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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Twenty-third Annual Report

of the

**British Columbia
Indian Advisory Committee**

and of the

Director, Indian Advisory Act

for the

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

1972



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Printed by K. M. MACDONALD, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty
in right of the Province of British Columbia.

1973

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Annual Report

British Columbia
Indian Advisory Committee

Director, Indian Advisory Act

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

1972



Printed by K. G. MacDonald in accordance with the provisions of the
Access to Information Act and the Access to Information Regulations

British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee
and the
Director, Indian Advisory Act

Head Office: Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

The Committee

Chief James Sewid	West Bay
Mr. Elmy Carpenter	Bella Bella
Wilson Duff	Vancouver
D. E. MacLaren	Vancouver
Ross R. McNeil	Coquitlam
Charles S. Jolly	Kamloops
Barry J. Ross	Nanaimo
George C. Giesler	Fort St. John
C. E. Rubin	Fort St. John

To Colonel the Honourable JOHN R. NICHOLSON, P.C., O.B.E., Q.C., LL.D.,
Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Annual Report of the British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee and
of the Director, Indian Advisory Act for the year 1972 is respectfully submitted
herewith.

British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee and the Director, Indian Advisory Act for
the year ended December 31, 1972.

ERNEST HALL

Provincial Secretary

Office of the Provincial Secretary,
February 1973.

At the present time the Indian people of British Columbia have achieved a
reasonably high level of organization and sophistication. They have achieved their
own objectives and have become more active people who have never before taken an
active part in the development of their own communities. The members of the
British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee believe this emergence of native
involvement to be healthy and beneficial to the over-all social and political life of the
Province.

With the increased numbers of sophisticated executive officers, and energetic
memberships, native Indian organizations are assuming the leadership role in Indian
affairs formerly played exclusively by Government. If this new role is to be truly
meaningful, most Indian organizations feel they must be free to plan and develop
their own solutions to their problems.

The British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee supports this approach to
the reasonable needs of the Indian people. Consequently, in response to Indian
proposals, the Government of the Province of British Columbia, through its First
Citizens' Fund, has approved of and financially assisted in the development of
numerous programmes and projects initiated and administered by Indian people
at both the Provincial and local level.

During 1972 the programmes supported by First Citizens' Fund grants reflected
the desire of the Indian people to improve the social and economic life of their
communities and at the same time preserve and develop their native culture.

An area of concern is that of the Indian and the law. Studies show that the
Indian is often faced with an overwhelming and incomprehensible situation when

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and the
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Head Office Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

The Committee

Chief James Sewid.....	Alert Bay
Mrs. Kitty Carpenter.....	Bella Bella
Wilson Duff.....	Vancouver
D. R. MacLaren.....	Vancouver
Ross R. Modeste.....	Koksilah
Clarence S. Jules.....	Kamloops
Simon J. Reece.....	Hartley Bay
George C. Clutesi.....	Port Alberni
C. E. Robin.....	Fort St. James

The Director, Indian Advisory Act

R. J. McInnes..... Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

*To the Honourable the Provincial Secretary,
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B. C.*

SIR: I have the honour to present the Twenty-third Annual Report of the British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee and the Director, Indian Advisory Act for the year ended December 31, 1972.

At the present time the Indian people of British Columbia have achieved a reasonably high level of organization and sophistication and are involving in their structures an increasing number of native people who have never before taken an active part in any kind of modern organizational activity. The members of the British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee believe this emergence of native involvement to be healthy and beneficial to the over-all social and political life of the Province.

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During 1972 the programmes supported by First Citizens' Fund grants reflected the desire of the Indian people to improve the social and economic life of their communities and at the same time preserve and develop their native culture.

An area of concern is that of the Indian and the law. Studies show that the Indian is often faced with an overwhelming and incomprehensible situation when

brought before the Courts. All too often there is no one at hand to act as the Indian's "friend" before the law.

When released from prison the Indian is frequently poorly prepared for the future, lacking definite release plans, employment, or destination.

When brought into face-to-face contact with social agencies there appears to be distrust on the part of the Indian of accepting information or of engaging in any form of meaningful social planning when suggested by a non-Indian caseworker or courtworker source.

In an effort to overcome these difficulties, First Citizens' Fund grants were awarded the Native Court Workers' Association of British Columbia and the John Howard Society to help meet the demand that trained native Indian courtworkers be available in specific areas to assist those Indians charged in Court and those requesting assistance following release from prison. It is hoped a Province-wide courtworker service and a courtworker training programme emerges from these initial activities.

