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**AN OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL  
AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AMONG ALBERTA'S  
REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION**

prepared by

Andrew Siggner and Chantal Locatelli

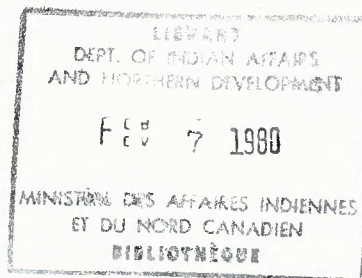
Research Branch, P.R.E.,

Indian and Inuit Affairs Program

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

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of selected demographic, social and economic conditions of registered Indians in Alberta in comparison with those of the provincial population. A variety of indicators are chosen to measure these conditions and they are discussed in the following sections:

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

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

The Alberta report is one of a series of provincial reports which is 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 sources of data used are primarily from the Indian Affairs Program's records 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.; Health and Welfare's 1978 Health Data Book for health data on registered Indians; Medical Services Branch, Alberta Region, Vital Statistics for Registered Indians, 1974-1976; 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 people of other native ancestry and this is noted when it occurs. Where figures are quoted for the total provincial population, they include registered Indians, who constitute 1.9 per cent of the total population.

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 is population size and growth. The total Indian population of Alberta as of 1976 was estimated at 34,966, which represents about 1.9 per cent of the total provincial population of Alberta.

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 3.8 per cent per year. During the 1971-76 period, the average annual growth rate dropped to 3.0 per cent per year. This compares to 2.3 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 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 2.3 per cent per year between 1976 and 1981. Thereafter it will increase slightly to 2.4 per cent per year in the 1981-86 period. In absolute numbers, this population is projected to increase by about 4,000 to 38,948 in 1981, reaching 43,575 by 1986 (see Table 1).

When one combines the decline in the growth rate of the Indian population with the increase in the total population of Alberta primarily due to migration, the Indian population as a percentage of the total provincial population will decrease slightly from 1.9 in 1976 to about 1.7 by 1986.

TABLE 1 - REGISTERED INDIAN AND TOTAL POPULATION FOR  
ALBERTA, 1966, 1971 AND 1976 AND PROJECTIONS  
FOR 1981 AND 1986

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIAN		TOTAL PROVINCE	
	POPULATION	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	POPULATION (000's)	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE
	N	%	N	%
1966	25,569		1,463.2	
1971	30,430	3.8	1,627.9	2.3
1976	34,966	3.0	1,838.0	2.6
1981	38,948	2.3	2,160.6	3.5
1986	43,575	2.4	2,525.6	3.4

<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.

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

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

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Statistics Canada, Population, Revised Annual Estimates, 1921-71, 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.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program,  
D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

## 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 46.8 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 33.1 births per 1,000 population, a 29 per cent drop, while the provincial birth rate had only decreased by 14 per cent to 18.0 births per 1,000 population.

The important aspect of this phenomenon is that while the number of births among Indians has declined, the number of females in the childbearing years (aged 15-49) has increased from about 4,943 to 7,748 between 1966 and 1976. It appears likely that the decline in the number of births will continue despite the fact that the number of women entering the childbearing years is still expected to increase in the 1980 decade. A further implication of the decline in the birth rate is that family size will also decline.

## 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 Alberta. The Indian infant mortality rate has declined from 56.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1963 to 25.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1976. The provincial rate was 19.9 in 1963 down to 11.4 in 1976 (see Table 3).



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

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIAN			PROVINCIAL BIRTH RATE
	BIRTHS	MID-YEAR POPULATION	BIRTH RATE	
	N	N	(1000 POP.)	
1967	1,221	26,093	46.8	20.6
1968	1,199	27,071	44.3	19.8
1969	1,196	27,981	42.7	19.8
1970	1,135	28,963	39.2	20.0
1971	1,146	29,950	38.3	18.8
1972	1,096	30,897	35.5	17.7
1973	1,141	34,835	32.8	17.4
1974	1,164	32,757	35.5	17.4
1975	1,116	33,625	33.2	17.9
1976	1,141	34,489	33.1	18.0

<sup>1</sup>The birth rate is computed by dividing the births in a specific year by the mid-year population, multiplied by 1000.

