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THE INDIANS OF CANADA

(Reprinted from the Canada Year Book 1966.)

More than 210,000 Canadians are registered as Indians by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. Registered Indians include all persons descended in the male line from a paternal ancestor of Indian identity, who have chosen to remain under Indian legislation. They are grouped, for the most part, into 558 bands and occupy or have access to 2,267 reserves or settlements having a total area of 5,975,647 acres.

Some 26 per cent of the registered Indians reside away from reserves. This portion includes those in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, for whom reserves have not been set aside. Many Indians, both on and off reserves, have specialized in various professions, trades and agricultural pursuits and others have found employment in a wide range of occupations and fitted into the economy of the areas in which they live. Some 290 Indians are employed by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, 109 of them as teachers. In the northern and other outlying areas, hunting, fishing and trapping remain an important means of livelihood for Indians.

Apart from special provisions in the Indian Act, Indians are subject to all laws of general application. They are liable for taxation of property held off a reserve and for any income they earn off a reserve. They may vote in federal elections on the same basis as other citizens and in provincial elections where the electoral laws of the province permit. Indians are free to enter into contractual obligations and may sue and be sued. However, their real and personal property situated on a reserve is exempt from seizure except on suit by another Indian.

A Departmental census of Indian population is taken every five years and the numbers recorded at the three latest censuses - 1949, 1954 and 1959 - are given in Table 2; the figures for 1960-64 are taken from band membership lists kept for administrative purposes by the Indian Affairs Branch.

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The Indian population in each province is classified by age group and sex in Table 3. The rapid growth of that population in recent years is indicated by the fact that in 1964 approximately 58 per cent of the Indians were under 21 years of age compared with 42 per cent of the population of Canada as a whole. Religious denominations of the Indian population are given in Table 4.

Administration

Pursuant to the British North America Act, the administration of Indian affairs, which had been under the management of several provinces, came under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada. Since January 1950, Indian affairs have been the responsibility of a Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

The Indian Affairs Branch is composed of a headquarters staff at Ottawa, eight regional offices, two district offices in the Province of Ontario and 87 field agencies. Specialists in such matters as education, economic development, community development, resource management, social welfare, and engineering and construction are attached to headquarters and regional staffs. Liaison is maintained with the Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare, the federal agency concerned with the medical care of Indians.

It is the primary function of the Indian Affairs Branch to administer the affairs of Indians in a manner that will enable them to participate fully in the social and economic life of the country. To this end, the Branch has brought into effect a wide range of programmes in the fields of education, economic development, social welfare and community development. Underlying administrative duties of the Branch include the management of Indian reserves and surrendered lands, the administration of band funds, estates management, enfranchisement of Indians and the administration of treaty obligations.

Welfare

Welfare services and social benefits available to Indians at present include those administered and financed by the Indian Affairs Branch and Indian bands, those developed through co-operative cost-sharing arrangements with provincial, municipal and private organizations, and programmes conducted by other federal and provincial government departments.

Indians are eligible for family allowances, youth allowances and old-age security administered by the Federal Government, as well as for old-age assistance and blind and disabled persons' allowances administered by provincial governments. In the Province of Ontario, Indian women may receive mothers' allowances and assistance to widows and unmarried women on the same basis as non-Indian women; indigent Indian mothers in Quebec are eligible for needy mothers' allowances and, upon application, abandoned children and adult Indians in Nova Scotia receive certain benefits in accordance with the Nova Scotia Social Assistance Act.

As there is no specific welfare legislation respecting Indians in either the Indian Act or other federal statute, the Indian Affairs Branch must rely upon provincial welfare legislation and upon provincially-accredited welfare agencies for the enforcement of such legislation. The Federal Government has negotiated cost-sharing arrangements with various provincial governments and private welfare agencies for the extension of child welfare services and for rehabilitation programmes for handicapped Indians. Agreements with the governments of the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia make provision for child welfare services to Indian reserves. In other provinces child welfare services are provided although formal agreements have not been negotiated. The Federal Government assumes responsibility for the maintenance of Indian children under the care and supervision of child welfare agencies (governmental and private); maintenance is paid for children placed in foster homes by Indian Affairs Branch field staff when the service of a child-caring agency is not available and also for children committed by the courts to training-schools and correctional institutions.