Indian organizations have long experienced difficulty in communicating with their members. To help alleviate the problem, financial help has been extended to the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, the Native Brotherhood, and the British Columbia Native Homemakers' Association, for the production of independent newspapers. The papers are produced by Indian people and outline native problems, policies, and progress to segments of the general public, other ethnic groups, and fellow organizations.

The Radio And Visual Education Network (RAVEN) is the radio network which links Indian villages together using side-band radio transceivers, providing two-way communications for emergency and for the dissemination of information requested by the villages. The society has 29 licences and has applied for 17 more, so there will be some 46 villages with a total population of some 20,000 interlinked in this manner in the near future. The radios are situated in both isolated and urban villages, so that, for the first time, communication and specific information that in the past had only been readily available to the urban village is now available to isolated villages.

So far the society is working from the Lower Mainland along the west coast and up to the Nass Valley. In the near future the society plans to accept applications from the remaining districts in northern and central British Columbia.

The society is funded mainly by the British Columbia Government through the First Citizens' Fund.

The preservation and exhibition of native Indian culture is of utmost importance to Indian residents. In several communities the local native language is being taught to children and numerous fluent speakers of native languages are motivated to undergo the necessary training to teach the language.

The First Citizens' Fund Advisory Committee has therefore encouraged the development of programmes that involve the native people of British Columbia in the collection of taped and written material pertaining to their languages, legends, customs, histories, and literature.

The production of arts and crafts has long represented an integral part of Indian culture. Today, the demand for authentic work of native craftsmen is increasing and, in response to the suggestions of producers, legislation was enacted during the spring Session of the British Columbia Legislature to enable the establishment of an organization to carry on the business of wholesalers, distributors, and dealers in the works of the native Indian artists and craftsmen of the Province. One objective of the organization would be to encourage greater production of Indian arts and crafts in the Province and at the same time develop standards of quality.

For the first time, Indian entrepreneurs are becoming involved in the retailing of native Indian arts and crafts in most areas of the Province. Band Councils are encouraged to establish co-operative retail outlets with assistance from the First Citizens' Fund.

As Band and Area Councils become more involved with economic projects and more responsible for the financial administration of community business, there is a demand for better accounting practices at the local level.

To meet the demand, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, with a grant from the First Citizens' Fund, has agreed to initiate a simplified standardized accounting system for those Band Councils requesting assistance.

For too long, the Indian people on the reserves have not had the opportunity to participate in established sports. In consequence, the British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee supports the formation of the British Columbia Native Amateur Sports and Recreation Federation which was created during the past year and which will assist in the organization, development, and implementation of sport programmes in Indian communities.

A native Summer Olympiad held in Victoria, in August 1972, attracted participants from all areas of British Columbia.

Many native people find themselves in a world of cultural, social, and economic isolation and are unable to break the bonds of this isolation. In view of the lack of existing facilities in many isolated communities, the British Columbia Association of Non-Status Indians has taken steps to develop training programmes in the areas of educational, cultural, and economic enrichment.

The association has developed a mobile training unit designed to meet the needs and aspirations of the people. Completely self-contained and equipped with resource materials and audio-visual aids, the unit will tour the Province constantly promoting cultural and socio-economic development.

The First Citizens' Fund Advisory Committee welcomes the opportunity to help these meaningful recreational and educational programmes at the Provincial and local levels.

During the past year, the Advisory Committee awarded grants totalling \$2,266,318 to 367 approved projects.

Many of the approved programmes and projects were directed toward higher educational standards for Indian people. To help improve the standards and authenticity of the basic Indian curriculum context of public school courses, the Advisory Committee continued to sponsor the appointment to the Department of Education of a curriculum consultant on Indian education. During the past year the appointee undertook a careful study of the value and need for new teaching materials.

The British Columbia Native Indian Teachers' Association was incorporated in September 1970 and, since its founding, has worked diligently to develop communication between the many groups involved in Indian education and to promote the involvement of Indian people in education decision-making.

Of concern to the association is the small number of Indians entering teaching and other professions. Despite the fact that the Indian youth is aggressively encouraged to develop his talents fully and to pursue his ambitions, at the present time, comparatively few qualify for career-training in higher education. During the year 1971/72, only 46 Indians attended the public universities. This enrolment figure does, however, represent a small increase over that of the previous year.

