



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 16, No. 9

March 1, 1961

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INDIAN SHARE IN THE NATIONAL LIFE

Addressing the House of Commons on February 16 on the estimates of the Indian Affairs Branch, Mrs. Ellen Fairclough, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, declared that "it is our bounden duty to ensure that Canadians of the Indian race are given the opportunity of sharing fully in the national life of this country". "This will be denied them," she added, "unless they are given the training, academic and technical, to fit them for our increasingly complex and highly industrialized economy... The estimates now before the committee (Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons) bear witness to our intention of accepting this obligation." Mrs. Fairclough then proceeded to support this claim in the following words:

"...Members will note that almost \$29 million, over 58 per cent of the total Indian Affairs appropriation, is proposed for educational purposes. This continued expansion of the Indian educational programme is reflected not only in the number of pupils receiving education but also in the scope of the courses which are being made available for Indian students. Preliminary reports indicate that the number of Indian pupils receiving an education has now reached the figure of approximately 42,500, of whom more than 10,000 are enrolled in non-Indian schools, universities, teachers' colleges, commercial and trade schools. The statistics for the year ended December 31, 1960, are not yet available,

but is anticipated that at the present rate of increase during the fiscal year 1961-62 pupils attending such institutions will number in excess of 11,500.

"In September 1960 a revision of teachers' salaries was approved. The increase in the requirements for teachers' salaries for the 1961-62 fiscal year, which is approximately 4 per cent higher than the current fiscal year, is to provide for this increased salary scale. The Department currently employs 1,351 teachers, of whom 123, or 9.1 per cent of the total teaching staff, are of Indian status. It is my hope that this percentage will steadily increase.

EDUCATION COMMITTEES

"The programme of organizing education committees composed of Indian band members has continued a fairly rapid expansion. Last year I reported that 19 such committees were in existence. To date this number has increased to 25. These committees have been established in the following regions: in British Columbia, 6; in Alberta, 3; in Saskatchewan, 9; in Ontario, 5; in Quebec, 1; and in the Maritimes, 1.

"The Department awarded 18 new scholarships during the fiscal year 1960-61 to outstanding students, the total of which amounted to \$17,910, an increase of one in the number of awards and of \$3,600 in the total value.

(Over)