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PREPARING A FUTURE FOR CANADA'S INDIANS

The following is a partial text of an address by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. René Tremblay, to the Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada at London, Ontario, on November 21.

...At the end of the War, conditions among Indians demanded improvement. Many children were out of school, and the drop-out rate was appalling; many of the teachers were uncertified; and school buildings were run-down and inadequate. The situation has been made all the more acute by the increase in the Indian population, 210,000 today as compared to 136,000 in 1949. Housing in many areas was dreadful.

My predecessors in office during the postwar period instituted a number of changes to benefit the Indians, and these have foreshadowed some of the new directions I intend to describe. Today, almost all younger school-age Indians attend school. We have built modern school units from coast to coast, and the number of unqualified teachers has been sharply reduced. In 1948 the total budget of the Indian Affairs Branch was about \$10,500,000, of which about half was spent on education. Even though expenditures on other programmes, such as fur conservation, economic development and housing, have risen sharply, education has remained the largest item of expenditure, taking up about 57 per cent of last year's budget of \$55,600,000. Economic problems have been tackled on many fronts. Conservation and utilization of renewable resources, farming, ranching, and business endeavours of various kinds have been encouraged. Technical advice and loans have been provided to Indian groups and

individuals concerning projects planned or undertaken. Housing has been gradually improved. A GREAT GAP TO BE CLOSED. The Government recognizes that there is still a great economic, social and cultural gap which separates many Indians from other Canadians and that, unless positive steps are taken, this gap may even widen. The economic position of most Indians is sub-standard; about 75 per cent of all Indian families earn less than \$2,000 a year; nearly half of them earn less than \$1,000 a year. A significant number of Indian families are unable to provide a minimal home environment for their children. Where child-welfare services are available, many more Indian children are taken into protective care each year under provincial legislation than are non-Indian children, and properly-constituted child-welfare services are available to less than 50 per cent of the Indian population.

In the field of education, the large number of drop-outs is still a cause for concern, as is the low average grade level attained and the special problems relating to provision of educational opportunities in isolated areas. Closely associated with the education of Indian children is the need for adequate follow-up of placement in jobs, on-the-job training, social orientation and — for the many who have attained limited levels — adult education.

Problems also remain that arise out of past events and result in feelings of unjust treatment and unsettled grievances. Some, I am sorry to say, are generations old.

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SETTLEMENT OF OLD CLAIMS SOUGHT

It is against this background that I want to say a few words on the policy we have instituted. We are moving ahead to have the grievances of the past settled by giving Indian bands an opportunity to present their claim for final determination by an impartial commission...Your recommendations and all others submitted have been considered, and revisions to the Bill will be presented to Parliament as soon as this can be arranged. New ground will be broken here and we will have to await the results. Having provided a way for their historic claims to be settled, we can hope that the Indians will turn their attention more and more to the contributions and achievements they can make in the future.

To do this, they must have the best possible education and be able to compete on equal terms with their non-Indian neighbours. We believe that, by having Indian children and other Canadian children grow up and play together in the same school year, they will work together better in later life. Today, over 22,000 Indian pupils, or more than 40 per cent of the school population, are receiving their education with other Canadian children, but there are practical limits to the kind of arrangements we have been making unless new ways are found. While there is still a great deal to be done, the fact remains that many Indian reserves are remote from other settlements and there is no neighbouring school for the children to attend.

AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIMENT

An experiment in northern Alberta which is proving quite successful indicates a new direction which may have increasing significance for the future. This is the Northlands School Division set up by the Alberta Department of Education to provide more adequate education for children in northern Alberta. With the general agreement of all concerned, my Department entered into an arrangement with the province through which Indian communities in the Northern Schools Division participate in the educational programme. Where feasible, Indians attend school with non-Indians in neighbouring communities, but, where a reserve is too isolated to make this practical, the building previously used as an Indian Day School is operated as part of the provincial educational system. I am pleased to say that the Indians have a voice in local educational matters through representation on school committees.

Preparation for employment is considered a necessary part of education, and we are expanding our efforts in this field. We have established a Vocational-Training and Placement Unit to accelerate the vocational-training programme and to co-ordinate it with the placement of Indians in employment. We also have expanded our guidance programme, which helps Indian students to choose wisely the courses and occupations for which they are best suited. While we are not changing direction, we are going to give this much more attention.

In the area of social and economic development, I cannot emphasize too strongly the barriers to be removed before the Indian communities as a whole

can be said to share equally with others the benefits of Canadian life. There is a great and obvious need to overcome the basic causes for the poverty that is all too evident in many Indian communities. The resources of the Indians, governments, local and private agencies must all be mobilized in a real effort to overcome the problems facing each community. How is this to be done? How can we encourage Indian leadership and concerted community effort? These are some of the questions we have been asking ourselves.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

One way, and this seemed to offer the best chance of success, was to develop a well-planned Community Development Programme. My colleagues and I decided to adopt this approach, and last July I announced the details of a programme designed to provide Indian communities with encouragement and technical assistance to help them to make their own decisions and attack their own problems. Some \$3,500,000 will be invested in this aspect of Indian development.