Sources: Birth 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, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

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

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program,  
D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

TABLE 3 - INFANT MORTALITY RATES FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN  
AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS, ALBERTA, 1963 - 1976

YEAR	INFANT MORTALITY (/1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)	
	INDIAN	PROVINCE
1963	56.9	19.9
1964	40.1	19.7
1965	59.5	21.0
1966	43.8	17.6
1967	47.0	19.1
1968	48.1	18.3
1969	47.4	15.3
1970	42.2	16.6
1971	32.9	15.2
1972	40.2	14.9
1973	33.3	12.2
1974	37.2	12.7
1975	27.7	13.4
1976	25.5	11.4

Source: W.J. Millar, "Some Observations On The Mortality of Alberta Indians", unpublished, Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, Alberta Region, June 1979, Table I.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs  
Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

There are substantial differences in the death rates by selected age groups between the Indian and the provincial populations of Alberta. The greatest differences are found between the ages of 15 and 49, where the Indian death rates are at least four times higher than the provincial rates (see Table 4). For examples, in the 20-29 age group the Indian death rate is 7.8 per 1,000 population whereas the provincial rate is only 1.4; and in the 30-39 age group the Indian rate of 10.4 is seven times greater than the provincial rate of 1.5.

It is particularly important to note the death rate in the adult population aged 20-49, 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 over 24 per cent of the total Indian population of Alberta in 1966 (see Table 5). By 1976 its share had risen to approximately 29 per cent or 10,080, and it is expected to reach about 34 per cent (14,630) by 1986 (see Table 6).



TABLE 4 - AVERAGE ANNUAL AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH  
RATES FOR REGISTERED INDIAN AND  
PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS  
FOR ALBERTA, 1974-76

AGE GROUPS	REGISTERED INDIAN <sup>1</sup> (PER 1000)	PROVINCE <sup>1</sup> (PER 1000)
1 - 4	1.9	0.8
5 - 9	0.5	0.4
10 - 14	0.8	0.3
15 - 19	5.6	1.4
20 - 29	7.8	1.4
30 - 39	10.4	1.5
40 - 49	14.4	3.8
50 - 59	14.6	7.7
60 - 69	28.9	18.3
70 - 79	60.2	44.8
80+	107.6	126.9

<sup>1</sup>Registered Indian death rates are averaged over 1974 to 1976; the provincial death rates are for 1975.

Source: W.J. Millar, "Some Observations On The Mortality of Alberta Indians", unpublished, Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, Alberta Region, June 1979, Table VII.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

TABLE 5 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN<sup>1</sup>  
AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS, 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	% 51.6	% 34.9	% 24.4	% 22.1	% 20.5	% 35.9	% 3.4	% 7.1	% 45.0	% 58.0
1971	50.7	31.6	25.6	25.9	20.2	35.2	3.5	7.3	45.8	61.1
1976	47.0	27.4	29.1	29.6	20.9	35.5	3.4	7.5	50.1	65.1
1981	42.4	25.3	32.3	29.5	22.0	37.6	3.2	7.6	54.3	67.1
1986	39.1	25.4	33.6	26.7	24.3	40.2	3.0	7.7	57.9	66.9

<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.

Sources: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence, for Alberta 1966 to 1976 Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.  
Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.  
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.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

TABLE 6 - REGISTERED INDIAN<sup>1</sup> AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS  
FOR ALBERTA 1966, 1971, 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR  
1981 AND 1986

YEAR	AGE GROUPS									
	0 - 14		15 - 29		30 - 64		65+		15 - 64	
	REG. INDIAN	PROV. ( '000'S)	REG. INDIAN	PROV. ( '000'S)	REG. INDIAN	PROV. ( '000'S)	REG. INDIAN	PROV. ( '000'S)	REG. INDIAN	PROV. ( '000'S)
1966	N 13,204	N 510.7	N 6,250	N 323.2	N 5,238	N 525.3	N 877	N 104.0	N 11,488	N 848.5
1971	15,437	514.5	7,791	421.9	6,139	572.7	1,063	118.8	13,930	994.6
1976	16,476	503.1	10,080	544.4	7,221	652.6	1,189	138.0	17,301	1,197.0
1981	16,529	547.5	12,584	636.5	8,580	813.1	1,256	163.4	21,163	1,449.6
1986	17,055	641.7	14,630	674.1	10,588	1,015.8	1,302	193.9	25,218	1,689.9

<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.