The British Columbia Native Indian Teachers' Association considers that it must take the initiative in co-ordinating efforts to arouse interest in a variety of

professions, not only for the benefit of the individual students, but as examples of academic and career success for all Indian students.

Vocational training enjoyed more appeal among Indian students, with numerous new registrations in various courses during the past year.

Facilities and opportunities are available to the Indian student, but it appears that standard schooling and vocational training opportunities are not enough to overcome the educational difficulties of many native students, and that more imaginative approaches are required.

The association has therefore initiated a bursary and scholarship programme, sponsored by grants from the First Citizens' Fund, for students wishing to enter an institution of higher learning and for those presently enrolled in a university or vocational school wishing to complete their training.

In addition, an Indian Education Resource Centre was established in September 1970, with the aim of improving educational opportunities for Indian students in British Columbia. During 1972 the Centre continued to develop and distribute books and articles containing accurate up-to-date information for use by students, teachers, Indian school committees, and many others. It has also sponsored courses and programmes concerned with various facets of Indian culture, history, and education, the responsibilities of teachers of Indian students, and the responsibilities of parents of Indian pupils.

Formal education, both academic and vocational, plays the major role in providing a background to knowledge and responsible decision-making. Consequently, stress continues to be placed on education as one of the keys by which Indians will be able to provide themselves with the information necessary to enable them to bring meaningful change.

The Indian Advisory Committee has stressed repeatedly the need for home-school co-ordinators in the Indian communities. Such officers are presently employed in a few communities, but more are needed to act as a liaison between the schools and the homes; to help develop greater understanding among the Indian people on matters pertaining to the education of their children; to help combat absenteeism in the schools; and to help overcome general apathy of student and parent toward education.

Young Indian citizens are bringing about change in their communities, and two subjects of great importance affect them to a more marked degree than they do most people of the Province. These are education and employment. In practice, the two subjects interact in that the degree of education increasingly affects the type of employment available.

These are encouraging signs of greater understanding of the difficulties faced by Indian students and indications of a better level of qualifications in school graduates.

Indian parents are more aware of the increasing need for secondary schooling for their children and the number of Indian students attaining higher-grade levels has increased. In 1971/72, there were 285 Indian pupils in Grade XII, compared to a 1961/62 total of 107.

Lack of training beyond secondary-school level creates a stumbling block in Indian progress as it is imperative in contemporary society that leaders be adequately prepared educationally for leadership roles.

One of the major obstacles confronting proficient Indian leadership would appear to be the understandable lack of business and work experience of the leaders. Such opportunities along these lines are just not available in most Indian communities.

In addition to the need for higher education and leadership training, the lack of employment opportunities represents a further stumbling block to Indian progress. The plight of many Indians gives testimony to the devastating effects of unemployment on the individual, the family, and the community.

The excessive use of alcohol continues to cloud the Indian employment picture, carrying an impression of unreliability into the employment field. The image of the Indian worker must be improved and this is a problem area where the Indian people must take the lead and work with Government to find a solution.

Through no fault of his own, the Indian operates at a special disadvantage in most labour markets and has special problems in adjusting to change. It is therefore not sufficient to offer him equal employment opportunities. He must have something more than equal opportunities.

In recognition of the need to help Indian citizens develop or improve employment opportunities in rural areas of British Columbia, the Federal and Provincial Governments entered into a jointly sponsored programme of assistance which will be provided under a special *Agricultural and Rural Development Act*.

ARDA

This programme has four main thrusts:

- (a) Outright grants toward capital costs of creating commercial ventures that would employ Indians.
- (b) Grants to existing operations where Indians are involved in primary producing activities.
- (c) Assistance in paying the cost of training Indians for jobs.
- (d) Providing money for such projects as communications systems and roads for Indians in isolated areas.

A review of events in Indian communities indicates that advances have been made in all fields by the Indian people during the past 12 months. However, as many are impoverished, as judged by contemporary society, obviously much has yet to be done and it is equally obvious that this can only be accomplished by the co-operation and assistance of all levels of government, private industry, and with the Indian himself being responsible for the pace and direction of his development.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members of the British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee, who were appointed by Order in Council, advise the Provincial Government on all matters relating to the status and rights of the Indian people of the Province. Basic functions of the Advisory Committee are to supply leadership, and to be a constructive force in Indian affairs. The recommendations of the committee to the Provincial Secretary are designed to help meet some of the needs of the Indian people of the Province.