Care and maintenance in homes for the aged and other institutions are available to physically and socially handicapped adults who need such help because of senility or chronic illness but do not require active medical treatment.

The implementation of a federal-provincial statement of policy on social assistance and health services ensures that Indians living off reserves in British Columbia may secure aid when and where they need help. The Province of British Columbia shares with the Federal Government the costs of two continuing projects in the Prince Rupert and Babine areas designed to study and deal with specific welfare problems of Indians.

About half the Indian population of Ontario (35 Indian bands) assume municipal responsibilities by administering their own programmes under the terms of the General Welfare Assistance Act of Ontario. Provincial rehabilitation services are generally extended to handicapped Indians on the same basis as to non-Indians.

When in need, Indians who live on Indian reserves or in recognized Indian communities receive food, fuel, clothing, essential household equipment, shelter and supply and repair of prosthetic equipment from the Indian Affairs Branch. Indians who become stranded away from home in Canada may be given return transportation if they are unemployable or if employment is not available. It is expected that Indians living in non-Indian communities who need aid will be assisted by local municipal or provincial welfare agencies. Claims from such agencies for reimbursement on a charge-back basis are paid if persons so assisted have not established eligibility through residence.

Community Development

The Indian Affairs Branch conducts a comprehensive community development programme which is expected to be a major instrument for improving the economic, social and cultural life of Indians. This involves the use of trained persons to assist Indian groups to gain further skills and interest in dealing with community problems.

Resource and Industrial Development

Increasing interest in the development of commercial enterprises on Indian reserves has been evident in recent years. In a number of areas, Indian bands have developed portions of their lands to serve as industrial parks. Indians have also shown a growing interest in co-operatives. In March 1965, there were more than 30 co-operatives in which membership was wholly or substantially Indian. Included were producers' co-operatives, mostly engaged in pulpwood cutting and fishing with a few in the handicraft field, as well as consumers' co-operatives and credit unions. In addition, 20 or more Indian projects, mostly fisheries, were operated on a co-operative basis under Indian Affairs Branch programmes, although not formally incorporated.

Placement officers of the Indian Affairs Branch, located at a number of centres across Canada and working in co-operation with the National Employment Service, promote Indian employment in a wide range of occupations. The programme includes vocational and trade training. Also, the Indian Affairs Branch has arranged for community organizations to counsel Indians who are becoming established in urban centres outside reserves, and to foster the relocation of Indian families in frontier communities associated with the mining industries, providing counsel and other assistance.

Approximately \$1,210,000 was spent in 1964-65 under the Community Employment Programme, which provides employment on reserves through financing projects to develop and improve public assets on the reserves. Indian bands are encouraged to become directly involved in the planning and operation of these projects and thus assume greater responsibility in developing their communities and natural resources.

In the field of renewable natural resources development, some provinces co-operate in programmes for Indians under formal agreement; others co-operate informally with the Indian Affairs Branch, with similar results. Although fur prices declined somewhat in 1964, a trend toward a return to trapping in isolated areas continued. Participation by Indians in inland fisheries has expanded steadily in recent years and it is estimated that the total Indian commercial production from all inland waters was about 20 million lbs. during the 1964-65 season, with an equal amount for domestic consumption. Forestry operations on the reserves and in areas adjacent to the reserves provide considerable employment for Indians, who produce about 90 per cent of the annual reserve cut. The sale of forest products from reserves during 1964-65 totalled approximately \$10 million and band funds were enriched by about \$1 million from timber dues. Indians are given assistance in the operation of lumber mills, fence-post peeler and treatment plants, and charcoal kilns; reforestation projects and forest fire-fighting provide further income. The annual revenue to band funds from the exploitation of mineral resources on reserve lands averages about \$2 million a year, most of it from oil and gas resources in Alberta.

