July. The Department



The Honorable Jean Chrétien
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

will immediately establish a unit of senior personnel who will have no duties other than to consult with Indian people, consult with provinces, consult with other federal departments about the means of implementation and the pace of it. This unit will also consult Indian bands to determine their views on control of their own land — complex questions which offer many alternatives. I hope that we can end the single, separate service agency within five years. I hope the Indian people will agree that this system which sets them apart is no longer useful. This will be the first goal of the implementation group....

OMBUDSMAN FOR STUDENTS

Pupils, teachers, principals or parents, who believe that a youngster's educational future is jeopardized by school regulations, or who feel his school career needs adjustment, may appeal to the Special Cases Committee of the Instruction Division of the Alberta Department of Education.

The committee, which is composed of three officials from the Department of Education, reviews all written requests from Alberta students to have scholastic records checked, particularly if the petitioner feels he has been denied acceptance to an educational institution or specific student course.

Acting as an "ombudsman" for the student, the committee may review such cases as: students who are unable to attend high school or university because their record falls just short of requirements (for example, students who may write four good papers and fall short on the fifth may request review); students who think the examination papers did not measure their scholastic potential; and students who may not be able to write exams because of being handicapped, and are deserving of special assistance. Students who fall short of regulations to post-secondary institutions are automatically reviewed.

In one case, a student who was only able to take a vacation at exam time, had the Special Cases Committee work out a plan whereby the captain of the ship on which he was a passenger, gave him the exam.

FEMININE FIREMEN

Visitors to the Yukon are doing "double-takes" when they see women manning fire-engines.

Members of women's institutes are learning how to operate the fire-engines in case of emergency and are taking follow-up instructions on basic first aid. The reason — a great number of the men work outside their communities.

The training is part of a "safety in and out of the home" project by the institutes. Emphasis is placed on fire prevention, and the women have held discussions with their fire chiefs on prevention and hazards.