In addition, committee members as individuals continue to promote closer liaison between the Indian people of their local areas and Provincial Government authorities, and continue to encourage Indian residents to assume a more active and responsible role in all phases of community life.

Gratitude is expressed to all members of the Advisory Committee for their services to the Government of the Province of British Columbia, and for their efforts on behalf of the Indian people of the Province during 1972.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee held its annual meeting in Cranbrook on June 16, 1972.

Main areas for discussion were the need for employment opportunities and social service, including foster-homes programmes in Indian communities.

The lack of employment opportunities continues as a major area of concern for many Indian people living both "on" and "off" the reserve, and the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that fuller employment is the main factor in overcoming the many needs of the Indian people.

As the fishing industry presently represents the principal employment of Indian people on the Pacific Coast and as employment opportunities in the industry are decreasing for the Indian worker, members of the Advisory Committee explored various areas of employment related to the fishing industry.

Most salmon streams require maintenance and as stream guardians, Indian people could be responsible for clearing streams of obstructions. Production has been falling off in many streams and artificial spawning-channels are indicated as a means of achieving greater potential. Indians could be used in the construction and operation of the channels.

The rearing of fish in captivity is being studied and experimented with in many parts of the world. Such projects owned and operated by the Indian people could be located in many areas of the north coast. The members of the Advisory Committee therefore stress that the possibilities of an aquaculture programme be explored.

Some of the known fishing resources of our Coast are not utilized because the cost of catching and processing is more than the market will return. It may be possible to subsidize Indians to exploit these resources, thereby providing considerable employment both to fishermen and shoreworkers.

Seaweed-harvesting, which never got started in British Columbia, could employ a large number of Indians in small groups at various points along the Coast.

Indians have always shown an aptitude and ingenuity in making fishing-lures and fishing-gear. Both design and fabrication could be done in Indian communities as a village industry.

Members of the Advisory Committee also expressed concern over the apparent inconsistencies in the variety and quality of social services received by people living on the reserve as compared with those services received by people living in towns. It was pointed out that some of the inequities occur in the following areas:

1. The process of obtaining social assistance.
2. The use of homemaker services.
3. The lack of play-schools and kindergartens.
4. The use and misuse of child apprehension by authorities.
5. The quality of foster-home care for Indian foster children.

INDIAN POPULATION

The number of registered Indians in British Columbia as at January 1, 1972, was 47,998, which was an increase of 110 over the previous year. The recognized 188 Indian Bands possess 1,625 reserves throughout the Province, totalling 844,061 acres. The size of the reserves vary from a few to many thousands of acres. Not all reserves are occupied.

The Indian settlements are, generally speaking, small and scattered throughout the Province. Only 21 Bands have more than 500 members. Of the rest, 29 have between 300 and 500 members, 78 have between 100 and 300, and the remaining 60 have less than 100 members.

Statistics indicate that roughly 45 per cent of the Indian population is in the working age-group of 16 to 64 years, as compared to the non-Indian average of 65 per cent. In proportion to population, therefore, Indians have far fewer people in the working age-group than have non-Indians as a whole.

Changing economic conditions are a major factor in a gradual decrease in the on-reserve population. Today, 33.2 per cent of the total Indian population reside on off-reserve lands, as against 14.2 per cent 10 years ago.

The following table shows comparative Indian population figures since 1962.

Comparative Indian Population Table for British Columbia

Date	On-reserve Population	Off-reserve Population	Total Population	Permanent Residents Off Reserve
January 1—				Per Cent
1962	32,942	5,460	38,402	14.2
1963	33,086	6,214	39,300	15.8
1964	32,958	7,601	40,559	18.7
1965	32,547	9,393	41,940	22.4
1966	32,790	10,184	42,974	23.7
1967	32,547	11,534	44,081	26.2
1968	32,853	11,331	45,084	25.1
1969	32,859	13,070	45,929	28.4
1970	32,829	14,082	46,911	30.1
1971	32,316	15,572	47,888	32.5
1972	32,080	15,918	47,998	33.2

INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Indian organizations have been working at an accelerating rate during the past year to promote Indian progress and to insure that Federal policies reflect the needs and desires of the Indian people.

The emergence, growth, and increasing sophistication of native organizations continue to be of singular importance in the over-all struggle to insure a just place for native peoples in Provincial society. While Provincial groups are increasingly putting forward positive action guidelines, local and district organizations are growing in strength and representation. The outcries against injustices that characterized past meetings have given way to well-developed and researched action programmes.