In 1964-65, Indians made about \$1-million worth of handicraft items for sale and their own use. Interest in their traditional crafts has been revived and expanding markets have helped to bring about an

annual growth of some 17 per cent in the industry. To encourage this important source of revenue, the Indian Affairs Branch maintains a marketing service and provides basic materials and other types of assistance on a repayable basis.

Indian farmers are eligible for assistance under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, and other federal statutes of general application. In addition, the Branch provides financial assistance to encourage young Indians to engage in farming and to help those already so engaged. The Branch is prepared to help Indians to finance co-operatives and small business when competent management is provided and the Indians concerned are familiar with the business principles and practices involved and have a financial stake in the enterprise.

Education

This major key to continued Indian progress receives ever-increasing support from Indian parents, from their school committees, from provincial governments, and from professional groups specifically concerned with classroom instruction of Indian pupils. The Indian Affairs Branch maintains and operates a number of schools for Indians, but 22,764 of the 55,475 Indian school population attend provincial schools. Attendance of Indians at provincial schools has been arranged, for the most part, through agreements between the Branch and individual school boards. In 1964, however, an agreement was concluded with the Province of Manitoba to provide for a uniform tuition fee to be paid by the Branch for Indian pupils attending schools under the jurisdiction of that province. Manitoba also passed legislation to give Indian children the right to attend any provincial school.

There are three types of Indian school, all operated at the expense of the Federal Government. On many reserves, day schools provide education for children who live at home. Residential schools care for orphaned children, children from broken homes, and for those who, because of isolation or for other reasons, are unable to attend day schools. The third type of school gives instruction to children confined to hospital.

All standard classroom supplies and authorized textbooks are used in Indian schools, which follow generally the curriculum of the province in which they are located. Financial assistance for pupils attending non-Indian schools varies from payment of tuition fees to full maintenance. Promising senior students are awarded scholarships to attend university or vocational school and scholarships are given to those who show promise in the arts.

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Education

This major key to continued Indian progress receives ever-increasing support from Indian parents, from their school committees, from provincial governments, and from professional groups specifically concerned with instruction of Indian pupils. The Indian Affairs Branch maintains and operates a number of schools for Indians, but 22,764 of the 52,435 Indian school population attend provincial schools. Attendance of Indians at provincial schools has been arranged, for the most part, through agreements between the Branch and individual school boards. In 1964, however, an agreement was concluded with the Province of Manitoba to provide for a uniform tuition fee to be paid by the Branch for Indian pupils attending schools under the jurisdiction of that province. Manitoba also passed legislation to give Indian children the right to attend any provincial school.

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1. Indian Land in Reserves and Number of Bands, by Province, as at Mar. 31, 1965

Province or Territory	Bands	Reserves ¹	Total Area
	No.	No.	Acres
Prince Edward Island.....	1	4	2,741
Nova Scotia.....	11	38	25,571
New Brunswick.....	15	23	37,655
Quebec.....	41	39(13)	188,178
Ontario.....	112	169(4)	1,539,873
Manitoba.....	51	101	522,351
Saskatchewan.....	67	123	1,224,583
Alberta.....	41	96(4)	1,607,400
British Columbia.....	190	1,621	820,404
Yukon Territory.....	13	25(25)	4,784
Northwest Territories.....	16	28(28)	2,107
Totals.....	558	2,267(74)	5,975,647

