

# **An Overview of Demographic, Social and Economic Conditions Among British Columbia's Registered Indian Population**

**by A.J. Siggner and Locatelli**

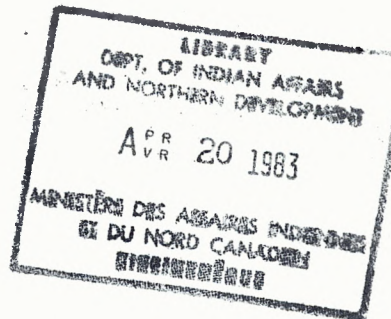
**Research Branch  
Corporate Policy**

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AN OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL  
AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AMONG BRITISH COLUMBIA'S  
REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION

prepared by

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Cette publication peut aussi être obtenue  
en français sous le titre:

Aperçu de la situation démographique, sociale  
et économique des Indiens inscrits de la  
Colombie Britannique

NOTE FOR REVISED EDITION

As a result of a clerical error, several changes have been made to the demographic data contained in the British Columbia "Overview" report. Specifically, Tables 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 22 have been altered to correct this error. For those involved in planning, policy development and evaluation it will be important to note the changes to the absolute numbers and percentages, however, the overall trends have remained the same.

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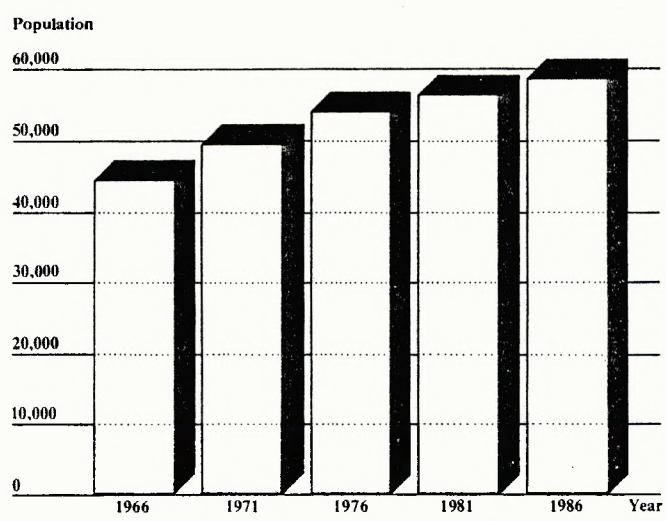
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The executive summary consists of a number of charts which highlight the main demographic, social and economic conditions of the registered Indian and general populations of British Columbia. A short commentary accompanies each chart describing the trend and the associated policy and/or planning implications.

### CHART 1

British Columbia's registered Indian population is expected to reach 60,000 by 1986. It currently represents about 2.2% of the provincial population, however, it is expected to decrease slightly to 2.1% by 1986. The annual growth rate of the registered Indian population has been slowing down over the 1966-76 period, declining from 2.3% per annum during the 1966-71 period to 1.9% per annum in the 1971-76 period, while the annual rate of growth for the provincial population as a whole decreased from 3.3 to 2.6 over the same two five-year periods (see Section 2.1).

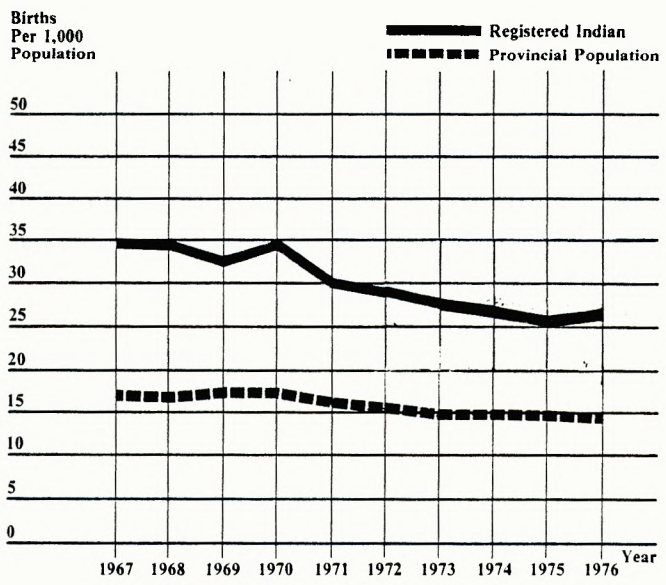
Registered Indian Population,  
British Columbia, 1966-1986



### CHART 2

The decline in the Indian population growth rate is primarily a result of a decline in the birth rate which has dropped from 35 births per 1,000 population to 27 between 1967 and 1976. The Indian birth rate is converging on that of the provincial population which was 15 births per 1,000 population in 1976 (see Section 2.2).

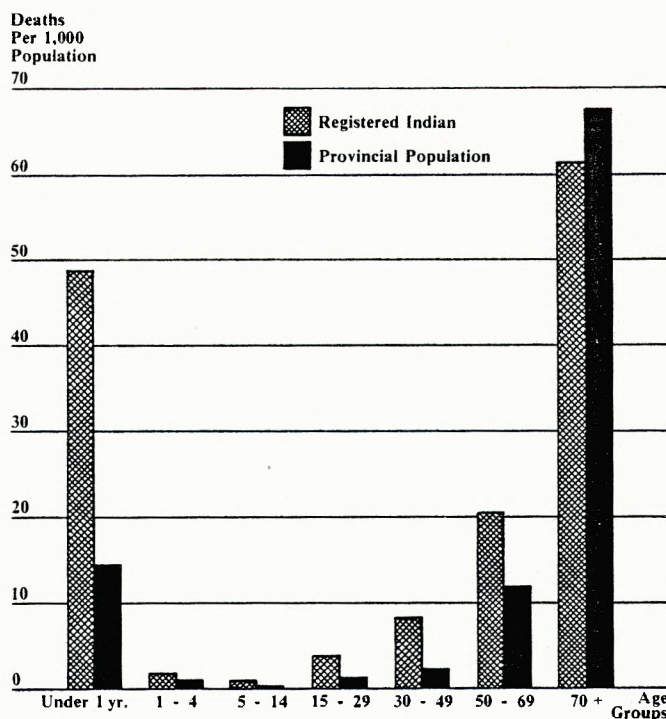
Birth Rates for Registered Indian  
and Provincial Populations, British  
Columbia, 1967-1976



### CHART 3

Indian death rates are higher than those of the provincial population in all age groups except for those 70 years and over. The greatest differences are found under the age of 1 and between the ages of 5 and 49, where the Indian death rates are over three times higher than the provincial rates. If the underlying causes are not dealt with we may see a worsening of these trends, especially in the Indian young adult age groups, as their numbers are expected to increase substantially throughout the 1980 decade (see Section 2.3).

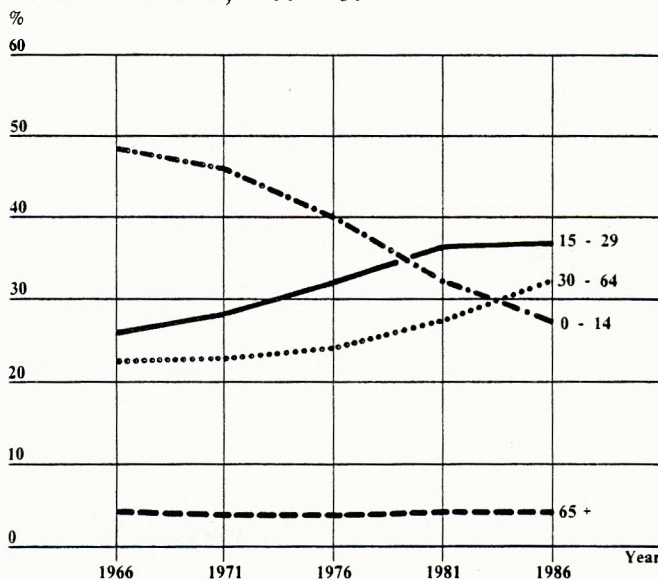
**Death Rates by Age Group for Registered Indian and Provincial Populations, British Columbia, Averaged Over 1973-1976**



### CHART 4

The 1980's will see the effects of the Indian "baby boom" of the 1960's as the group enters the young adult age group (15-29). This group is expected to represent 36% of the total registered Indian population in British Columbia by 1986. The implications of the influx of young people into the labour force and housing markets are apparent. The decline in the birth rate is also reflected in the decreasing share of the children under 15 years old as a percentage of the total Indian population (see Section 2.4).