In addition, the activities of competent Indian leaders are bringing about a weakening of the barriers that in the past tended to create division within Indian society.

Generally speaking, the aims and desires of all major Indian organizations are identical, and with the present enlightened leadership and members' attitudes, steady progress is being made toward desired Provincial unity.

Education and economic development were the two main topics of discussion at the fourth annual conference of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, which was held in Prince Rupert in November 1972.

Chiefs and delegates representing British Columbia's 188 Bands were encouraged by the growth and progress made by the Union during its fourth year of operation.

The Nishga Tribal Council continued to seek final settlement of its land claims, which involves 4,300 square miles of Nishga hunting-grounds.

Throughout 1972 the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia continued to press strongly for better conditions for native fishermen and the advancement of Indian land claims.

The executives of both the British Columbia Indian Homemakers' Association and the British Columbia Native Women's Society actively promoted better understanding of the native people, their problems, and achievements to the general public, and provided a forum for free discussion of all matters of general interest. Members

also took an active interest in matters of civic, social, and moral welfare, including the stimulation of programmes for youth and the encouragement of better family relationships.

DEPARTMENTAL CO-OPERATION

It is the belief of the Indian Advisory Committee that the Indian people of British Columbia should be associated closely with the life of other citizens, and this implies the extension of many Provincial services. During the past year, when within their jurisdiction to do so, the departments of the Government of the Province have shown a growing interest and desire to extend these services so that the needs of the Indian communities may be met on the same basis as those of other citizens.

The Indian people are encouraged to use the services and assistance available under all Provincial programmes. During the past year, many took advantage of these services, and various departments initiated activities to assist the Indian people.

The services and activities of Provincial Government departments are shown below:

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Branch services to Indians consist of preventive dentistry and public health, including environmental sanitation.

Preventive Dentistry

During the past year, nine young graduate dentists visited some 36 rural and often remote communities. Modern portable dental equipment was loaned by the Health Branch. In the Okanagan Region the equipment was housed in a mobile caravan-trailer.

In all communities visited, dental services were equally available to Indian and non-Indian citizens, with fees for Indians being paid by Medical Services Directorate, Department of National Health and Welfare. For communities with large numbers of Indian citizens, visits were arranged between visits of dentists employed by Medical Services Directorate. In addition, a special visit was made to the Sliammon Indian Reserve at Powell River.

Public Health Services to Indians

During the year 1972, Public Health Inspectors made approximately 52 visits to Indian reserves in British Columbia, advising clients on such subjects as private water supply and waste disposal for the family home.

In addition, Public Health Inspectors provided consultative service as to the design, construction, and operation of commercial enterprises such as camp-sites, mobile-home parts, and food premises.

Public Health Inspectors in the Skeena Health Unit spent considerable time working with city and company officials to provide better housing for Indians employed off the reserve.

Seventy-two Indian reserves have been receiving public health nursing services from the health units in the health districts where they are located. Arrangements for this service have been in effect for many years through agreements made with the Medical Services Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Thus, the public health nurses provide service to 9,020 Indians living on reserves and to about 16,455 Indians now living permanently off the reserves. In all, these two groups represent about 53 per cent of the total Indian population of 47,998 living in British Columbia.

In addition, the majority of Indian children receive their education in Provincial schools where the Provincial public health nurses from the health units provide the School Health Service, although the medical services nurses (Federal) do the necessary follow-up on the reserve where there is no agreement for service on the reserve with the Medical Services Directorate. The public health nursing service offered to the Indian population is the same as that provided to the non-Indian population. Additional time and special techniques are used to meet their special needs. It is a family centred service which involves working with families in order to help them improve their general health, prevent illness, and encourage early treatment. In addition, direct services are provided, such as screening for physical and emotional defects, referral for care, immunizations, etc. Emphasis is placed on teaching parents how to care for themselves and their children, home sanitation, family nutrition, control of communicable diseases, particularly tuberculosis, and venereal disease.

As the Medical Services Directorate has begun to provide auxiliary Indian health workers, such as community health workers and aides to assist the public health nurses with their work, it is anticipated that the general health of the Indian population will improve more quickly than it has in the past.

Working relationships between the public health nursing staff of the health units and the Medical Services Directorate are extremely good, and there is a good exchange of information of benefit to the Indian population. Frequently, both services are engaged jointly in special projects for the Indian people.

