

on reserves in accordance with democratic principles. This provision has been broadened from time to time to meet the needs of Indian communities.

The Indians now elect band councils consisting of a chief and councillors who correspond to the local elective officers in rural municipalities. However, Indian bands who wish to adhere to their tribal system of choosing chiefs and councillors may continue to do so and exercise the same powers as an elected council. The councils are concerned with local conditions affecting members of the band and work closely with the superintendents. They may make by-laws with regard to various matters of a local nature on the reserves and also exercise control over the expenditure and management of their funds and property. Formerly only males had the right to vote in elections, but under the new Indian Act the right to vote has been extended to include women also. Indian women are taking a keen interest in band affairs and a number have been elected to office.

### FINANCES

The Indian Trust Fund is made up of capitalized annuities and moneys derived from Indian assets.

Revenue to the fund began with the settlement of Upper Canada, and the surrender for sale of Indian lands in that province. Today, major items of income to the fund are derived from leases of Indian reserve lands, timber sales, the leasing of oil and gas exploration rights, sale of gravel and sales of surplus portions of reserves which have been surrendered for sale by the interested bands of Indians.

Before 1859, moneys were held for investment in commercial securities, municipal debentures and so on. In that year, the Government assumed the investments because investments in securities and debentures involved possible loss to the fund and security was of prime importance.

With very few exceptions, suggestions for expenditures originate with the chiefs and councils of the respective bands. It should be remembered that the Trust Fund is not owned in common by all Indians in Canada, but belongs to various bands. Some bands have as much as \$1 million, others have only a few hundred, while a considerable number of bands have no moneys at all and, therefore, no interest in the Trust Fund. This seeming inequality arises from the fact that some bands chose reserves rich in agricultural land, timber or minerals, and have been able to dispose of their surplus assets, depositing the proceeds in their Trust account. Other bands chose reserves because of their suitability for hunting and fishing and these often lacked other resources from which revenue could be derived.

Expenditures from the moneys of a band held in the Trust Fund are permitted for any purpose considered in the interest of the band or the individual members thereof.

When an Indian becomes enfranchised, that is, when he gives up his Indian status and is no longer entitled to the rights and privileges reserved under the Indian Act for Indians only, he is paid a per capita share of the Trust Fund of the Band to which he belongs.