**Percentage Distribution by Age Group for Registered Indians, British Columbia, 1966-1986**

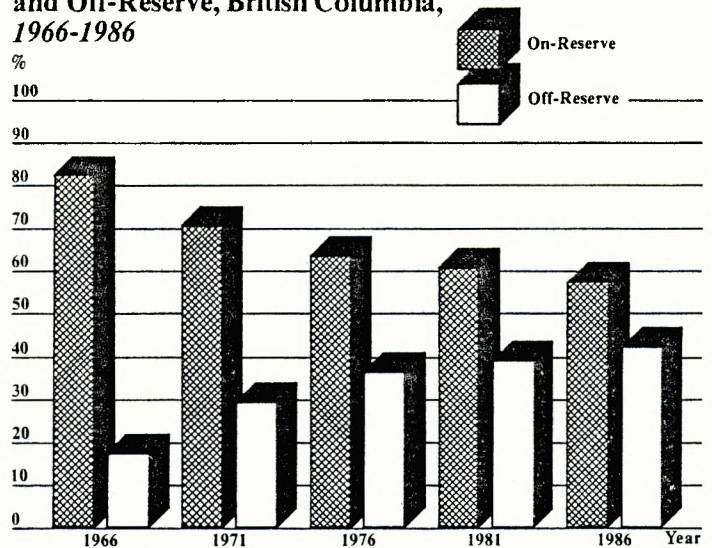




**CHART 5**

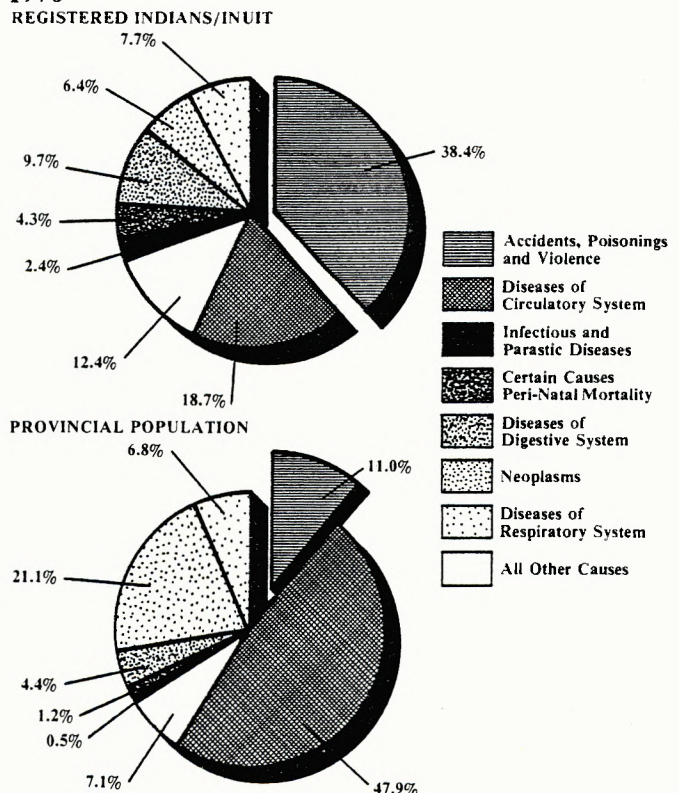
There was a notable increase in the percentage of the population off-reserve in the 1966-71 period. However, contrary to popular belief, the rate of increase in the off-reserve population slowed down in the next five years, 1971-76. This slow down is reflected in the projection period when it is expected that the percentage off-reserve will reach about 43% or 25,000 in 1986 from 36% or nearly 20,000 in 1976. The corollary is that the rate of decline in the percentage on-reserve will not be as fast in the 1980's as compared to the 1970's. Both these trends have implications for community planning, social services, housing, etc. (see Section 2.5).

**Percentage Distribution of Registered Indians Residing On- and Off-Reserve, British Columbia, 1966-1986**

**CHART 6**

Proportionately British Columbia's registered Indians have over three times the number of deaths due to accidents, poisoning and violence than does the provincial population as a whole. Many of these deaths occur to the young adult population (see Section 3.1).

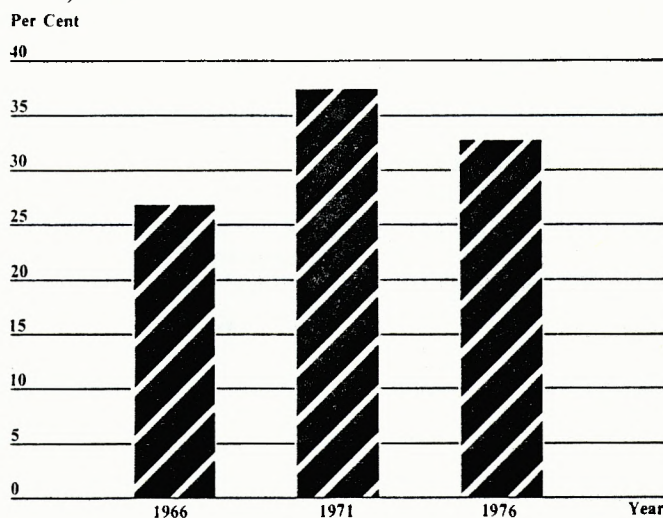
**Causes of Death Among Registered Indian and Provincial Populations, British Columbia, 1976**



**CHART 7**

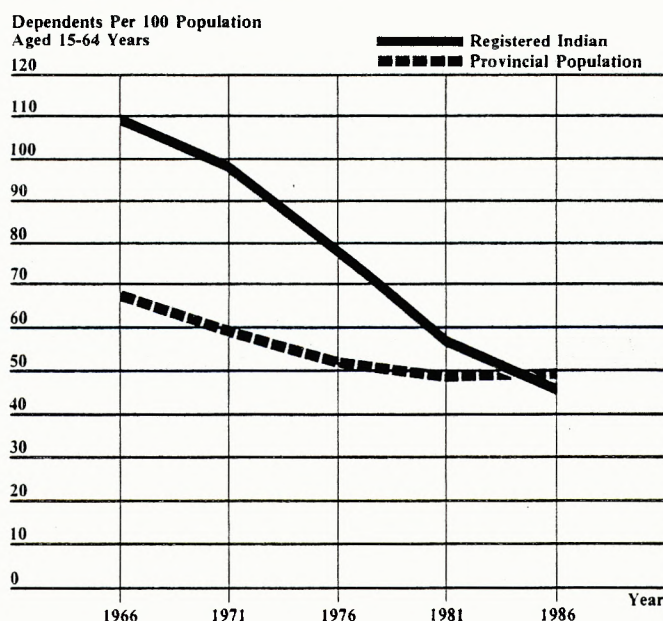
The participation rate of the Indian population aged 14-18 years enrolled in secondary schools increased from 27 per cent to 37 per cent between 1966 and 1971, but declined to 33% by 1976. The more recent trend suggests that if a substantial increase in both the participation and retention rates does not occur, these trends will be a limiting factor on the number of potential recruits for post-secondary education and training (see Section 4).

**Percentage of Registered Indians Aged 14-18 Enrolled in Secondary School, British Columbia, 1966, 1971, 1976**

**CHART 8**

The trend in the ratio of children and elderly to the labour force age population reflects the decline in the birth rate and the increase in the adult population. If this trend were to be combined with improved economic opportunities for Indian people, their per capital standard of living would increase, as the labour force population (assuming they are employed) would have less dependents to support (see Section 5).

**Dependency Ratios for Registered Indian and Provincial Populations, British Columbia, 1966-1986**

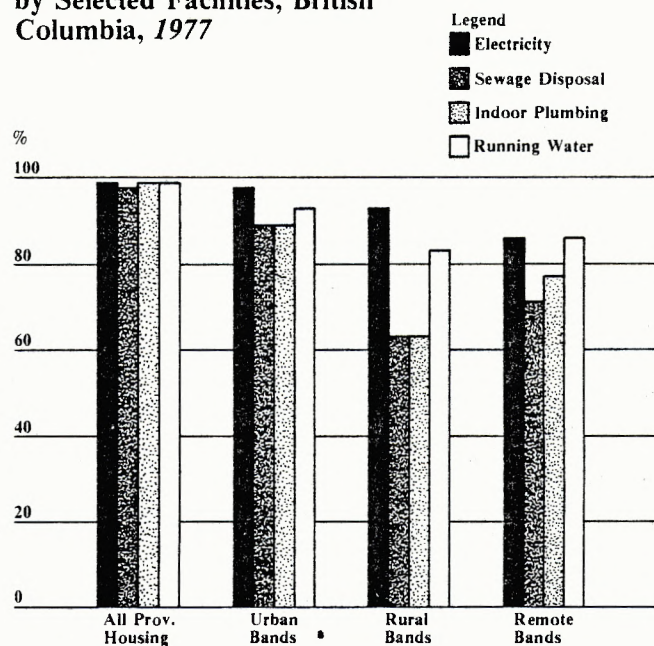




**CHART 9**

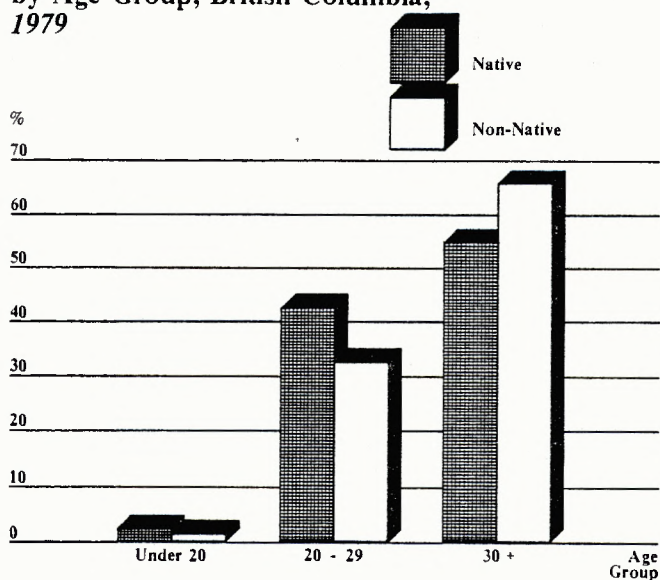
While the majority of all houses had electricity, a lower percentage of Indian houses have piped in potable water, sewage disposal and indoor plumbing in comparison to all provincial housing in 1977. These conditions are particularly marked in rural and remote communities. Future demand for housing on reserves will be heavy as the on-reserve population in the principal family formation age group 20-29 years has been forecast to increase by 31 per cent by 1986 or by approximately 4400 persons (see Section 7).

**On Reserve and Provincial Housing  
by Selected Facilities, British  
Columbia, 1977**

**CHART 10**

Native people are overrepresented in federal prisons; these natives tend to be young adults with Grade 8 education or less. The percentage of native inmates incarcerated for violent crimes is considerably higher than that among non-native inmates; native inmates have higher percentages with 1 or more previous commitments in comparison with non-native inmates (see Section 8).

**Percentage of Natives and Non-Natives in Federal Penitentiaries  
by Age Group, British Columbia,  
1979**



AN OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL  
AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AMONG BRITISH COLUMBIA'S  
REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of demographic, social and economic conditions of registered Indians in British Columbia in comparison with those of the provincial population. A variety of indicators to measure these conditions are discussed in the following sections:

2. demographic characteristics
3. health
4. education
5. employment
6. welfare dependency
7. housing
8. justice

The time period covered in the main is 1966-1976. This ten year span was used where possible to give an overview of trends.

The British Columbia report is one of a series of provincial reports based on the model used in the national study entitled, An Overview of Demographic, Social and Economic Conditions Among Canada's Registered Indian Population.

1.1 Data Sources and Notes

The data used are primarily from the records of the Indian and Inuit Affairs Program such as the Indian Register, education enrollment records (Nominal Roll) and the 1977 Housing Needs Analysis Survey of Indian Reserves and Settlements. Other sources include Statistics Canada's 1971 and 1976 Census, population estimates and projections and vital statistics, etc.; Medical Services Branch, Health Data Book 1978,

Health and Welfare; Medical Services Annual Report - Pacific Region  
1976, Health and Welfare; Medical Services Branch Annual Report  
1973-1977, Health and Welfare; Canada Correctional Service's data on  
native and non-native characteristics of federal inmates.

