

inappalling state

lected from population in but due to Indian lands ed to 1400 ion in New

ct has led to on reserves governing of istance were ne about it. ation due to an. There is of self-image. n conflict - he is

il at school because they are unable y in the dreary conditions at home. re forced to drop out to help at and many others cannot overcome nity conflict engendered by their nce on white society. With better onditions, Indians will be able to themselves, to rely on capable, skilled perform the duties now done by s. And in proportion to their own their pride and identity will return

dy there are signs that the Indian ing his self-esteem. In the October ion, an Indian was elected to the



Photo by Gary Constantine

an Indian is an Indian. If you wouldn't education Cen- the heritage of the concept

ges when he acceptance of on from gen- ter mentality.

better housing will be more ough the op- nement does Indians because Young Indians

Commons from the Northwest s. Mr. Francis feels that the election Indians a good political position. lobby in Parliament through this from the NWT, and since his party, holds the balance of power, their stands a good chance of success. in a good position now to in- all their policies.

Indians need help to help themselves. rs of neglect and substandard living s have reduced them both in num- spirit. Only with the recent Federal here been a resurgence of Indian Indians are on the road to recovery, present reduction in Indian Affairs may well end this fragile recu- p

Critical findings of the housing study questionnaire

ECONOMIC

Close to 62 percent of heads of household were unemployed all of 1970; with an additional 13 percent working less than 3 months of the year. Government statistics indicate that about 72 percent earn less than \$2,000 per year; and an additional 15 percent less than \$3,000.

SOCIAL

- In 24 percent (125) of the houses, 9 or more persons occupied the dwelling
- In 62 percent (432) of the houses the total living space is less than 800 sq. ft.
- In 39 percent (205) of all homes, 3 or more persons, on the average, sleep in every bedroom; and 4 or more in 16 percent (84) of the homes.
- In 32 percent (160) of the houses people are forced to live with the owners because housing is not available for them.

CONDITION OF THE HOUSE

Major to extreme repairs are required to 35 percent of all 'roofs'; 26 percent of 'chimneys'; 35 percent of 'exterior walls';

43 percent of 'interior walls'; 43 percent of 'floors'; 50 percent of 'windows'; and 51 percent of all 'doors' (in 56 percent of the cases bedrooms and wash-rooms are without doors). 54 percent of the houses have unsatisfactory foundations, with 43 percent sitting on boulders, blocks or nothing at all.

SERVICES AND CONVENIENCES

- 21 percent (112) did not have an indoor toilet.
- 26 percent (139) had only cold running water in the house
- 11 percent (57) were without running water.
- 31 percent (164) did not have a bath-tub; 85 percent no shower facility.
- 47 percent of the houses had no basements; little wonder that 99 percent of the houses had no separate recreation-family room.
- 87 percent had no attached shed and-or garage.
- In 52 percent of the cases the house is inadequately heated in the winter time; also 36 percent (187) felt that the existing facilities pose a fire hazard.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- 36 percent had no separate kitchen.
- 63 percent have no separate dining room.
- 26 percent have no separate living room.

PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED HOUSING NEEDS

- A major repair and finishing program required to upgrade the existing stock of houses to an acceptable level.
- A current backlog of housing requirements conservatively estimated at 245 homes.
- Estimated future housing requirements for fiscal:

1972-1973	192
1973-1974	113
1974-1975	82
1975-1976	58
1976-1977	68

This must be regarded as a most conservative estimate since a total of 282 cases did not complete the question in part or in total.

Recommendations

The following recommendations accompanied the report on Indian housing conducted by the Union of New Brunswick Indians.

"On the basis of the finding of the housing survey it should become evident to all people concerned, especially to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that Indian housing in New Brunswick is in a shocking condition; and justify increasing. The emphasis to provide acceptable and adequate housing for the Indian people, rather than attempting to phase-out of this responsibility area.

1. To up-grade the existing stock of houses.
2. Concurrently, to build sufficient number of houses as soon as possible to eliminate the present backlog of housing needs.

3. Build an additional number of houses each year to look after current needs.

4. The need for old age housing and other multiple dwellings.

5. Band councils to be given responsibility for their respective housing programs; indicating to the Department the type and nature of the required and funds required.

6. Funds be made available for Band Councils to hire community housing supervisors to be responsible for their respective housing programs especially as it relates to housing construction, quality of material and services, and prices paid. Band Councils should have access to funds to carry out community planning functions.

7. Present allotment of \$8,500 per unit to be increased to \$12,000; with the increase met by a supplementary budget.

8. Tax exemptions on materials or corresponding allowance made in the amount allocated for housing.

9. Adequate housing should be recognized as a right of Indian people as access to health care, education or adequate income. Sufficient housing of a reasonable standard must be considered a service of the Dept. of Indian Affairs.

10. Housing is an essential element of an acceptable standard of living in Canadian Society. It can also be important in helping to break the cycle of poverty."