2. Indian Population, by Province, Departmental Censuses 1949, 1954 and 1959 and Estimates 1960-64

Province or Territory	1949	1954	1959 ²	1960 ²	1961 ²	1962 ²	1963 ²	1964 ²
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island	273	272	341	343	348	363	374	376
Nova Scotia.....	2,641	3,002	3,561	3,630	3,746	3,834	3,935	3,994
New Brunswick.....	2,139	2,629	3,183	3,280	3,397	3,524	3,629	3,717
Quebec.....	15,970	17,574	20,453	21,154	21,793	22,373	23,043	23,709
Ontario.....	34,571	37,255	42,668	43,767	44,942	46,172	47,260	48,465
Manitoba.....	17,549	19,684	23,658	24,608	25,681	26,676	27,778	28,833
Saskatchewan.....	16,308	18,750	23,280	24,278	25,334	26,483	27,672	28,914
Alberta.....	13,805	15,715	19,287	20,053	20,931	21,807	22,738	23,642
British Columbia....	27,936	31,086	36,229	37,375	38,616	39,784	40,990	42,141
Yukon Territory.....	1,443	1,568	1,868	1,923	2,006	2,096	2,142	2,215
Northwest Territories	3,772	4,023	4,598	4,758	4,915	5,108	5,235	5,383
Totals.....	136,407	151,558	179,126	185,169	191,709	198,220	204,796	211,389

1. Figures in parentheses indicate the number of Indian settlements which are not officially reserves included in the totals.

2. As at Dec. 31

3. Indian Population classified by Age Group and Sex, by Province, as at Dec. 31, 1964

Province or Territory	0-5 Years		6-15 Years		16-20 Years		21-64 Years	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	No.							
Prince Edward Island..	23	40	47	43	15	15	90	83
Nova Scotia.....	341	324	522	522	220	198	872	756
New Brunswick.....	354	368	541	492	182	188	764	662
Quebec.....	2,155	2,149	2,807	2,777	1,094	1,114	5,323	4,887
Ontario.....	4,485	4,367	6,245	6,068	2,455	2,392	10,233	9,226
Manitoba.....	3,531	3,481	3,930	3,899	1,439	1,391	5,374	4,620
Saskatchewan.....	3,754	3,699	4,053	4,040	1,318	1,315	5,058	4,630
Alberta.....	2,997	2,934	3,290	3,322	1,144	1,148	4,120	3,760
British Columbia.....	4,743	4,772	5,791	5,720	2,144	2,094	8,089	7,054
Yukon Territory.....	286	253	259	284	111	110	426	367
Northwest Territories..	546	587	649	662	261	235	1,120	974
Totals.....	23,215	22,974	28,134	27,829	10,383	10,200	41,469	37,019

	65-69 Years		70+ Years		Not Stated		All Ages	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island..	3	2	2	4	3	6	183	193
Nova Scotia.....	26	21	56	47	35	54	2,072	1,922
New Brunswick.....	30	14	45	37	15	25	1,931	1,786
Quebec.....	209	208	428	375	42	141	12,058	11,651
Ontario.....	475	360	809	749	186	415	24,888	23,577
Manitoba.....	230	148	370	341	12	67	14,886	13,947
Saskatchewan.....	186	162	364	280	6	49	14,739	14,175
Alberta.....	166	112	309	229	36	75	12,062	11,580
British Columbia.....	399	248	552	471	7	57	21,725	20,416
Yukon Territory.....	14	10	40	53	--	2	1,136	1,079
Northwest Territories..	57	53	102	100	14	23	2,749	2,634
Totals.....	1,795	1,338	3,077	2,686	356	914	108,429	102,960