Throughout most of the report the term "Indian" refers to those registered under the Indian Act. In some data sources, however, it is not possible to distinguish registered Indians from other people of native ancestry and this is noted when it occurs. Where figures are quoted for the total provincial population, they include registered Indians, who constituted 2.2 per cent of that population in 1976.

The population figures quoted for the registered Indian population do not correspond to the official counts available from the Indian Register data files. This is because the figures used in this report have been adjusted for late reporting of births to the Indian Register. The result is that the total registered Indian population used herein is about one to two per cent higher in the 1966-76 period.

## 2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

### 2.1 Population Size and Growth

Two of the key information variables in developing policy and programs are population size and growth. The total Indian population of British Columbia as of 1976 was estimated at 54,486, which represents about 2.2 per cent of the total provincial population of British Columbia.

The annual growth rates for the Indian population have varied during the 1966-76 period. The average annual percentage increase between 1966 and 1971 was approximately 2.3 per cent per year. During the 1971-76 period, the average annual growth rate dropped to 1.9 per cent per year. This compares to 3.3 per cent and 2.6 per cent per year for the total provincial population over the same two five-year periods. Due to an expected continued slow decline in the Indian birth rate, it is forecast that the rate of growth in the Indian population will decrease to an average growth of 1.4 per cent per year between 1976 and 1981.

Thereafter it will continue to decrease to 0.8 per cent per year in the 1981-86 period. In absolute numbers, the population is projected to increase by approximately 3,800 to 58,330 in 1981, reaching 60,738 by 1986 (see Table 1).

As a percentage of the total population of British Columbia, the registered Indian population will decrease slightly to 2.1 per cent by 1986, largely due to the population growth in the province from net external and internal migration as a whole.

## 2.2 Birth Rate Trends

In recent years there has been a marked decline in the birth rate of the Indian population. In 1967 the birth rate among Indians was 34.7 births per 1,000 population which was more than double the birth rate of the total provincial population (see Table 2). By 1976 the Indian rate had declined to 26.5 births per 1,000 population, a 24 per cent drop, while the provincial birth rate had only decreased by 14 per cent to 14.5 births per 1,000 population.

The number of births has decreased by 13 per cent, from 1,640 in 1966 to 1,432 in 1976. The important aspect of this phenomenon is that while the number of births has declined, the number of females in the childbearing years (15-44) has increased from 8,213 to 12,414 between 1966 and 1976. The general fertility rate, which measures the number of births per 1,000 females in the childbearing years, decreased from 200 births per 1,000 females aged 15-44 in 1966 to 115 in 1976 and it is expected to continue to decrease, albeit more slowly, reaching 71 by 1985. This fertility rate was allowed to decline in the projection exercise until it reached the 1971 rate for all Canadian women, whereafter it was held constant. A further implication of the decline in the birth rate is that family size will also decline.



TABLE 1 - REGISTERED INDIAN AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS FOR  
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966, 1971 AND 1976 AND  
PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIAN		PROVINCIAL	
	POPULATION <sup>1</sup>	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE <sup>2</sup>	POPULATION (000's)	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE <sup>2</sup>
	N	%	N	%
1966	44,619		1,873.7	
1971	49,750	2.3	2,184.6	3.3
1976	54,486	1.9	2,466.6	2.6
1981	58,330	1.4	2,657.2	1.5
1986	60,738	0.8	2,916.9	1.9

<sup>1</sup>The registered Indian population from 1966 to 1976 is adjusted for late reported births and 1-4 year olds; age unstated is excluded.

<sup>2</sup>The growth rates are five year average annual growth rates.

SOURCES: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence for British Columbia, 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Corporate Policy.

Statistics Canada, Population, Revised Annual Estimates, 1921-71, 1971-76, Cat. Nos. 91-512, 91-518.

Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada, 1976-2001, Projections Series No. 2, Cat. No. 91-520, January, 1979.

Research Branch, 25-3-80. Revised 30-11-81

TABLE 2 - BIRTH RATES<sup>1</sup> FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN AND PROVINCIAL  
POPULATIONS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA  
1967 - 1976

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIAN			PROVINCIAL BIRTH RATE /1,000
	BIRTHS <sup>2</sup>	MID-YEAR POPULATION	BIRTH RATE	
	N	N	/1,000	
1967	1,565	45,082	34.7	16.9
1968	1,579	46,021	34.3	16.8
1969	1,519	46,958	32.3	17.2
1970	1,659	48,098	34.4	17.3
1971	1,478	49,263	30.0	16.0
1972	1,440	50,258	28.6	15.4
1973	1,401	51,145	27.4	14.8
1974	1,406	51,969	27.1	14.8
1975	1,334	52,920	25.2	14.8
1976	1,432	53,956	26.5	14.5

<sup>1</sup>The birth rate is computed by dividing the births in a specific year by mid-year population, multiplied by 1,000.

<sup>2</sup>The registered Indian population from 1967 to 1976 was adjusted for late reported births.

SOURCES: Births Reported by Reporting Year and Year of Occurrence by Province, 1965-1977, Indian Membership System, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Corporate Policy.

Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, Preliminary Report, 1976, Cat. No. 84-201.

Research Branch, 25-3-80. Revised 30-11-81.

### 2.3 Mortality Trends

Great reductions in the mortality rate of Indians have occurred in recent years, although this rate is still considerably higher than that of the provincial population of British Columbia. The Indian infant mortality in 1976 was 49.0, which is more than three times that for the total province (see Table 3).

There are substantial differences in the death rates by selected age groups between the Indian and the provincial populations of British Columbia. The greatest differences are found between the ages of 5 and 49, where the Indian death rates are at least three times higher than the provincial rates (see Table 3). For example, in the 15-29 age group the Indian death rate is 3.9 per 1,000 population whereas the provincial rate is only 1.2; and in the 30-49 age group the Indian rate of 8.2 is almost four times greater than the provincial rate of 2.2.

It is particularly important to note the death rate in the adult population aged 15-29, since it is this age group which will be increasing markedly in the 1980 decade as a result of the 1960's Indian "baby-boom".

### 2.4 Age Composition

To determine the demand on or requirements for services and programs among various age groups, policy and decision makers require information concerning the current and expected age composition of the Indian population.

The Indian population in the young adult age group 15-29 represented approximately 26 per cent of the total Indian population of British Columbia in 1966. By 1976 its share had risen to nearly 32 per cent or 17,305, and it is expected to reach almost 36 per cent (21,556) by 1986 (see Tables 4 and 5).

In comparison, those in the young adult age group in the provincial population represented about 22 per cent of the total in 1966. By 1976 their percentage share had risen to nearly 28 per cent, but due to the

TABLE 3 - SELECTED AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH  
RATES FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN  
AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS  
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1976

AGE GROUPS	REGISTERED INDIAN /1,000	PROVINCIAL /1,000
UNDER 1	49.0	14.4
1 - 4	1.6	0.8
5 - 14	0.9	0.2
15 - 29	3.9	1.2
30 - 49	8.2	2.2
50 - 69	20.1	11.9
70+	61.4	67.5

SOURCES: Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Corporate Policy.

Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch Annual Report, Pacific Region, 1976.

Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, 1976, Cat. No. 84-206.

Statistics Canada, Population Revised Annual Estimates, 1971-76, Cat. No. 91-518.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

TABLE 4 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN<sup>1</sup> AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966, 1971, 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986

YEAR	PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP									
	0 - 14		15 - 29		30 - 64		65+		15 - 64	
	REG. INDIAN %	PROV. %	REG. INDIAN %	PROV. %	REG. INDIAN %	PROV. %	REG. INDIAN %	PROV. %	REG. INDIAN %	PROV. %
1966	48.2	30.6	25.5	21.5	22.3	38.4	4.0	9.5	47.8	59.8
1971	45.6	27.9	27.9	25.0	22.7	37.7	3.8	9.4	50.5	62.7
1976	40.4	24.1	31.8	27.5	24.1	38.6	3.8	9.8	55.8	66.1
1981	34.6	22.1	34.9	27.0	26.7	40.2	3.7	10.7	61.6	67.2
1986	29.5	22.0	35.5	25.1	31.2	41.8	3.8	11.1	66.7	66.8

<sup>1</sup>The registered Indian population from 1966 to 1976 is adjusted for late reported births and 1-4 year olds; age unstated is excluded.

SOURCES: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence for British Columbia, 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Corporate Policy.

Statistics Canada, Population, Revised Annual Estimates, 1966-71, 1971-76, Cat. Nos. 91-512, 91-518.

Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada, 1976-2001, Projection Series No. 2, Cat. No. 91-520, January, 1979.

Research Branch, 25-3-80. Revised 30-11-81.

TABLE 5 - REGISTERED INDIAN<sup>1</sup> AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966, 1971, 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986

YEAR	AGE GROUPS									
	0 - 14		15 - 29		30 - 64		65+		15 - 64	
	REG. INDIAN N	PROV. (000's) N	REG. INDIAN N	PROV. (000's) N	REG. INDIAN N	PROV. (000's) N	REG. INDIAN N	PROV. (000's) N	REG. INDIAN N	PROV. (000's) N
1966	21,487	574.3	11,372	402.1	9,972	718.7	1,788	178.6	21,344	1,120.8
1971	22,699	610.0	13,863	546.4	11,284	823.2	1,904	205.0	25,147	1,369.6
1976	22,012	595.1	17,305	678.3	13,114	951.3	2,055	242.1	30,419	1,629.6
1981	20,200	588.4	20,386	716.5	15,577	1,068.6	2,167	283.7	35,963	1,785.1
1986	17,919	642.8	21,556	730.6	18,954	1,218.8	2,309	324.7	40,510	1,949.4

<sup>1</sup>The registered Indian population from 1966 to 1976 is adjusted for late reported births and 1-4 year olds; age unstated is excluded.

SOURCES: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence for British Columbia, 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Corporate Policy.

Statistics Canada, Population, Revised Annual Estimates, 1966-71, 1971-76, Cat. Nos. 91-512, 91-518.

Statistics Canada, Population Projections for Canada, 1976-2001, Projection Series No. 2, Cat. No. 91-520, January, 1979.