LABOUR

During the year 1972 the Department of Labour, under the Canadian Labour Safety Code, inspected some 10 institutional buildings for Indians and has applied the Federal legislation governing such working conditions as lighting, heating, ventilation, and washroom facilities.

The following is a summary of the courses and the number of students in the seven British Columbia vocational schools during 1972: Automotive Mechanics, 8; Carpentry, 15; Electrical, 2; Heavy Duty Mechanics, 7; Structural Steel, 1; Logging, 8; Total, 41.

In addition, there are a number of Indian citizens in apprenticeship programmes, but because these are not categorized other than as apprentices, the number is not known.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

Education Services Division

Programmes designed by the Education Services Division of the British Columbia Provincial Museum for the purpose of relating the Indian culture to other cultures have been successful. This success is measured by the comments of the students and teachers who have participated in the programmes, and by the fact that the Museum cannot always accommodate the numbers of requests made to attend the programme.

During 1972 the following children's programmes were held:

People of the potlatch—In this programme, 2,123 students of Grades IX to XII, in the first four months of the year, discussed the way of life of the Kwakiutl Indian of 200 years ago, and of the Indian of today, visiting the legacy gallery of contemporary Indian art.

Kumtuks—A total of 42 children from the community attended the programme, August 1 to 11.

Summer-camp programme—Special programmes for 431 children, including a camp for Indian foster children and their foster parents, in co-operation with the Family and Children's Service, Victoria and Duncan, were held.

Land of the Kekuli—Students learned the ways of the interior Indian of yesterday and today. The children saw an actual sweat-house and wore the hand-tanned leather apparel of the early Indian. The children, Grades IV to VI, also handled artifacts of the early Indian.

Special programmes—Special programmes were designed and presented for children in out-of-town schools. A total of 722 children and adults took part in these. At the Museum, upon special request, programmes beyond those scheduled were prepared and presented to a total of 943 children and adults.

Son of Raven, Son of Deer—In an outreach programme for Kindergarten to Grade V, visits were made to schools on Vancouver Island by appointment, to assist children in dramatizing stories from the book by Dr. George C. Clutesi. By the end of the programme, which runs from October 15, 1972, to June 21, 1973, more than 7,500 children will have participated. All children's programmes feature artifacts and clothing which can be handled and worn.

Ethnology Division

Financial support from the First Citizens' Fund enabled the Museum to employ several British Columbia Indian carvers during the year 1972. One carver has completed his second year of apprenticeship and is becoming a skilled designer, engraver, and carver. During the year, three other carvers were employed for periods of one to six months as apprentices.

Commercial Fisheries Branch

The Fisheries Branch served on an Agriculture Department Advisory Committee established to make a marine resources study of the Bella Bella area. The objective being to find and organize a viable marine harvesting or sea-farming and processing operation which would be Indian owned, operated, and administered.

The Branch was involved with the Department of Indian Affairs in planning a custom cannery for sport-caught fish to be built on the reserve at Campbell River and to be operated by members of the local band.

The Fisheries Branch, acting as consultants, along with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, is assisting in the setting up of a clam-digging operation to be followed by a processing-plant at Ucluelet which will shuck, freeze, and ship the clams.

HIGHWAYS

During the year the Provincial Highways Department employed 24 Indians throughout the Province. It is the continued policy of Departmental district officials to employ as many Indian workers as possible.

The Department of Highways undertook to construct, grade, and maintain numerous roads serving Indian communities throughout the Province. The cost of some of these projects, both major and minor, was shared equally between the Provincial and Federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, while the cost of still others was borne entirely by the Provincial Department of Highways.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

In response to an invitation from the community, a community development worker was placed in Prince Rupert during 1972. The programme is sponsored

jointly by the Department of the Provincial Secretary and the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs.

Through the efforts of the community development officer, native residents will be encouraged to become more involved in the social and economic world around them. The community development philosophy works to accomplish this through the creation of a learning environment which will add to the skills, knowledge, and self-confidence of the people, both individually and collectively.

It is assumed that if the Indian people are given opportunities through a better understanding of issues, the development of their own skills and the mustering of hitherto unused resources, they will be motivated to exercise the power which resides in all citizens to act toward the solution of their own problems.

MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

All rights and privileges under mining legislation of the Province apply to Indians and non-Indians alike. In any year there are a number of Indian prospectors who take advantage of the general services offered.