Sources: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence, for Alberta 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.  
Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.  
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.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.



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 30 per cent, but due to the decline in the 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 27 per cent by 1986.

The dependent population 15 years of age and under has undergone a marked change as a percentage of the total Indian population. In 1966, this group represented nearly 52 per cent of the Indian population, but by 1976 its share had declined to 47 per cent. If the number of births continues to decline in the future, in 1986 the population aged 15 and under will represent only about 39 per cent (see Table 5). The respective percentages of the dependents in the total provincial population are 35 per cent, 27 per cent and 25 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.

The forecast decline in the birth rate has 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.

The reduction in the birth rate and improvements in life expectancy will combine to age the population. This can be observed in the two age groups 15-29 and 30-64 (see Table 5), where their respective shares

of the Indian population have been increasing from 1966 to 1976 and are expected to continued to increase over the 1976-86 period. The same pattern has been occurring in the provincial population in the age group 30-64.

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 enrollment 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, 92 per cent of the population was living on-reserve and Crown land (hereafter referred to as on-reserve) and 8 per cent off-reserve (see Tables 7 and 8). The latter increased substantially during the following ten years, reaching 21 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 reach 28 per cent by 1986.

TABLE 7 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION RESIDING  
ON-RESERVE BY AGE GROUP FOR ALBERTA 1966, 1971, 1976,  
1981, 1986

YEAR	AGE GROUP							TOTAL
	0 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 64	65+	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1966	92.9	94.2	90.2	87.6	87.4	94.0	95.0	92.0
1971	86.2	90.3	85.6	81.3	83.1	90.8	96.6	86.6
1976	77.3	81.8	79.0	72.8	76.1	84.7	92.5	78.7
1981	74.8	78.6	75.5	68.9	72.3	81.9	90.9	75.6
1986	71.9	75.1	71.6	64.6	68.1	79.1	89.4	72.1

<sup>1</sup>The 1966 and 1971 off-reserve population has 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 Alberta 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.



TABLE 8 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION RESIDING  
OFF-RESERVE BY AGE GROUP FOR ALBERTA 1966, 1971, 1976,  
1981, 1986

YEAR	AGE GROUP							
	0 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 64	65+	TOTAL
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1966	7.1	5.8	9.8	12.4	12.6	6.0	5.0	8.0
1971	13.8	9.7	14.4	18.7	16.9	9.2	3.4	13.4
1976	22.7	18.2	21.0	27.2	23.9	15.3	7.5	21.3
1981	25.2	21.4	24.5	31.1	27.7	18.1	9.1	24.4
1986	28.1	24.9	28.4	35.4	31.9	20.9	10.6	27.9

<sup>1</sup>The 1966 and 1971 off-reserve population has 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 Alberta 1966 to 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Unpublished worksheets, Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

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 11 and 15 per cent respectively between 1966 and 1976 (see Table 7); for example, the on-reserve percentage of the 25-29 age group dropped from approximately 88 per cent in 1966 to 73 per cent in 1976. The same groups showed a corresponding increase in its percentage of off-reserve from 12 per cent to 27 per cent during the same period (see Table 8). Although the data is not shown here, since 1974 the percentage of on-reserve has declined more slowly than in 1966-1973 period. Between 1975 and 1976, in the mobile age groups and in most of the others, the on-reserve percentages have remained quite stable.