Research Branch, 25-3-80. Revised 30-11-81.

decline in the provincial birth rate during the 1960's and early 1970's, the provincial population in the age group 15-29 is expected to decline to approximately 25 per cent by 1986.

The dependent population 14 years of age and under has undergone a marked change as a percentage of the total Indian population. In 1966, this group represented 48 per cent of the Indian population, but by 1976 its share had declined to 40 per cent. If the birth rate continues to decline, and as the population ages, by 1986 the population aged 14 and under will represent only 30 per cent (see Table 4). The respective percentages of the dependents in the total provincial population are 31 per cent, 24 per cent and 22 per cent in 1966, 1976 and 1986. Therefore, while the percentage of Indian dependents has declined more slowly in the 1966-76 period than that in the provincial population, it is expected to decline much more rapidly in the 1976-86 period. This is due to the fact that the number of births, although expected to increase moderately during the 1980's, will not be great enough to offset the number of children leaving the under 15 year age group by reaching age 15 during the same period. Consequently, the size of the Indian population under age 15 is expected to decrease throughout the forecast period, from about 20,200 in 1981 to 17,919 in 1986 (See Table 5).

The forecast increase in the number of births, as well as the larger numbers becoming teenagers, will have direct implications for many programs and services involving Indian children, such as education, child care, social welfare, etc., all of which are discussed in later sections of the report.

A more or less constant birth rate and improvements in life expectancy will also combine to age the population. This can be observed not only in the 15-29 age group already mentioned (see Table 4), but also in the 30-64 age group.



The latter age group is expected to increase its share of the total population from 24.1 per cent in 1976 to 31.2 per cent by 1986. The same trend is also observed, although to a lesser degree, in the provincial population.

The Indian age composition appears generally to follow the same trends by age group as the age composition of the provincial population, except in the young adult group. However, while the effects of the post-war "baby-boom" and subsequent birth rate decline have had major impacts on employment and educational enrolment for the provincial population in the 1970 decade, the same phenomenon will not be occurring for the Indian population until the 1980 decade. Consequently, the Indian labour force age group 15-64 is expected to increase substantially in the 1980's.

#### 2.5 On- and Off-Reserve Population

The trend in the on- and off-reserve distribution of the Indian population has been shifting over the last ten years. In 1966, 83 per cent of the population was living on-reserve and Crown land (hereafter referred to as on-reserve) and 17 per cent off-reserve (see Tables 6 and 7). The latter increased substantially during the following ten years, reaching 36 per cent by 1976. Although it is difficult to predict, the proportion of off-reserve will likely increase, albeit more slowly in the 1980 decade. If current trends continue, it is projected to exceed 42 per cent by 1986.

The percentage distribution of the Indian population by age and residence indicates that the highly mobile age groups 20-24 and 25-29 have decreased their proportions on-reserve by approximately 16 and 17 per cent respectively between 1966 and 1976 (see Table 6); for example, the on-reserve percentage of the 25-29 age group dropped from approximately 78 per cent in 1966 to 61 per cent in 1976. The same group showed a corresponding increase in its percentage of off-reserve from 22 per cent to 39 per cent during the same period (see Table 7). Although the data is not shown here, since 1969 the percentage of on-reserve has declined more slowly than in 1966-1969 period. Unlike



TABLE 6 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION RESIDING ON-RESERVE BY AGE GROUP  
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966, 1971<sup>1</sup>, 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986

YEAR	AGE GROUPS							
	0 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 64	65+	TOTAL
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1966	85.0	85.8	81.4	78.2	77.6	82.9	89.2	82.7
1971	70.0	75.1	69.6	61.2	65.4	73.2	84.7	70.2
1976	61.9	65.5	65.8	61.0	60.3	70.1	80.2	63.9
1981	57.9	61.5	63.1	57.8	57.0	67.8	78.2	60.7
1986	53.9	57.2	60.2	55.0	54.8	65.6	76.3	57.5

<sup>1</sup>The 1966 and 1971 on-reserve populations have been adjusted for a change in the residence definition which occurred in 1974 in order to make the trends historically comparable.

SOURCES: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence for British Columbia, 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Corporate Policy.

Research Branch, 25-3-80. Revised 30-11-81.

TABLE 7 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION RESIDING OFF-RESERVE BY AGE GROUP FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966, 1971<sup>1</sup>, 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986

YEAR	AGE GROUPS							
	0 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 64	65+	TOTAL
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1966	15.0	14.2	18.6	21.8	22.4	17.1	10.3	17.3
1971	30.0	24.9	30.4	38.8	34.6	26.8	15.3	29.8
1976	38.1	34.5	34.2	39.0	39.7	29.9	19.8	36.1
1981	42.1	38.5	36.9	42.2	42.3	32.2	21.8	39.3
1986	46.1	42.8	39.8	45.0	45.2	34.4	23.7	42.5

<sup>1</sup>The 1966 and 1971 off-reserve populations have been adjusted for a change in the residence definition which occurred in 1974 in order to make the trends historically comparable.

SOURCES: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence for British Columbia, 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Corporate Policy.

Research Branch, 25-3-80. Revised 30-11-18.

the stable trend occurring in most of the other provinces, the on-reserve percentage of the population aged 0-44 has been declining steadily, albeit more slowly, in recent years.

Many factors undoubtedly have contributed to the slower decline in the on-reserve percentage of the population since 1969. For example, poor economic conditions in the cities may have been simultaneously encouraging a movement back to reserves and settlements and discouraging out-migration from reserves. Improvements in housing supply and economic development on-reserves and Indian control of Indian education may also be combining to discourage out-migration from reserves and to draw people back.

Although data are scarce regarding the exact location of the off-reserve population, at least a general picture of the distribution on- and off-reserve are provided as of 1976 by Indian Affairs' districts. Table 8 and Figures 1 and 2 indicate that Campbell River District had the highest percentage off-reserve with nearly 46 per cent, followed by Terrace District with almost 42 per cent, and Nanaimo District with over 38 per cent, Central Vancouver and Fort St. John Districts each had 34 per cent of its population residing off-reserve, and Prince George and Vancouver Districts followed closely with 33 per cent each, while Bella Coola District had only 26 per cent off-reserve.

According to the 1971 Census, nearly 10 per cent of the Indian population in British Columbia was living in urban areas of 100,000 population and over and 17 per cent in urban areas less than 100,000 in size (see Table 9). Indian women out-numbered Indian men in all types of urban areas in 1971.

## 2.6 Indian Bands by Selected Population Size Groupings

This brief description is included to provide the general reader with an appreciation of the population size of Indian bands. The majority of Indian bands have band memberships of 1,000 or less and usually within each band a certain proportion of their membership lives off the reserves or settlements.

TABLE 8 - REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION BY BANDS AND ON-AND OFF-RESERVE  
RESIDENCE FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA,  
1976

BAND NAME	POPULATION <sup>1</sup>		ON-RESERVE <sup>2</sup>	OFF-RESERVE
	N	%	%	%
BELLA COOLA	2,400	4.4	73.8	26.2
CAMPBELL RIVER	3,884	7.2	54.1	45.9
CENTRAL VANCOUVER	7,997	14.8	66.1	33.9
FORT ST. JOHN	1,013	1.8	66.3	33.7
NANAIMO	8,479	15.7	61.6	38.4
PRINCE GEORGE	4,573	8.4	66.8	33.2
TERRACE	13,030	24.2	58.5	41.5
VANCOUVER	9,144	16.8	66.8	33.2
WILLIAMS LAKE	3,656	6.7	75.4	24.6
TOTAL	54,176	100.0	63.9	36.1

<sup>1</sup>The total population has been adjusted for late-reporting.

<sup>2</sup>On-reserve includes on Crown land.

SOURCE: Registered Indian population by sex and residence for regions, 1976,  
Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