Indian citizens are entitled to prospect, locate, and record mineral and placer claims and to obtain free assays if they hold a free miner's certificate.

In addition, technical advice is given freely by the Department's geologist and engineers.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

The interest of the Department of the Attorney-General in the welfare of the native Indians of the Province continued to be active during the past year.

The Indian Court Counsellor programme now has six Indians who have been given some guidance and training by appropriate agencies and are available in particular areas for counselling Indians, and in some cases non-Indians, who appear before the Courts. Some of the counsellors are presently paid for by two John Howard Societies; other counsellors are voluntary at the moment. The Indians themselves are anxious to take this programme over and are working on an expansion of the project.

The percentage of Indian to non-Indian population of the Provincial correctional centre shows a continuing drop. This is something the Department will continue to examine, but major efforts made two or three years ago to treat public drunkenness in a different manner has eliminated a number of problems for the Indians in relation to correctional centres.

During the year the Department continued its policy of treating Indians and non-Indians on the same basis in a positive way so that, by default, the Indian is not left behind. Where a programme or rule of law works to the detriment of any group, even though on the surface applied equally to all, it is examined, both with a view to administrative changes and, if necessary, legislative changes, to eliminate difficulties.

EDUCATION

Possibly the most encouraging trends in the field of education are the undoubted increase in educational awareness shown by Indians of all ages, and the ever-growing recognition by education authorities and teachers of the special problems of the Indian student.

At the same time it must be recognized that the proportion of Indians undertaking courses of higher education is low in relation to non-Indians, but it would seem that the steady improvement which has become manifest in recent years will continue to accelerate.

During the past school-year, 12,613 Indian students enrolled in Grades I to XII in both Provincial and Indian schools. Of this number, 9,705 or 77 per cent of the total Indian school population attended Provincial schools.

The various vocational-training programmes offered by the Technical-Vocational Branch of the Department continue to play a vital and important role in helping to raise the occupational standards of the Indian people.

Through the assistance of the First Citizens' Fund, a Curriculum Consultant continued to assist the Department of Education and the schools of the Province in making more effective the regular school programme for children of Indian ancestry.

REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT

Social Assistance and Rehabilitation Division

Services to Indians are directed to those persons who live off reserve and include financial assistance, counselling, and assistance with family problems. The provision of medical services to such persons continues to be the responsibility of the Federal Government.

A major change in the services provided to Indians has resulted from the introduction of the Mincome programme on December 1, 1972. This ensures that all persons over 65 years of age receive a minimum income of \$200 a month, or a total of \$400 for a married couple over 65 years. At the same time, persons who formerly received assistance under the Blind or Disabled Persons' Allowance have had their assistance raised to \$200 a month on a means-test basis.

Division on Aging

There have been no significant changes in the services provided to Indians. With the exception of health services for Indians living on reserve, all services are the same as those received by other citizens of the Province.

Field Services

In the field office many innovative programmes are being instituted in an attempt to meet special local needs and conditions. These include temporary financial assistance to students attending regional colleges or other educational facilities, participation and co-operation with the increasing number of Indian organized health, welfare, and recreational organizations, and liaison with other professional organizations providing services to Indians.

Although these services are not uniform throughout the Province, and not universally successful, they do demonstrate a keen interest in the well-being of the Indian people and a desire to develop services that better meet the particular need.

Child Welfare Division

The percentage of children in care who are Indian has decreased to 38 per cent from 40 per cent last year. However, only 17 per cent have been accepted as a financial responsibility by the Indian Affairs Branch. Of the Indian children in care, 6.7 per cent were admitted under the *Juvenile Delinquents Act*, which compares most favourably with the 11.9 per cent for non-Indian children.

Data now available show that Indian children tend to enter care younger than do children of other racial origins. This may account for the fact that a higher proportion of Indian children have been in care over three years, and that they are even more likely to stay in the same placement. Thus a higher percentage of Indian children are in foster homes as opposed to other types of residential resource.

Indian boys constituted 15.8 per cent of the admissions to Brannan Lake School, which is very close to percentages over the previous two years. Thus there is no apparent trend to either an increase or a decrease. The services provided to Indian boys remain exactly the same as those provided to other boys in the school.

LANDS

During the past calendar year the British Columbia Lands Service was pleased to co-operate whenever and wherever possible to assist the Indian people of the Province and to accommodate the Indian Affairs Department in placing parcels of Crown land under reserve, pending negotiations for the exchange of such lands for other Indian properties.

