



Leonard Marchand is the first full-blooded Indian to serve in a Canadian federal cabinet. He has responsibility for small business in the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Mr. Marchand, quiet spoken and able, was born in Vernon, BC, in 1933 and first attended Kamloops Indian Residential School. In time he earned a degree in agriculture from the University of British Columbia and a master's degree in forestry from the University of Idaho. He was the first full-blooded Indian elected to Parliament (from Kamloops-Cariboo) and has served as parliamentary secretary to several ministers.

NONREGISTERED INDIANS: These Indians are often as fully Indian as the registered, but they lack formal status. Either they and their ancestors never had it, or they lost it by renunciation, by voting in a federal election before 1960, or, in the case of women, by marrying a white man or a nonstatus Indian.

MÉTIS: Métis were, originally, the French-Indian descendants of the trappers, traders and farmers of the Red River Valley. Between 1870 and 1875 the government issued them land script, good for 240 acres, and offered them the choice of being registered or nonregistered. In 1940 the government withdrew recognition of the Métis. Today a Métis can be considered anyone who is of part-Indian ancestry. Their estimated number, reflecting the imprecise definition, varies from 60,000 to 600,000.

Thirty per cent of the registered Indians and a great many nonregistered Indians and Métis live in urban areas. The urban Indians often live in unofficial ghettos in cities such as Winnipeg, Toronto and Edmonton. These people are often conspicuously poor, often unemployed and often suffering from alcoholism. Many die young, most frequently from illnesses caused by poor nutrition and exposure to cold and damp. Respiratory diseases are the leading killer.

Mortality statistics are misleading at first brush. In 1970 the average life span for Indians was thirty-four years, for whites seventy-two; but the figures suggest something which is not so: that most Indians die in their thirties. Because a very great number die in their first two years of life, the mortality rate then is eight times that for white babies. Those Indians who survive the first two years have an average life span of about fifty-one years, and those who live past thirty-five have about the same life expectancy as whites of the same age.

Other statistics associated with poverty are also confusing unless they, too, are carefully analyzed. They are, however, appalling even when fully understood. Three-fifths of status Indians are on welfare. Eighteen per cent of status Indian children are officially deserted or abandoned. In

Indians Organized

The National Indian Brotherhood represents some 283,000 status or treaty Indians. It was conceived in 1968 at a meeting of Indian and Métis representatives from eight provinces. The two groups eventually organized separately—the NIB taking formal shape in 1970. It has thirteen provincial and territorial affiliates. Its address is: 102 Bank Street, 1st Floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5N4.

The Native Council of Canada represents the nonstatus Indians and Métis. The total number of the two groups is estimated to be as high as

750,000. The NCC was established in 1971, and it has eleven member organizations. Its address is: Suite 200, 77 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5L6.

The Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples was formed as the Indian Eskimo Association of Canada in 1958. It changed its name in 1973 and has about five thousand members, all nonnative people. It is primarily a fund-raising organization.