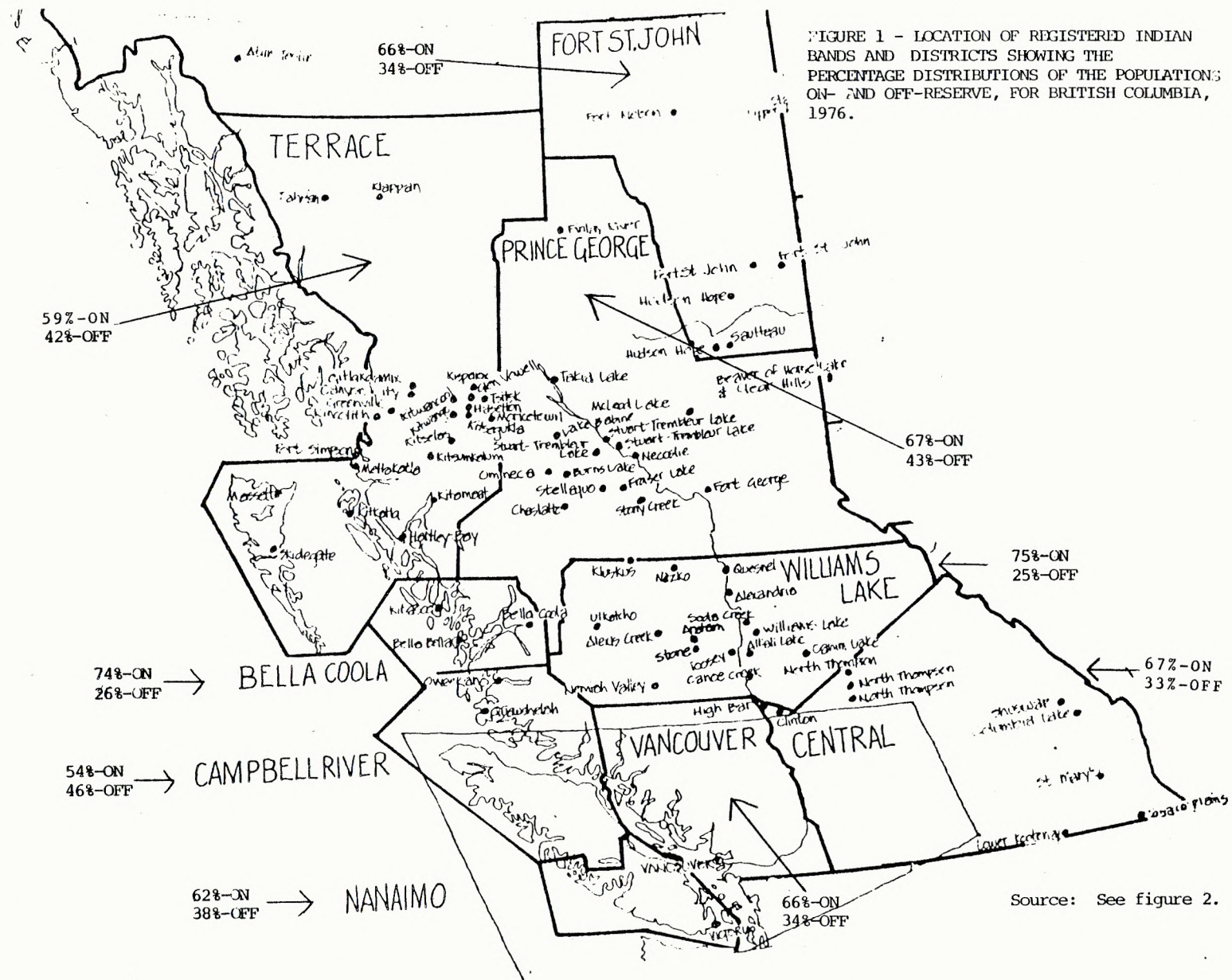
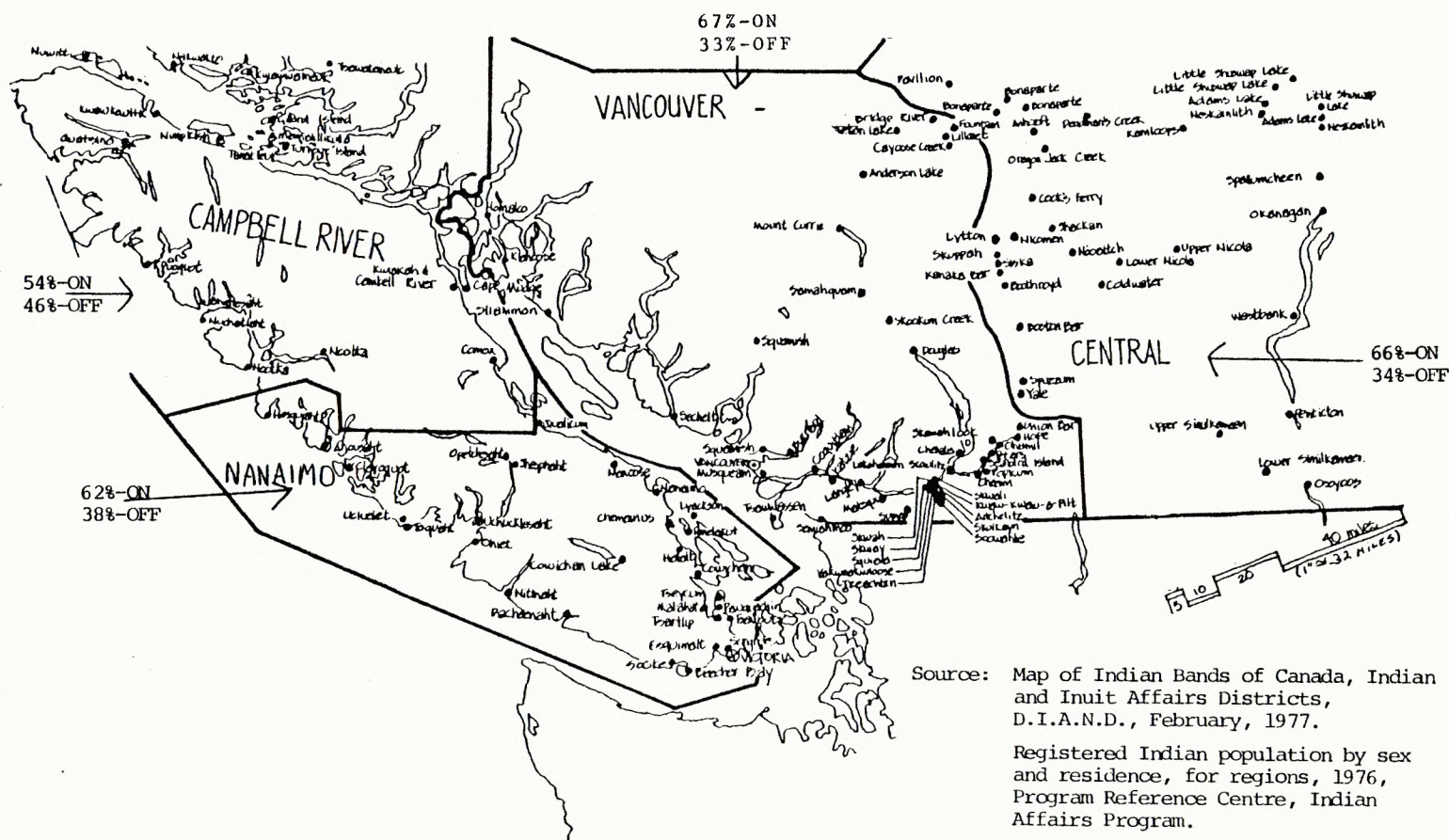




FIGURE 2 - LOCATION OF REGISTERED INDIAN BANDS AND SELECTED DISTRICTS SHOWING THE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTIONS OF THE POPULATION ON- AND OFF- RESERVE, FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1976



Source: Map of Indian Bands of Canada, Indian and Inuit Affairs Districts, D.I.A.N.D., February, 1977.

Registered Indian population by sex  
and residence, for regions, 1976,  
Program Reference Centre, Indian  
Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit  
Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 25-3-80.

TABLE 9 - NUMERICAL AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION  
AGED 5 AND OVER BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND SEX FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1971

PLACE OF RESIDENCE	POPULATION			PER CENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			PER CENT BY SEX		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	N	N	N	%	%	%	%	%	%
INDIAN RESERVE	12,335	10,570	22,905	64.6	56.4	60.5	53.8	46.2	100.0
RURAL NON-RESERVE	2,180	2,650	4,830	11.4	14.1	12.8	45.1	54.9	100.0
URBAN 100,000	1,630	2,090	3,720	8.5	11.2	9.8	43.8	56.2	100.0
URBAN 30,000-99,999	370	380	750	1.9	2.0	2.0	49.3	50.7	100.0
URBAN 10,000-29,999	1,690	1,985	3,675	8.9	10.6	9.7	46.0	54.0	100.0
URBAN LESS THAN 10,000	895	1,060	1,955	4.7	5.7	5.2	45.8	54.2	100.0
TOTAL	19,100	18,735	37,835	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.5	49.5	100.0

SOURCE: Unpublished special tabulation, 1971 Census of Canada.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

The largest number of Indian bands is in the population size group 101-300. Of the 194 bands 81 (or 42 per cent) are in this category (see Table 10). Fifty-four bands (or 28 percent) fall into the population size group 0-100 and 53 bands into the 301-1,000 group. By contrast, only 6 bands have populations between 1001-2000, accounting for the remaining 3 per cent of the total number of bands in British Columbia.

## 2.7 The Geographic Distribution of Indian Bands

The geographic locations of Indian bands are categorized into four groups: urban, semi-urban, rural and remote. The definitions of these categories do not correspond to census definitions of urban and rural, but rather to the following:

- Urban<sup>1</sup> - has significant land in or contiguous to an urban centre (10,000 and over in population with economic characteristics of an urban centre).
- Semi-Urban - is located within commuting distance of about 40 miles to nearest urban centre where good all-weather roads are available.
- Rural - consists of other bands (where commuting distance is over 40 miles to the nearest urban centre) located within the Canada Land Inventory boundaries and having reasonable means of transportation (at least one road).
- Remote - includes a) all bands not located within the Canada Land Inventory boundaries and b) all other bands within C.L.I. boundaries but considered as lacking reasonable means of transportation (no roads).

Table 11 indicates that out of a total of 194 bands most are situated in rural areas (77) and remote areas (53) accounting for approximately 39 per cent and 35 per cent respectively of the total band membership of British Columbia. Forty-one bands are located in semi-urban areas representing over 15 per cent of the total band membership, while only 23 bands are located in urban areas accounting for the remaining 11 per cent of the total band membership (see Table 12).



TABLE 10 - NUMERICAL AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF BANDS BY BAND SIZE GROUPINGS, CANADA AND REGIONS, 1977

BAND SIZE	CANADA		ATLANTIC <sup>1</sup>		NEW BRUNSWICK		NOVA SCOTIA		QUEBEC		ONTARIO		MANITOBA		SASKAT- CHEWAN		ALBERTA		BRITISH COLUMBIA		MACKENZIE		YUKON	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-100	95	16.6	5	17.2	5	33.3	-	-	5	12.8	20	17.4	3	5.3	2	2.9	4	9.8	54	28.0	-	-	2	14.3
101-300	179	31.2	10	34.5	4	26.7	5	41.7	6	15.4	40	34.8	6	10.5	11	16.2	9	21.9	81	42.0	6	37.5	10	71.4
301-1000	224	39.1	12	41.4	5	33.3	6	50.0	17	43.6	40	34.8	32	56.1	41	60.3	18	43.9	53	27.0	9	56.3	2	14.3
1001-2000	59	10.3	2	6.9	1	6.7	1	8.3	10	25.6	10	8.7	12	21.1	12	17.7	6	14.6	6	3.0	1	6.3	-	-
over-2000	16	2.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.6	5	4.3	4	7.0	2	2.9	4	9.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	573	100.0	29	100.0	15	100.0	12	100.0	39	100.0	115	100.0	57	100.0	68	100.0	41	100.0	194	100.0	16	100.0	14	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Atlantic Region includes 2 bands in Prince Edward Island, as well as all bands in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

SOURCE: Registered Indian population by sex and residence, 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 7-9-79.

