

economic development A great many Indians still depend on the traditional pursuits of trapping, hunting and fishing for a livelihood. New techniques of development and management have increased the production of fur-bearing animals in recent years, particularly the introduction of a long-range program in co-operation with the various provinces. More recently, programs have been introduced to foster greater participation by Indians in the commercial fishing industry, and to encourage domestic fisheries on a co-operative basis as a means of providing subsistence food. Earnings from the wildlife and fisheries resources are augmented seasonally by such pursuits as guiding and the gathering of wild rice and other wild crops.

The traditional arts and crafts are still producing part-time employment for Indians in many areas. Handicraft items include moccasins, gloves, jackets, and *mukluks*(3) in northern and non-agricultural hunting areas, potato baskets in the Maritime Provinces and totem carvings, carved masks, fire baskets and Cowichan sweaters(4) on the West Coast. These provide an important supplementary income for the Indian families producing them. In pilot projects, wood-carvings and new, non-traditional products bearing Indian designs are being developed.

Recognizing the need to establish long-term economic objectives for, and in consultation with, the Indian people, the Department, through its Indian and Eskimo Economic Development Branch, helps individuals and bands to create business and employment, including mineral resources on Indian reserves.

Many of these programs are being conducted in co-operation with other federal departments, provincial governments and private organizations.

Assistance is in the form of loans, grants, loan guarantees, technical and management advice, and specialized training. The loans, grants and guarantees are provided from the Indian Economic Development Fund, which was capitalized at \$19,050,000 for the fiscal year 1971-72.

In addition to the Fund, the Branch had appropriations of \$14,845,000 for the fiscal year 1971-72 to encourage the development of economic activity through the provision of basic infrastructure and professional and technical services.

The Branch is also responsible for the administration of Indian reserves and surrendered lands, as well as the administration of certain categories of Indian estates.

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- (3) Warm, knee-high boots of seal-skin worn by Indians and Eskimos of the Northwest Territories.
  - (4) Heavy sweater of grey, unbleached wool, originally having a black-and-white design but now often multi-coloured, made by the Cowichan Indians of southern Vancouver Island.