

FEDERAL FUNDS TO INDIAN GROUPS

Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien announced in Ottawa recently that the Government would make an organizational and operating grant to national and provincial Indian associations and would provide funds to band councils to support these associations for the next few years. Grants this year may total \$300,000.

Grants to provincial associations will be \$1 *per capita* for organizational and operating purposes and will be in excess of accountable funds supplied to meet the costs of specific services and programs provided by the associations. Specific support for consultation meetings will also be provided under the new arrangements. A grant of 25 cents *per capita* for all registered Indians in Canada has been made to the National Indian Brotherhood. This year these "start-up" funds will be sent directly to associations that have not already received funds for similar purposes from other federal departments or agencies. An advance on the grants is to be paid immediately, the balance to be paid on receipt of reasonable assurances that the particular associations have the requisite support.

In British Columbia, where there are a number of associations, the Department will invite the presidents of existing associations to meet with representatives of its consultation and negotiation team to discuss the best means of establishing the amount each is entitled to receive under the program.

RATIONALE OF GRANTS

"The reason for making the funds available to the band councils in future years is to ensure that associations are completely free from government interference," said Mr. Chrétien. "We want them to take a full and independent role in the consultations which will be taking place. Support for the associations should come through the bands and not directly from the Government."

"Future support for the National Indian Brotherhood will depend only on their being supported in turn by the provincial associations," the Minister added. "In this way, we ensure that all the Indian organizations are independent. We want the money to come from the grass-roots, and eventually it must, but many Indian people cannot yet afford to support the associations.

So we shall feed the money in at the band level and let them decide who will speak for them and what they want to have said."

LABOR FORCE

Employment declined by 30,000 to 8,171,000 from July to August, whereas it usually shows a slight increase during this period. The number of unemployed persons, 318,000, was down by 31,000 from the July figure. There was an above-average

drop of 61,000 in the labor force which stood at 8,489,000 in August. Compared to that of a year earlier, the labor force increased by 205,000, or 2.5 per cent. Employment was up by 206,000, or 2.6 per cent. There was virtually no change in the number of unemployed persons.

EMPLOYMENT

The decline in employment occurred largely among teenagers, 26,000 fewer of whom were employed in August than in July, a decrease that was somewhat larger than usual for this time of year. Employment in other age-groups did not show much change, whereas it usually undergoes a small increase from July to August. Most industries experienced little change in employment during this period. The largest employment gain occurred in finance, insurance and real estate (18,000). Large declines were recorded for public administration (32,000) and trade (22,000). Farm employment showed little change. Compared to that of a year ago, the largest increase in employment occurred in manufacturing (74,000), followed by community, business and personal service (46,000), finance, insurance and real estate (42,000), transportation, communication and other utilities (23,000) and trade (23,000). Farm employment declined by 17,000. Regionally, the largest relative increase in employment over the year took place in British Columbia (4.8 per cent). Gains of 2.6 per cent in the Prairies, and 2.5 per cent were recorded in Quebec and Ontario. There was little change in the Atlantic region.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The 31,000-decline in the total number of unemployed persons from July to August reflected the withdrawal of unemployed students from the labor force. The number of unemployed persons 14-19 years old declined by 52,000. There was an offsetting increase of 21,000 in the number of unemployed persons 20 years of age and over. The number of unemployed in August, at 318,000, was virtually the same as that of a year earlier. Of the total unemployed in August this year, 106,000, or 33 per cent, had been unemployed for less than one month, 36 per cent for one to three months, and 31 per cent for four months or more. Unemployment in August 1969 represented 3.7 per cent of the labor force, compared to 3.9 per cent in August 1968, and 3.0 per cent in August 1967. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in August 1969 was 4.9 per cent.

Salted codfish from Canada's East Coast is to be purchased for distribution under Canada's food relief program for developing countries. Slightly over 1 million pounds, valued at about \$365,000, will be purchased from suppliers by the Fisheries Prices Support Board, acting as agent for the Canadian International Development Agency.