TABLE 11 - NUMBER OF BANDS BY TYPE OF LOCATION<sup>1</sup>, CANADA AND REGIONS, 1977

REGIONS <sup>2</sup>	TOTAL	URBAN	SEMI-URBAN	RURAL	REMOTE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	2	-	2	-	-
NEW BRUNSWICK	15	3	6	6	-
NOVA SCOTIA	12	3	2	7	-
QUEBEC	39	5	15	5	14
ONTARIO	115	8	21	52	34
MANITOBA	57	1	5	26	25
SASKATCHEWAN	68	2	13	43	10
ALBERTA	41	3	12	19	7
BRITISH COLUMBIA	194	23	41	77	53
MACKENZIE	16	-	1	7	8
YUKON	14	1	-	-	13
TOTAL CANADA	573	49	118	242	164

- <sup>1</sup>URBAN - has significant land in or contiguous to an urban-centre (10,000 and over in population with economic characteristics of an urban centre).  
SEMI-URBAN - is located within commuting distance of about 40 miles to nearest urban centre where good all-weather roads are available.  
RURAL - consists of other bands (where commuting distance is over 40 miles to the nearest urban centre) located within the Canada Land Inventory Boundaries and having reasonable means of transportation (at least one road).  
REMOTE - includes a) all bands not located within the Canada Land Inventory Boundaries and b) all other bands with C.L.I. boundaries but considered as lacking reasonable means of transportation (no roads).

<sup>2</sup>Regions corresponds to the administrative regions of the Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

SOURCE: Registered Indian Population by Sex and Residence, Canada and Regions, 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 7-9-79.

TABLE 12 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION BY RESIDENCE  
AND BAND LOCATION FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1977

RESIDENCE	BAND LOCATION <sup>1</sup>				
	URBAN	SEMI-URBAN	RURAL	REMOTE	TOTAL
	%	%	%	%	%
ON RESERVE <sup>2</sup>	12.3	16.3	40.2	31.2	100.0
OFF RESERVE	8.7	13.4	37.4	40.5	100.0
TOTAL	11.0	15.2	39.3	34.5	100.00

<sup>1</sup>See definitions in footnote 1, Table 11.

<sup>2</sup>On-reserve includes on Crown land.

SOURCE: Registered Indian Population by Sex and Residence, 1977, Program Reference Centre,  
Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

Although the census definitions for rural and urban are not strictly comparable to the definitions used for Indian bands, the contrast in the percentage of the provincial population residing in rural and urban areas to that of the Indian population is significant enough to be worth noting. In 1976, 23 per cent of the provincial population were living in rural areas and 77 percent in urban areas.

Among those registered Indians living off-reserve, the largest percentage comes from bands located either in remote or rural areas, 41 per cent and 37 per cent respectively. The off-reserve population originating from semi-urban and urban bands represent only 13 per cent and 9 per cent respectively of the total off-reserve population (see Table 12).

### 3. HEALTH

#### 3.1 Major Causes of Death

The standardized<sup>2</sup> death rate for the Indian population of British Columbia is greater than that of the provincial population, i.e. 12.4 Indian deaths per 1,000 population versus 8.0 deaths per 1,000 population in the province as a whole (see Table 13).

Medical Services Branch, Pacific Region, report that post-neonatal deaths (deaths to infants 28 to 365 days old) accounted for 51 per cent of all Indian infant deaths in 1976 while accounting for 36 per cent of all infant deaths among the general population in the province in 1975. The high rate of Indian post-neonatal mortality (20.7 deaths per 1,000 live births) is primarily due to sudden deaths (38 per cent), pneumonia (15 per cent) and accidents and violence (12 per cent).

Recent data by cause of death show that deaths due to accidents, poisonings and violence account for over 38 per cent of all Indian deaths in comparison with less than 11 per cent of all such deaths in the provincial population (see Table 14). The next major cause of death among Indians is diseases of the circulatory system which account

TABLE 13 - DEATH RATES FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN AND  
TOTAL POPULATIONS FOR CANADA AND SELECTED  
PROVINCES, 1974, 1976

REGION	STANDARDIZED DEATH RATE <sup>1</sup> REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION 1976 /1,000	DEATH RATE TOTAL POPULATION 1974 /1,000
CANADA	13.0	7.4
QUEBEC	7.3	7.0
ONTARIO	9.1	7.5
MANITOBA	10.2	8.3
SASKATCHEWAN	15.9	8.6
ALBERTA	15.9	6.6
BRITISH COLUMBIA	12.4	8.0

<sup>1</sup>The Registered Indian death rate is standardized on the age structures of the total population of Canada and the provinces to take account of the different age structure in the Indian population, otherwise the death rates would not be strictly comparable.

SOURCES: Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, Health Data Book, April 1978.

Research Branch, 22-6-79.

TABLE 14 - SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH FOR REGISTERED INDIAN, INUIT AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS  
BY SEX FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1974-1976<sup>1</sup>

SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH	REGISTERED INDIANS/INUIT				PROVINCIAL POPULATION			
	1974-76				1976			
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	N	%	%	%	N	%	%	%
ACCIDENTS, POISONINGS AND VIOLENCE	487	39.5	37.1	38.4	2,071	13.1	8.1	11.0
DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	238	20.0	17.3	18.7	8,975	46.2	49.9	47.9
DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	98	7.7	7.8	7.7	1,285	7.5	5.8	6.8
NEOPLASMS	81	5.7	7.1	6.4	3,963	20.2	22.4	21.1
DISEASES OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEMS	123	8.1	11.6	9.7	831	4.5	4.3	4.4
CERTAIN CAUSES PERI-NATAL MORTALITY	54	5.2	3.2	4.3	229	1.3	1.2	1.2
INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES	30	2.2	2.6	2.4	101	0.5	0.6	0.5
ALL OTHER CAUSES	157	11.6	13.3	12.4	1,333	6.7	7.7	7.1
TOTAL	1,268	100.0	100.0	100.0	18,788	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup>For registered Indians causes of death are totalled for the 1974-76 period; the provincial population causes of death are for 1976.

SOURCES: Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch Annual Report, 1974-76.

Statistics Canada, Causes of Death, 1976, Cat. No. 84-206.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

for approximately 19 per cent, followed by diseases of the digestive system (10 per cent), diseases of the respiratory system (8 per cent), and neoplasms or cancer (6 per cent).

Among the causes of deaths due to accidents, poisonings and violence for Indians in British Columbia during the 1974-1976 period motor vehicle and train accidents account for 30 per cent; drownings 11 per cent; and burns 7 per cent (see Table 15).

Medical Services Branch, Pacific Region, estimate that approximately 80 per cent of all deaths due to accidents, poisonings and violence have alcohol abuse as a contributory factor. They also report that 17 per cent of all deaths due to accidents, poisonings and violence were suicides in 1977.

### 3.2 Incidence of Disease

At the present time, the only available information on the incidence of disease in the Indian population relates to the incidence of tuberculosis.

There was an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis among Indians between 1973 and 1976, both in terms of the number of cases reported and the rate. The number of cases reported increased from 40 in 1973 to 67 in 1976, and the rate rose from 0.8 to 1.2 during this period (see Table 16). However, there was a significant decline in the incidence of tuberculosis between 1976 and 1977. In 1977, there were 39 cases reported, decreasing the tuberculosis rate to 0.7 cases per 1,000 population. The incidence of tuberculosis is still substantially higher in the Indian population compared to that in the provincial population, where the latter had a rate of 0.1 cases per 1,000 population in 1977.

Statistics are available from Medical Services Branch, Pacific Region, which indicate hospital utilization rates for registered Indians in British Columbia.



TABLE 15 - CAUSES OF DEATH DUE TO ACCIDENTS, POISONINGS AND VIOLENCE, FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN, INUIT AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS BY SEX FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1974-1976<sup>1</sup>

SELECTED CAUSES OF INDIANS DEATHS DUE TO ACCIDENTS POISONINGS, VIOLENCE	REGISTERED INDIANS/INUIT				PROVINCIAL POPULATION			
	1974-76				1976			
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	N	%	%	%	N	%	%	%
MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAINS	146	31.6	28.0	30.0	687	35.0	29.0	33.2
DROWNING	53	13.7	7.3	10.9	122	7.0	3.5	5.9
EXPOSURE	20	4.1	4.1	4.1	-	-	-	-
BURNS	34	7.1	6.9	7.0	58	2.9	2.7	2.8
FALLS	23	3.3	6.4	4.7	269	10.0	19.8	13.0
FIREARMS	4	1.5	-	0.8	5	0.3	-	0.2
OVERDOSES	15	2.6	3.7	3.1	-	-	-	-
OTHERS	192	36.1	43.6	39.4	930	44.8	45.0	44.9
TOTAL	487	100.0	100.0	100.0	2,071	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup>For registered Indians causes of death are totalled over the 1974-76 period; the provincial population causes of death are for 1976.

-- not available

SOURCES: Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch Annual Report, 1974-76.

Statistics Canada, Causes of Death, 1976, Cat. No. 84-206.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.



TABLE 16 - INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS AMONG THE REGISTERED  
INDIAN AND TOTAL PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA  
1973-1977

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIAN		PROVINCIAL POPULATION	
	TOTAL CASES <sup>1</sup>	RATE /1,000	TOTAL CASES <sup>1</sup>	RATE /1,000
1973	40	0.8	453	0.2
1974	59	1.1	445	0.2
1975	64	1.2	416	0.2
1976	67	1.2	369	0.1
1977	39	0.7	352	0.1

<sup>1</sup>Total refers to the total number of new and reactivated cases.

SOURCES: Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch Annual Report, 1973-77.

Statistics Canada, Canada Year Book, for 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976, Ottawa 1974, 1975, 1976-77, 1978-79.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

In 1976, there were 15,378 admissions which consumed an average stay of 8 days. Patients aged 15-44 years accounted for 33 per cent of the patient day usage, followed by patients aged 1-14 (23 per cent) and under 1 year (16 per cent).

Diseases of the respiratory system were responsible for the highest percentage of patient day usage, representing 22 per cent of all patient days. Accidents, poisonings and violence consumed the second highest number of patient days, (18 per cent) of which 55 per cent were used by patients aged 15-44.

#### 4. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the ten year period between 1966 and 1977, the number of registered Indians in British Columbia attending school at all levels increased, with the exception of those enrolled in grades 1-4 and in special courses (non-degree continuing education courses) where the opposite trend occurred. However, the number of students attending kindergarten and special courses was greater in 1971 than in 1976 (see Table 17). There was an increase in the percentage of students attending non-federal schools at all levels between 1966 and 1971 (see Table 18). This trend continued for the next five year period with the exception of those enrolled in kindergarten, grades 9-12 and special courses.

