

The band councils have taken over a number of responsibilities, particularly with regard to housing, education, community planning, the administration of welfare programs and policing. Many bands manage all their programs, while others manage a certain number or share the responsibility with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The bands must demonstrate knowledge of and experience in management, and a desire to participate.

Both band councils and individuals can take advantage of training and development courses in business management and other subjects. They also have the opportunity of working in various federal departments under a special recruitment and development program through which they will gain practical management experience.

The main aim of the Local Government Program is to prepare the Indians themselves to take control of and responsibility for programs intended for them. This purpose is in keeping with the Indian people's desire to recover their traditional right to control their own affairs.

### *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 lands, timber sales, oil royalties, the leasing of oil and gas exploration rights and the sale of gravel.

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

It should be noted that the Indian Trust Fund is not owned in common by all Indians in Canada but belongs to various bands. Some bands have well over \$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 fund. This seeming inequity 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 accounts. 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