If the Community Development Programme is to succeed, it must be understood by everyone, including its administrators and the Indians whom it is designed to help, that it is not something the Government is doing *for* Indians but *with* the Indians. The aim is not to tell Indians what is best for them but to assist them in introducing their own plans for development and helping them with technical advice and obtaining the resources necessary to implement their decisions. Some field officers of the Indian Affairs Branch have previously used community-development techniques to advantage - but this has always been in addition to their other duties, and it was seldom possible to spare a man to do this type of work exclusively. We will now be able to employ a good many trained people who can devote their full time to it. During the first three years, we plan to employ some 60 community-development officers and 50 assistants to work on reserves.

REFURBISHING CULTURAL HERITAGE

I am sure you know that the Community Development Programme involves every aspect of the Indians' community life, and not just economic and managerial efficiency. It is concerned, among other things, with promoting a higher group morale and community pride in the Indians' great heritage. To this end, the Department's Community Development Programme will include the encouragement of cultural and other community activity. We believe it is of particular importance to draw the attention of everyone, including the Indians, to the great worth of their traditional art forms and their role in building the country. Too often in the past there has been a lack of pride in their historical and cultural background; this should not be so, for we know that the Indian peoples have contributed greatly to the totality of our *Canadiana*. A special cultural-affairs section is being established, therefore, to promote pride in the Indians' heritage and to assist the

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CARVINGS BY KEEWATIN ESKIMOS

On November 19 the first major exhibition of carvings by the inland Eskimos of the District of Keewatin was opened at the Winnipeg International Airport by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. B.G. Sivertz.

Two carvers from Baker Lake, 1000 miles north of Winnipeg, had been chosen by this Eskimo settlement to attend the opening. Amarouk, 23, and Akkanarshoonak, 40, are hunters and trappers, who began to carve when the Department of Northern Affairs opened a small craft shop in the community in 1962. Today some 200 Eskimos are carving, with amazing skill, at Baker Lake, which is the geographical centre of Canada as well as the heart of Keewatin District.

EXPRESSION OF GRIM STRUGGLE

The explosion of creative vitality cannot be completely explained, but the talent must have been there - perhaps for generations - repressed by the grim struggle to survive. The work of the Caribou Eskimos reflects their harsh land. The gaunt figures of the hunters and their waiting women reflect little of the joy of life that is characteristic of the coastal Eskimos. Even the Keewatin wind is portrayed in the stiff protruding folds of a parka hood.

The development programme, which included hand-made Arctic clothing and crafts as well as the carvings, has given a substantial lift to the basic economy of the region and a new purpose to the lives of its men and women.

NATO ROLE FOR BLACK WATCH

It was announced recently by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer, that the 1st Battalion of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, stationed at Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick, would be Canada's contribution to NATO's Mobile Reserve, which operates directly under the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. This is a new Canadian commitment.

The battalion, the Minister said, would be supported by a troop from 2 Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers, elements of 3 Signal Squadron, Royal Canadian Signals, and logistic and administrative support detachments from the Experimental Brigade Service Battalion, all stationed at Camp Gagetown, as well as an artillery element to be designated later.

As announced in the White Paper on Defence in March 1964, the battalion group will be located in Canada but will be available for airlifting to Europe to join the land component of the NATO Mobile Force.

Plans are now being drawn up to give the battalion special training under severe winter conditions and in mountainous terrain. This winter the unit will be given winter warfare and ski training and will practice air portability techniques. Mountain training will be carried out in the Rockies between September and December 1965.

INDIAN TITLE FOR PPCLI C.O.

A Canadian "defender" was recently appointed at Deilinghofen, Germany, by North American Indians touring the West German province of Westphalia and taking part in the 547th annual fall festival at Soest.

The honour was received by Lieutenant-Colonel George Brown, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, who was named We-Cha-Kno-Nicha ("Defender") by Chief Jim Archdale of Poplar, Montana. Lieutenant-Colonel Brown had invited the group to his mess and to meet some 140 Canadians of Indian descent serving with Western Canada's infantry unit.

The ceremony included singing and dancing to the rhythm of tribal drums and prayers for the newly-appointed defender, who knelt to receive the feathered head-dress from Joe and Bella Roan of Hobbema, Alberta. Later, the visiting group, largely from Alberta, watched unit weapon training and toured a school in Fort Macleod, the unit's home station in Germany, where about 400 Canadian youngsters saw the performers in full Indian regalia.

IRON ORE

Producers' shipments of iron ore climbed 16.2 per cent in September, to 4,516,485 tons from 3,885,474 in September last year, and 26.1 per cent in the January-September period, to 28,036,652 tons from 22,237,527 in the comparable nine months of last year. Producers' stocks at the end of September were sharply (40.6 per cent) larger than a year earlier at 4,470,850 tons versus 3,180,486. Shipments were greater than a year earlier both in September and the January-September period for all producing regions except British Columbia.

