



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 19 No. 49

December 2, 1964

## CONTENTS

- Preparing a Future for Canada's Indians ..... 1
- Carvings by Keewatin Eskimos ..... 3
- NATO Role for Black Watch ..... 3

- Indian Title for PPCLI C.O. .... 3
- Iron Ore ..... 3

## PREPARING A FUTURE FOR CANADA'S INDIANS

*The following is a partial text of an address by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. René Tremblay, to the Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada at London, Ontario, on November 21.*

...At the end of the War, conditions among Indians demanded improvement. Many children were out of school, and the drop-out rate was appalling; many of the teachers were uncertified; and school buildings were run-down and inadequate. The situation has been made all the more acute by the increase in the Indian population, 210,000 today as compared to 136,000 in 1949. Housing in many areas was dreadful.

My predecessors in office during the postwar period instituted a number of changes to benefit the Indians, and these have foreshadowed some of the new directions I intend to describe. Today, almost all younger school-age Indians attend school. We have built modern school units from coast to coast, and the number of unqualified teachers has been sharply reduced. In 1948 the total budget of the Indian Affairs Branch was about \$10,500,000, of which about half was spent on education. Even though expenditures on other programmes, such as fur conservation, economic development and housing, have risen sharply, education has remained the largest item of expenditure, taking up about 57 per cent of last year's budget of \$55,600,000. Economic problems have been tackled on many fronts. Conservation and utilization of renewable resources, farming, ranching, and business endeavours of various kinds have been encouraged. Technical advice and loans have been provided to Indian groups and

individuals concerning projects planned or undertaken. Housing has been gradually improved. A GREAT GAP TO BE CLOSED. The Government recognizes that there is still a great economic, social and cultural gap which separates many Indians from other Canadians and that, unless positive steps are taken, this gap may even widen. The economic position of most Indians is sub-standard; about 75 per cent of all Indian families earn less than \$2,000 a year; nearly half of them earn less than \$1,000 a year. A significant number of Indian families are unable to provide a minimal home environment for their children. Where child-welfare services are available, many more Indian children are taken into protective care each year under provincial legislation than are non-Indian children, and properly-constituted child-welfare services are available to less than 50 per cent of the Indian population.

In the field of education, the large number of drop-outs is still a cause for concern, as is the low average grade level attained and the special problems relating to provision of educational opportunities in isolated areas. Closely associated with the education of Indian children is the need for adequate follow-up of placement in jobs, on-the-job training, social orientation and — for the many who have attained limited levels — adult education.

Problems also remain that arise out of past events and result in feelings of unjust treatment and unsettled grievances. Some, I am sorry to say, are generations old.

(Over)