

TOP SECRET

- 6 -

Labrador Indians and Eskimos; Federal responsibility

8. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, referring to discussion at the meeting of February 23rd, said that, following discussions with the Newfoundland Minister of Public Welfare on March 4th and 5th, the ad hoc Cabinet Committee set up for the purpose wished to submit a report and recommendations as to the best manner in which whatever Federal responsibility might exist for Indians and Eskimos resident in Northern Labrador might be discharged.

At the present time, following an ad hoc arrangement arrived at early in 1950, the Federal departments concerned reimbursed the government of Newfoundland for actual relief expenditures on Labrador Indians and Eskimos. These disbursements totalled approximately \$34,000 per annum. In addition, for the past two years, the Department of National Health and Welfare had reimbursed the provincial Department of Health or the Grenfell Missions, as the case might be, for hospitalization and other health expenditures on Labrador Indians and Eskimos at an annual rate of approximately \$65,000. Thus, total direct Federal disbursements on account of Indians and Eskimos in Newfoundland were approximately \$100,000 per annum.

The Committee felt it inadvisable for the Federal government to assume continuing commitments on a permanent basis for a variety of undertakings in Labrador which were wholly administered by the provincial government. Instead, it was recommended that an arrangement be worked out with the provincial authorities under which, in return for discontinuing the present ad hoc relief and health payments, the Federal government would assume all or a major share of agreed non-recurring capital expenditures for Indians and Eskimos and, in addition, would bear the full costs of an intensive anti-tuberculosis programme over a ten-year period. Under this scheme, total Federal expenditures might be as high as \$550,000 during the first year but would diminish rapidly to the point of extinction at the end of ten years. A detailed formula under which such an arrangement could be worked out was submitted for consideration.

An explanatory note had been circulated.

(Memorandum, Chairman, Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on Labrador Indians and Eskimos, March 11, 1953 - Cab. Doc. 85-53).

Privy Council Office  
Bureau du Conseil privé

RG 2, A5a,  
Vol. 2652

National Archives of Canada  
Archives nationales du Canada

000050