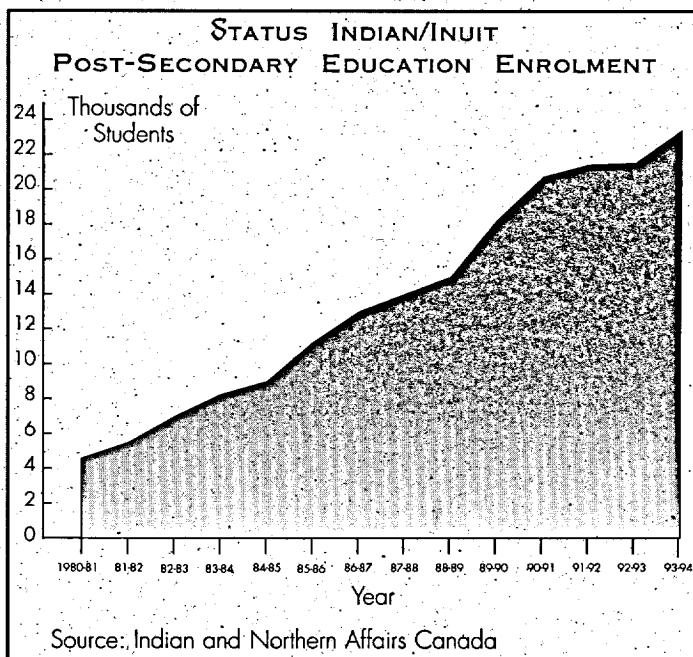


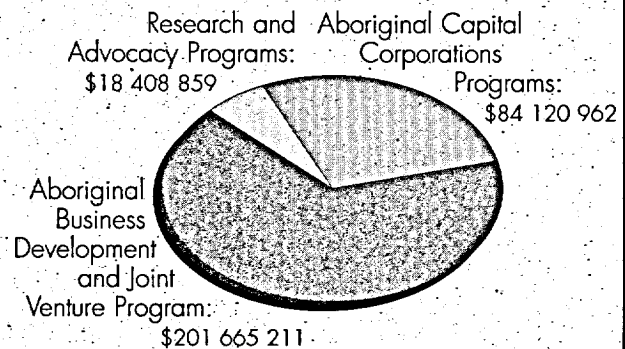
care nursing. Aboriginal community leaders are directly involved in the design and delivery of these programs.

- A Head Start program has been established for Aboriginal families with preschool children who live in urban centres and large northern communities. This program will provide child care, nutritional counselling for parents and help for children under the age of five to cultivate the skills needed to succeed in school and, eventually, in the workforce. As well, the Government has fulfilled its commitment to triple the number of bursaries and scholarships available for training Aboriginal health professionals.
- The Government has strengthened its support for Indian and Inuit post-secondary education by increasing funding by \$20 million in 1994-95, bringing total spending to \$247.3 million for the year.
- Steps have been taken to improve social and economic conditions in Aboriginal communities. For example, the Government has committed \$30 million over two years for Aboriginal community infrastructure projects. As well, the Government is working with Aboriginal people to develop policy options that will enable them to assume full responsibility for housing programs and to maximize the potential economic benefits this would bring to the community. It is also exploring ways to improve support for Aboriginal economic development, including changes to existing programs and new initiatives in such areas as resource co-management, the transfer of responsibility for oil and gas administration to First



### ABORIGINAL BUSINESS CANADA

Authorized Assistance for Approved Projects from September 1989 to January 1995



Source: Industry Canada

Nations, and improved access for Aboriginal people to business capital.

- The Government is continuing to support alternative justice initiatives to determine which approaches best meet the needs and cultural traditions of Aboriginal people.

### SELF-GOVERNMENT

*"The recognition of the inherent right of self-government by the federal and provincial governments is an irreversible and defining moment in Canadian history."*

Rosemarie Kuptana,  
President of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada  
April 5, 1994

One of the principal aspirations of Aboriginal people in Canada today is to become self-governing. The federal government agrees that self-government is a vital step to a better future for Aboriginal people, and it is firmly committed to making this goal a reality.

Canada already has working models of Aboriginal self-government. The Cree and Naskapi Indians of Northern Quebec were the first Aboriginal groups to negotiate self-government; they did so as a result of their land-claim agreements. In 1986, the Sechelt Band of British Columbia negotiated a community-based self-government arrangement. Four Yukon First Nations have also negotiated self-government agreements with the federal and territorial governments. Legislation bringing these agreements into effect was introduced to Parliament in May 1994 and received Royal Assent in July 1994.