September iron-ore shipments were: Newfoundland, 1,797,201 tons (1,660,487 in September 1963); Quebec, 1,636,390 (1,296,618); Ontario, 973,912 (693,684); and British Columbia, 108,982 (234,685). January-September shipments: Newfoundland, 9,082,330 tons (6,999,557 a year ago); Quebec, 11,625,841 (8,812,625); Ontario, 5,894,530 (4,976,221); and British Columbia, 1,433,951 (1,449,124).

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Indian people to make a further contribution to Canadian life through their own art, songs and other media of cultural expression. I am glad to say we expect to draw upon qualified Indians to staff the cultural-affairs section, as well as other parts of the Community Development Programme.

Our approach to the Community Development Programme requires us to "re-tool" our departmental organization to meet a changing concept. This we expect to do, with greater decentralization of decision-making and execution to the local level, both for the Department's field officers and for the band

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councils. We hope to accelerate and expand the granting of authority to band councils to manage their own funds. We will assist the councils whenever feasible to hire their own administrative staff to look after the day-to-day management of economic projects, welfare and other local services as do other municipalities. I cannot emphasize too strongly this need to encourage and assist band councils to assume responsibility for the management of their bands' affairs. This is one way by which limitations on community initiative can be progressively reduced, and individual responsibility stimulated and developed.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATION

Some provinces already have community-development programmes in operation, and we have no intention of duplicating any of these services that fill the need. Federal programmes will be "phased" into provincial or other operations whenever and wherever feasible. In some instances, as the main goals of community development are reached in Indian communities, the further development needs of these communities will probably become much like the non-Indian communities and can be met within the framework of general federal and provincial services. In this context, you are aware that a growing interest is being shown by the provincial governments in the well-being of their Indian residents and in an increasing acceptance of Indians as part of the provincial community. The provinces extend various services to Indians, including such welfare measures as old-age assistance, blind and disabled persons' allowances. We have entered a number of agreements or arrangements with provincial and private agencies to give Indians access to certain welfare and other services on the same basis as other citizens of the provinces concerned.

While these piecemeal arrangements have proved successful, they do not meet the needs for services of all kinds that Indian communities require, and it becomes increasingly necessary, therefore, to correlate federal and provincial policies and programmes in such matters as welfare, education, health, community development and municipal services. This was recognized some time ago, and because of our concern and desire for new approaches toward Indians and their needs, a full-scale federal-provincial conference was held a few weeks ago, which was devoted exclusively to Indian affairs.

CONSULTING THE INDIAN

We were all agreed that consultation with the Indians was of fundamental importance for the success of any federal-provincial effort to further extend services to Indian communities. To this end it was agreed that the Indians, through their band councils and organizations, should be approached with a view to establishing necessary consultative machinery with Indian Advisory Committees in each province or region, to provide a ready means of consulting with

Indians on questions of concern to them. Our position in this is that, while there can be no substitute for consultation with individual bands in regard to the matters which directly affect them as bands, provision should be made for the establishment of consultant bodies of band representatives at the regional level, to secure the Indians' viewpoint on matters of principle and major proposals. As now foreseen, the members of each committee will be elected by the Indian people from bands with common geographic, economic and social interest and from existing Indian associations.

Each region will develop its own system for achieving as broad a representation as is possible. Prior to the election of the regional Indian Advisory Committees, the fullest possible information on the function it will perform will be given to the electing groups. They will be informed of the type of items on which advice is likely to be sought and it will be stressed that the Federal Government is eager to have the advice of the Committees. The Regional Committees will be expected to give advice and make recommendations on broad issues of policy, proposed legislation and federal-provincial agreements, the improvement of existing programmes and the introduction of new ones. Matters submitted to them will be questions of substance and importance and their recommendations will be carefully considered in future policy making. It is intended that the Committees will be vital organizations and will play a meaningful and permanent role in Indian-affairs administration...

NEW AWARENESS OF INDIANS' PROBLEMS

The most hopeful new direction, by virtue of its scale, is the acceptance of Indians by their fellow citizens. Beginning with the ordinary citizen, we find a new awareness of the Indians' problems, and a desire to see their interests advanced. There is more than mere sympathy here; there is real appreciation on the part of very many people of the underlying needs of the Indians and a recognition of the kinds of help they require. We see it, increasingly, on the part of employers who are opening their doors to Indians. We see it reflected in the heartening response by various public and private agencies. Here, in London, for example, Indians have been helped to establish themselves through the friendly understanding of the community and the invaluable counselling aid provided by the voluntary agencies. Indians being relocated in London's industrial community are provided with professional counsel to help them through the difficult period of adjustment, and I want to pay special tribute to the work being done.

Our concern will be to give Indians their place in the progress of this nation, and I am confident that, with the co-operation of governments, and organizations such as yours, and with the growing understanding and appreciation of members of the public, they will have this....

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