The retention rate for Indian students from Grade 2 through to Grade 12 increased from 11 per cent in 1966 to approximately 18 per cent in 1971, and then decreased by almost 2 percentage points by 1976 (see Table 19). The Indian retention rate at 16 per cent in 1976 was substantially lower in comparison with 75 per cent for all Canadian students. This more recent trend in a poorer retention rate could have serious implications for the employability of these young Indian teenagers as they enter the labour force in large numbers during the 1980's.

TABLE 17 - REGISTERED INDIAN STUDENT ENROLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL AND TYPE OF SCHOOL FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966, 1971 AND 1976

YEAR	SCHOOL TYPE	ENROLMENT BY GRADE					
		K4-K5 N	1-4 N	5-8 N	9-12 N	SPECIAL N	TOTAL N
1966	FEDERAL <sup>1</sup>	365	3,163	1,625	-	39	5,192
	NON-FEDERAL <sup>2</sup>	133	1,982	1,849	985	290	5,239
	TOTAL	498	5,145	3,474	985	329	10,431
1971	FEDERAL	678	1,509	795	-	-	2,982
	NON-FEDERAL	612	3,533	3,096	1,937	335	9,513
	TOTAL	1,290	5,042	3,891	1,937	335	12,495
1976	FEDERAL	654	707	497	100	20	1,978
	NON-FEDERAL	553	3,180	3,592	2,184	262	9,771
	TOTAL	1,207	3,887	4,089	2,284	282	11,749

<sup>1</sup>Includes federal and band operated schools.

<sup>2</sup>Includes provincial and private schools.

SOURCE: Registered Indian enrolment in non-federal schools by province and grade, 1966-67, 1971-72 and 1976-77, registered Indian enrolment in federal schools by province and grade, 1966-67, 1971-72 and 1976-77, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

TABLE 18 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN ENROLMENT BY SCHOOL TYPE WITHIN GRADE LEVELS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966, 1971 AND 1976

YEAR	SCHOOL TYPE	ENROLMENT BY GRADE					
		K4-K5 %	1-4 %	5-8 %	9-12 %	SPECIAL %	TOTAL %
1966	FEDERAL <sup>1</sup>	73.3	61.5	46.8	-	11.9	49.8
	NON-FEDERAL <sup>2</sup>	26.7	38.5	53.2	100.0	88.1	50.2
	TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	FEDERAL	52.6	30.0	20.4	-	-	23.9
	NON-FEDERAL	47.4	70.0	79.6	100.0	100.0	76.1
	TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	FEDERAL	54.2	18.2	12.2	4.4	7.1	16.8
	NON-FEDERAL	45.8	81.8	87.8	95.6	92.9	83.2
	TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Includes federal and band operated schools.

<sup>2</sup>Includes provincial and private schools.

SOURCE: Registered Indian enrolment in non-federal schools by province and grade, 1966-67, 1971-72 and 1976-77 registered Indian enrolment in federal schools by province and grade, 1966-67, 1971-72 and 1976-77, Program Reference Center, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

TABLE 19 - RETENTION TO GRADE XII ENROLMENT, RELATED TO  
GRADE II ENROLMENT TEN YEARS EARLIER FOR THE  
BRITISH COLUMBIA REGISTERED INDIAN AND TOTAL  
CANADIAN POPULATIONS, 1965-1966 TO 1975-1976

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIANS	CANADA
	%	%
1965-66	11.0	50.5
1970-71	17.7	69.8
1975-76	16.0	75.2

SOURCES: Statistics Canada, Education in Canada, Cat.  
No. 81-229, Annual Report, 1973, 1976.

Registered Indians in grade 1 and percentages of  
continuing students in subsequent grades, 1949-50 to  
1978-79, British Columbia, Program Reference Centre,  
Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

The percentage of Indian children aged 5-12 enrolled in primary school has decreased from 75 per cent in 1966 to 69 per cent in 1976 (see Table 20). On the other hand, the percentage of Indian young people aged 14-18 enrolled in secondary school increased from 27 percent in 1966 to approximately 33 per cent in 1976. However, the 33 per cent represents a reduction from over 37 per cent 1971 in line with the poorer retention rate during that period.

There has been a slight increase in the number of Indians enrolled in post-secondary schools in the 1968-75 period (see Table 21). However, there was a seven-fold increase in university enrolment, including professional schools, during this period, while the number of Indians enrolled in formal vocational, i.e. specific trades, decreased by more than half.

As a percentage of the population 19 to 29 years old, the participation rate of students enrolled in any post-secondary education increased from 11.3 per cent in 1968 to 17.5 per cent in 1971, and then decreased dramatically to 9.6 per cent in 1975.

The retention rate of Indian students through grade 12 is a key to future educational development. Unless a substantial increase in the retention rate occurs from the present levels, it will be a limiting factor on the number of potential recruits for post-secondary education and training.

## 5. EMPLOYMENT

In discussing levels of unemployment in the Indian population the reader should realize there are conceptual difficulties with the term "unemployment". Statistics Canada definitions, for example, are not meaningful for Indian people who follow a traditional way of life. There are also conceptual problems with respect to what constitutes "full" versus "part" time employment. Thus, considerable caution is suggested when comparing an average unemployment rate of 8 to 9 per cent for the provincial population in 1977 with the rate for the Indian population.

TABLE 20 - COMPARISON OF REGISTERED INDIAN ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL STUDENT ENROLMENT FOR  
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966, 1971 AND 1976

YEAR	PRIMARY GRADES <sup>1</sup>					
	ACTUAL ENROLMENT N	RESIDUAL N	TOTAL POPULATION AGED 5-13 N	ACTUAL ENROLMENT <sup>2</sup> %	RESIDUAL %	TOTAL POPULATION AGED 5-13 %
1966	9,117	3,025	12,142	75.1	24.9	100.0
1971	10,223	3,642	13,865	73.7	26.3	100.0
1976	9,183	4,064	13,247	69.3	30.7	100.0

YEAR	SECONDARY GRADES <sup>3</sup>					
	ACTUAL ENROLMENT N	RESIDUAL N	TOTAL POPULATION AGED 14-18 N	ACTUAL ENROLMENT <sup>2</sup> %	RESIDUAL %	TOTAL POPULATION AGED 14-18 %
1966	1,314	3,566	4,880	26.9	73.1	100.0
1971	2,272	3,802	6,074	37.4	62.6	100.0
1976	2,566	5,291	7,857	32.7	67.3	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Five year old kindergarten through grade 8 plus special education.

<sup>2</sup>Percentage actual and residual enrolment are calculated by dividing them by the population aged 5-13 for primary grades and 14-18 for secondary grades.

<sup>3</sup>Grades 9 through 12, including special programs.

SOURCES: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence by province, 1966, 1971, 1976, for British Columbia, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Student population by grade and age, British Columbia, 1966-67, 1971-72 and 1976-77, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

TABLE 21 - REGISTERED INDIAN POST-SECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION STUDENT ENROLMENT FOR  
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1968, 1971 AND 1975

TYPE OF POST- SECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES	BRITISH COLUMBIA					
	1968		1971		1975	
	ENROLMENT N	ENROLMENT <sup>1</sup> %	ENROLMENT N	ENROLMENT <sup>1</sup> %	ENROLMENT N	ENROLMENT <sup>1</sup> %
PRE-VOCATIONAL <sup>2</sup>	323	4.0	731	8.0	308	2.9
FORMAL VOCATIONAL <sup>3</sup>	498	6.2	383	4.2	208	1.9
SPECIAL VOCATIONAL <sup>4</sup>	50	0.6	208	2.3	147	1.4
UNIVERSITY <sup>5</sup>	40	0.5	276	3.0	337	3.5
TOTAL <sup>6</sup>	911	11.3	1,598	17.5	1,040	9.6

<sup>1</sup>Enrolment expressed as a percentage of the population aged 19-29.

<sup>2</sup>Academic upgrading to meet vocational prerequisites.

<sup>3</sup>Specific trades training.

<sup>4</sup>Ad hoc vocational training of limited nature for specific purpose and training towards a diploma or certificate.

<sup>5</sup>Includes professional training, eg. nursing and teaching.

<sup>6</sup>Percentages may not add up to total due to rounding.

SOURCES: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence by province, 1968, 1971 and 1975, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Employment and Related Services Program Summary, 1968-69, 1971-72, 1975-76, Education Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.



There are no statistical data available describing either the current unemployment or employment levels among Indians in Canada. However, the level of unemployment for Indians living on-reserve in British Columbia has been estimated recently at 26 per cent in 1979. These estimates<sup>3</sup> also indicate that there was a total of 8,686 Indians living on-reserve in British Columbia who were employed during this year, of which 63 per cent were working on-reserve and 37 per cent were working off-reserve.

In 1976, the ratio of the dependent population (aged 0-14 years and 65 years and over) to the labour force aged population (15-64 years old) was 79 dependents per 100 persons in the 15-64 year age group for Indians compared to a provincial dependency ratio of 51 per 100 (see Table 22). Demographic forecasts indicate that the Indian ratio may decline to 50 dependents per 100 persons 15-64 years old by 1986, which is equal to the 50 per 100 expected for the provincial population by 1986. The increase in the so-called "productive" population will have significantly reduced the dependency burden in 1986 in the Indian population, however, the productive Indian population includes many who are unemployed, i.e. 26 per cent, and unemployable (i.e. students, the handicapped, etc.). If they are added to the dependent population, the economic burden borne by the remaining labour force population would increase.

As a consequence, the decline in the dependency ratio could assist in the improvement of Indian economic conditions and the raising of their per capita standard-of-living if sufficient employment opportunities are available for the Indian labour force.

#### 6. WELFARE DEPENDENCY

The welfare dependency ratio measures the average monthly number of persons on-reserve receiving social assistance as a percentage of the total on-reserve population. In his book entitled Success and Failure<sup>4</sup> Stanbury estimated the welfare dependency ratio to be 27 per cent, 31 per cent and 28 per cent in 1966, 1967 and 1968 respectively.