In addition, complementary survey data, reference maps, and air photographs were supplied to Indian Bands and organizations by the Legal Surveys Division.

FOREST SERVICE

During 1972 the British Columbia Forest Service continued its policy of employing Indian help, wherever feasible, to assist in the carrying-out of its many programmes.

A timber sale harvesting licence was issued on June 16, 1972, to Cariboo Indian Enterprises Limited (incorporated on behalf of the local Indians of the Chilcotin area), to allow for the annual harvest of 8,400 cunits. This licence provides that the timber must be harvested by native peoples. The first cutting permit was issued on the same day and the second permit was issued on July 11, 1972.

The Reforestation Division gave employment to a large number of Indians during the past year, and total earnings in this respect amounted to approximately \$311,000. The native employees planted over 4,898,400 trees, collected 145 bushels of cones, and otherwise contributed significantly to the reforestation programme.

In six forest districts, 11,898 man-days were recorded for Indian crews in activities under the Protection Division jurisdiction.

WATER RESOURCES

The Water Resources Service has assisted the Indian people in investigating flood-control problems and available remedial measures.

Flood damage to the Indian people caused by the extreme high 1972 spring run-off was compensated in part from the British Columbia Major Disaster Fund.

Occasional technical assistance has been given in connection with water management and agricultural land reclamation projects.

PUBLIC INTEREST

The British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the continued interest shown by private organizations throughout the Province in the welfare of Indian citizens during the past year.

As the native organizations gain in strength and sophistication, the function of private organizations in the field of native affairs is undergoing change. Indian groups are now assuming the role of leaders in their struggle for progressive social and economic change and, as a result, non-Indian groups are being asked to assume needed supporting roles.

In spite of administrative progress, Indian groups still seek and appreciate the support of private organizations whose advice, administrative, and business knowl-

edge are essential to the success of many native activities. Also, if the Indian villagers are to take their proper place in the Provincial community, they must have public support to effect change. Quite often private groups have the facilities with which to create public awareness of the needs of the native Indian people.

Many private organizations in many areas of the Province offer programmes to promote the integration of Indian people and to facilitate the transition to urban living.

The B.C. Indian Arts and Welfare Society continued, during 1972, to offer service to Indian people of the Province through a variety of sponsored projects and through awards to deserving Indian students from its Mungo Martin Memorial Fund and the society's bursary for university students.

The facilities and programmes of such private organizations as the YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts of Canada, the Girl Guides of Canada, and the Canadian Red Cross Society continued to be made available to all Indian citizens during 1972. Many Indian people throughout the Province have taken advantage of these services.

During the past few years the citizens of many urban areas observed a social need among the native people who were migrating into the cities in increasing numbers. As a result, Native Indian Friendship Centres have been established in 10 centres in the Province. Along with private and business donations from the community and financial support from the Federal and Provincial Governments, the centres have provided services to help meet the problems encountered by native people living in an urban area.

Essentially, friendship centres are volunteer agencies which enable private citizens to become aware of the obstacles encountered by native people in the cities. Each centre offers varied programmes and services such as referrals, resting place, recreation, and social activities. There are many other services provided depending upon the local community needs. Also, through citizens' involvement, the opportunity is presented to gain insight into some of the complex contemporary Indian social issues.

Friendship Centres are serving a very useful role in the communities and fill gaps that exist in the services provided by other social agencies and native Indian organizations. Of the utmost importance is that the centres represent a spontaneous response from the public to the social needs and aspirations of the Indian population.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Director, Indian Advisory Act had the privilege of visiting numerous officials of the regional and district offices of the Department of Indian Affairs during the past year.

Personal appreciation is extended to the various superintendents and members of their staffs who give so freely of their time and knowledge, acquired from close contact with the problems and needs confronting the Indian people in their areas.

It is also particularly gratifying to be associated with all members of the British Columbia Indian Advisory Committee. To all members, who are not in any way associated with Government and who only attend meetings at personal sacrifice, go heartfelt thanks.

Appreciation is extended to the officers of voluntary organizations whose varied activities involved Indian citizens. Their assistance in assembling particulars of programmes is most welcome, and the fact that Indian and non-Indian people are prepared to undertake joint programmes reflects a brighter future for the Indian citizens of the Province.

R. J. McINNES
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