4. Religious Denominations of the Indian Population, by Province, as at Dec. 31, 1964

Province or Territory	Roman Catholic	Anglican	United Church	Baptist	Presbyterian	Pentecostal	Salvation Army	Other Christian Belief	Aboriginal	Not Stated	All Denominations
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
P.E.I.....	376	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	376
N.S.....	3,951	--	6	--	--	--	--	4	--	33	3,994
N.B.....	3,693	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	23	3,717
Que.....	17,116	4,802	855	5	--	32	--	212	220	467	23,709
Ont.....	16,864	14,022	7,851	3,235	942	389	4	497	2,714	1,947	48,465
Man.....	11,257	8,402	7,198	--	1,249	275	--	125	86	241	28,833
Sask.....	15,541	8,584	2,512	65	92	41	--	423	1,381	275	28,914
Alta.....	16,933	3,080	2,611	178	6	12	--	543	69	210	23,642
B.C.....	24,510	8,041	7,932	--	2	385	740	241	--	290	42,141
Yukon.....	544	1,544	--	121	--	--	--	--	--	6	2,215
N.W.T.....	4,213	899	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	270	5,383
Totals...	114,998	49,374	28,966	3,604	2,292	1,134	744	2,045	4,470	3,762	211,389

5. Enrolment of Indian Pupils in All Schools classified by Type of School and by Grade, School Year 1963-64

Classification	Grade						Special	Post High School	Not Graded	Total		
	Pre-1		1-6		7-8						9-13	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.					No.	No.
Indian schools.....	3,575	24,791	3,089	750	126	380 ¹	32,711					
Provincial and private schools	322	10,662	3,072	3,315	264	4,575	22,764 ²					
All Schools.....	3,897	35,453	6,161	4,065	390	4,955	55,475					

¹ Includes 142 seasonal and 238 hospital pupils. ² Does not include 1,206 pupils of other ethnic groups attending Indian schools.

Enrolment of Indian Pupils in Provincial, Private and Territorial Schools classified by Grade or Type of Training, by Province, School Year 1963-64

Classification	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Pre-grade 1.....	--	22	--	50	88	30	48	--	45	--	39	322
Grade-												
1.....	--	17	14	134	319	287	355	255	673	39	238	2,531
2.....	1	15	11	140	293	180	196	218	519	17	158	1,748
3.....	--	20	10	138	280	226	197	168	530	10	151	1,730
4.....	1	25	16	159	336	215	197	185	454	11	138	1,737
5.....	--	22	26	114	299	138	173	198	416	57	110	1,553
6.....	--	33	19	178	322	145	126	203	406	33	98	1,563
7.....	--	31	28	215	356	131	112	243	412	38	68	1,634
8.....	--	17	21	218	316	108	90	216	394	31	27	1,438
9.....	2	43	20	166	521	93	138	119	411	13	28	1,554
10.....	--	23	17	83	257	77	76	77	282	16	18	926
11.....	--	11	5	50	130	38	59	43	191	5	9	541
12.....	--	3	5	13	80	10	13	30	101	1	3	262
13.....	--	--	--	1	19	--	--	--	12	--	--	32
University.....	--	7	3	20	16	1	8	7	6	--	--	68
Teacher training.....	--	--	1	1	7	--	3	--	--	--	2	14
Nurses training.....	--	--	--	4	2	--	4	4	2	--	--	16
Nurses aid.....	--	--	--	--	4	2	--	3	9	--	--	18
Vocational.....	--	9	6	60	37	22	30	63	89	56	66	438
Auxiliary.....	--	2	1	3	141	5	5	23	84	--	--	264
Not graded.....	25	122	49	477	1,878	374	497	218	899	35	1	4,575
Totals.....	29	422	252	2,227	5,701	2,082	2,327	2,273	5,935	362	1,154	22,764

P.E.I. No. N.S. N.B. Que. Ont. Man. Sask. Alta. B.C. Yukon N.W.T. Canada
 29 422 252 2,227 5,701 2,082 2,327 2,273 5,935 362 1,154 22,764
 University..... 7 3 20 16 1 8 7 6
 Teacher training..... 1 7 3
 Nurses training..... 4 2 4 2
 Nurses aid..... 4 3 9
 Vocational..... 60 37 22 30 63 89 56 66
 Auxiliary..... 2 1 3 141 5 5 23 84
 Not graded..... 25 122 49 477 1,878 374 497 218 899 35 1 4,575