TABLE 22 - DEPENDENCY RATIOS FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION<sup>1</sup> BY RESIDENCE AND FOR THE TOTAL PROVINCIAL POPULATION FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1966 to 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986

	REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION									PROVINCIAL POPULATION		
	TOTAL			ON-RESERVE			OFF-RESERVE					
YEAR	TOTAL DEP. RATIO <sup>2</sup>	CHILD DEP. RATIO <sup>3</sup>	ELDERLY DEP. RATIO <sup>4</sup>	TOTAL DEP. RATIO	CHILD DEP. RATIO	ELDERLY DEP. RATIO	TOTAL DEP. RATIO	CHILD DEP. RATIO	ELDERLY DEP. RATIO	TOTAL DEP. RATIO	CHILD DEP. RATIO	ELDERLY DEP. RATIO
1966	109.0	100.7	8.4	114.7	105.4	9.3	84.7	80.2	4.6	67.2	51.2	15.9
1971	97.8	90.3	7.6	100.6	91.3	9.3	91.7	88.0	3.8	59.5	44.5	15.0
1976	79.1	72.4	6.8	70.8	63.2	7.6	81.0	77.3	3.7	51.4	36.5	14.9
1981	62.2	56.2	6.0	60.9	53.2	7.7	64.3	60.9	3.4	48.9	33.0	15.9
1986	49.9	44.2	5.7	48.6	41.1	7.5	51.8	48.6	3.2	49.6	33.0	16.7

<sup>1</sup>The registered Indian population from 1966 to 1976 is adjusted for late reported births and 1-4 year olds; age unstated is excluded

<sup>2</sup>Total dependency ratio is the ratio of children under age 15 plus the elderly age 65 and over to the population aged 15-64 years.

<sup>3</sup>Child dependency ratio is the ratio of children under age 15 to the population aged 15 to 64 years.

<sup>4</sup>Elderly dependency ratio is the ratio of elderly aged 65 and over to the population aged 15 to 64 years.

SOURCE: Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Corporate Policy.

Research Branch, 25-3-88. Revised 30-11-81.

The welfare dependency rate increased after 1968 reaching 35 per cent by 1974 (see Table 23). However, the average monthly number of persons on-reserve receiving social assistance decreased from 11,817 in 1974 to 10,431 in 1978, while the total on-reserve population remained stable during this period. Consequently, the welfare dependency rate decreased after 1974 reaching approximately 31 per cent in 1978.

## 7. HOUSING

The latest housing data as of 1977 indicates that 36 per cent of Indian reserve and settlement houses in British Columbia were in need of major repairs or replacement. While the majority of Indian houses had electricity (93 per cent), a lower percentage (87 per cent) had potable water piped into homes and approximately 79 per cent had sewage disposal and indoor plumbing. These conditions were particularly marked in rural and remote communities (see Table 24) By contrast, the 1977 Housing Facilities and Equipment Survey<sup>5</sup> indicated that at least 98 per cent of all houses in British Columbia were equipped with electricity, sewage disposal, indoor plumbing and running water.

When these Indian housing conditions are combined with the fact that 43 per cent of the units accommodate two or more families living within or require an addition to accommodate large families, it appears that overcrowding may be a problem for Indians living in housing on-reserve. Such living conditions may also be linked to the current levels of health of Indian people as compared to those in the provincial population in general.

During the decade 1976 to 1986, it is expected that there will be an increased demand for housing on-reserve. Demographic projections indicate that the principal family-formation age group (20-29 years) will increase by over 31 per cent or by approximately 4,400 persons during this period. In addition, it can be assumed that the expected increase in the single-parent families will also have an effect on housing demand. The large numerical increase anticipated in the 1980's reflects a) the high birth rates of the late 1950's and early 1960's

TABLE 23 - ON-RESERVE WELFARE DEPENDENCY RATIOS,  
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1974-1978

YEAR	AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER OF PERSONS ON- RESERVE RECEIVING ASSISTANCE	WELFARE DEPENDENCY RATIO <sup>1</sup>
		%
1974	11,817	35
1975	10,791	32
1976	10,439	31
1977	9,986	29
1978	10,431	31

<sup>1</sup>The welfare dependency ratio is obtained by dividing the average monthly number of persons on-reserve receiving assistance by the total number of people living on-reserve.

SOURCES: Annual summary of social assistance forms, Social and Economic Development Program, D.I.A.N.D., British Columbia Region, 1974-1978.

Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence for British Columbia, 1966-1978, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

TABLE 24 - HOUSING CONDITIONS ON INDIAN RESERVES BY GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION FOR  
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1977

BAND LOCATION BY TYPE OF AREA	INADEQUATE HOUSING PER 100 FAMILY UNITS <sup>1</sup>	PERCENTAGE OF HOUSING				OVERCROWDED HOUSING FOR 100 FAMILY UNITS <sup>6</sup>
		ELECTRICITY	SEWAGE DISPOSAL	INDOOR PLUMBING	WATER	
ALL AREAS	36	93	78	79	87	43
URBAN AREAS <sup>2</sup>	36	98	89	89	93	32
RURAL AREAS <sup>3</sup>	39	93	73	73	83	49
REMOTE AREAS <sup>4</sup>	32	86	71	77	86	46
ALL PROVINCIAL HOUSING <sup>5</sup>	--7	99	98	99	99	--7

<sup>1</sup>Estimated by dividing the number of houses that need major repairs (both vacant and occupied) or replacement (only those that are occupied) by the total number of houses (except for vacant houses needing replacement).

<sup>2</sup>Areas contiguous with an urban centre of 10,000 population and over and semi-urban areas within 40 miles of urban centre and having available good all-weather roads.

<sup>3</sup>Other areas having reasonable road access.

<sup>4</sup>Other areas lacking reasonable road access.

<sup>5</sup>From Annual Statistics Canada Housing Facilities and Equipment Survey.

<sup>6</sup>Estimated by dividing the number of houses that are overcrowded or require additions by the total number of family units.

<sup>7</sup>--not available.

SOURCES: Statistics Canada, Household Facilities and Equipment, 1977, Cat. No. 64-202.

Community Services Branch, Housing Needs Analysis Survey, 1977, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, January, 1979.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.

and b) a slower decline in the percentage of the young adult age group living on-reserve since 1969 as a result of the lower levels of out-migration and higher levels of return migration.

## 8. JUSTICE

Native inmates<sup>6</sup> in relation to their percentage share of the provincial population (5 per cent)<sup>7</sup> are overrepresented in federal prisons, representing over 9 per cent of the total inmate population in 1979 (see Table 25). More than 43 per cent of native inmates and 33 per cent of non-native inmates are aged 20-29 years. Approximately 51 per cent of the native inmates have grade 8 schooling or less in comparison with 29 per cent of the non-native inmates.

A higher percentage of native crimes are of a violent nature in comparison with non-native crimes (53 per cent and 32 per cent respectively). Greater percentages of native inmates than non-native inmates had been convicted once or twice before (37 per cent and 30 percent respectively) as well as three times or more before (7.4 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively).

In a report entitled Native Indians in the B.C. Correctional System,<sup>8</sup> native Indians are shown to be overrepresented in all sentenced and unsentenced admissions to provincial institutions (13.5 per cent) and in all admissions to community supervision (probation) (10.8 per cent).

A greater percentage of native than non-native offenders are aged 22-39 (55 per cent and 48 per cent respectively), while the opposite trend exists for the older age groups.

As a percentage of institutional admissions in the native population, women at 12.2 per cent constitute almost twice the percentage of women (6.5 per cent) in the non-native population.



TABLE 25 - SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE  
INMATES IN FEDERAL PENITENTIARIES, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1979

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	INMATES	
	NATIVE <sup>1</sup>	NON-NATIVE
Number <sup>1</sup>	122	1,210
Per Cent	9.2	90.8
AGE GROUP:	%	%
Under 20	2.5	1.5
20 - 29	42.6	32.6
30 and over	54.9	65.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT <sup>2</sup> GRADE:	%	%
8 or Less	51.4	29.4
9 - 13	45.9	61.7
13 +	2.7	8.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
OFFENCE TYPE:	%	%
Violent <sup>3</sup>	53.3	32.0
Non-Violent	46.7	68.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
NO. OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS:	%	%
0	55.7	64.5
1 - 2	36.9	29.6
3 +	7.4	5.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Includes registered and non-status Indians, Métis and Inuit, except in the number of Native inmates which excludes Inuit.

<sup>2</sup>The percentage distribution excludes the unstated.

<sup>3</sup>Violent offences includes murder, rape, assault, etc.; non-violent are offences not against persons.

SOURCE: Information Systems and Statistics Division, Minister of the Solicitor General, July, 1979.

Research Branch, 25-3-80.



Theft offences account for the largest percentage of both female and male admissions in both the native and non-native population (ranging between 32 per cent and 35 per cent). Among the remaining offenders, native women are admitted for different offences than non-native women, while native and non-native men are admitted for similar offences.

Higher percentages of native than non-native women are admitted for serious, community order and breach offences; while drink and drive, property and possession of drugs offences are more common among non-native women.

Drink and drive and serious offences account for 30 per cent of admissions both among native and non-native males. However, native males are more likely to be admitted for common assault and community order offences (7 per cent each), while non-native males are more likely to be admitted for possession of drugs and trafficking of drugs (6 per cent and 5 per cent respectively).

Among all admissions for serious, drug trafficking and break/failure to appear offences, native Indians received larger definite jail terms in comparison with non-natives.

9. FOOTNOTES

1. "Economic Classification Indian Bands of Canada", Development Services Division, Indian - Eskimo Economic Development Branch, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, December 1973.
2. The Indian death rate is standardized on the age structure of the provincial population because the Indian population has a much younger age structure than that of the provincial one. If it were not standardized, the Indian death rate would not be strictly comparable to the provincial rate.
3. Results of the regional estimates were tabulated by the Economic and Employment Resources Task Force, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Ottawa, August 1, 1979.
4. Stanbury, William T., Success and Failure (University of British Columbia Press, 1975).
5. Program Support Group, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Listing of Information Related to the Housing Needs Analysis - 1977, Ottawa, 1979, p.1.
6. The penitentiary data for native inmates includes registered Indians, Non-Status Indians and Metis.
7. Approximately 5 per cent of the population of British Columbia are native Indian, including registered Indians, Non-Status Indians and Metis, as indicated in the 1977-78 Annual Report, prepared by the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia.
8. In 1975, the Ministry of the Attorney-General, B.C. Corrections Branch, prepared a report entitled Native Indians In The B.C. Correctional System in which they compared Native Indian and non-Native provincial admissions to institutions and to community supervision (probation).