Many factors undoubtedly have affected changes in the on- and off-reserve distributions since 1974. For example, poor economic conditions in the cities may be 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 9 and Figure 1 indicate that Lesser Slave Lake Agency District

TABLE 9 - REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION BY INDIAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS AND ON- AND OFF-RESERVE RESIDENCE, FOR ALBERTA, 1976

DISTRICT NAME	POPULATION <sup>1</sup>		ON RESERVE <sup>2</sup>	
	N	%	N	%
BLACK FOOT/STONY/ SARCEE	6,189	17.7	83.6	16.4
BLOOD/PEIGAN	6,853	19.6	83.3	16.7
EDMONTON/HOBBEMA	6,923	19.8	76.3	23.7
FORT VERMILION AGENCY	3,007	8.6	88.9	11.1
LESSER SLAVE LAKE AGENCY	4,615	13.2	66.2	33.8
SADDLE LAKE/ ATHABASKA	7,379	21.1	75.9	24.1
TOTAL	34,966	100.0	78.7	21.3

<sup>1</sup>The total population has been adjusted for late-reporting as in Table 2 and the adjustment distributed proportionately over all districts.

<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.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.



Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs  
Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.



has the highest percentage off-reserve with nearly 34 per cent, followed by Edmonton/Hobbema and Saddle Lake/Athabaska with approximately 24 per cent each, and by Blackfoot/Stony/Sarcee, Blood Peigan, and Fort Vermilion Agency with under 17 per cent each.

According to the 1971 Census, nearly 11 per cent of the Indian population in Alberta was living in urban areas of 100,000 population and over and 8 per cent in urban areas less than 100,000 in size (see Table 10). 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.

The largest number of Indian bands is in the population size group 301-1,000. Of the 41 bands 18 (or 44 per cent) are in this category (see Table 11). The next largest number of bands (9 or 22 per cent) falls into the population size group 101-300. By contrast, only 4 bands have populations over 2,000 and the same number of bands have populations of under 100.

TABLE 10 - NUMERICAL AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION AGED 5 AND OVER BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND SEX, FOR ALBERTA, 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	8,315	7,715	16,035	69.1	63.0	66.0	51.9	48.1	100.0
RURAL NON-RESERVE	1,845	1,870	3,710	15.3	15.3	15.3	49.7	50.3	100.0
URBAN 100,000 +	1,015	1,580	2,595	8.4	12.9	10.7	39.1	60.9	100.0
URBAN 30,000-99,999	35	55	90	0.3	0.5	0.4	38.9	61.1	100.0
URBAN 10,000-29,999	90	100	190	0.8	0.8	0.8	47.4	52.6	100.0
URBAN LESS THAN 10,000	730	920	1,650	6.1	7.5	6.8	44.2	55.8	100.0
TOTAL	12,030	12,240	24,270	100.0	100.0	100.0	49.6	50.4	100.0

Source: Unpublished special tabulation, 1971 Census of Canada.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

TABLE 11 - THE NUMERICAL AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF BANDS BY BAND SIZE GROUPINGS, CANADA AND REGIONS, 1977

BAND SIZE	CANADA		ATLANTIC		QUEBEC		ONTARIO		MANITOBA		SASK.		ALBERTA		B.C.		MACKENZIE		YUKON	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-100	95	16.6	5	17.2	5	12.8	20	17.4	3	5.3	2	2.9	4	9.8	54	28.0	0	0	2	14.3
101-300	179	31.2	10	34.5	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	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	10	25.6	10	8.7	12	21.1	12	17.7	6	14.6	6	3.0	1	6.3	0	0
over-2000	16	2.8	0	0	1	2.6	5	4.3	4	7.0	2	2.9	4	9.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	573	100.0	29	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

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

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

## 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> - owns 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 12 indicates that out of a total of 41 bands most are situated in either rural or semi-urban areas (19 and 12 respectively). Together the bands in these two types of locations accounted for 73 per cent of the total band membership of Alberta. There were 7 bands located in remote areas representing 9 per cent of the total band membership, and only 3 bands are located in urban areas accounting for the remaining 18 per cent of total band membership (see Table 13).

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



TABLE 12 - NUMBER OF BANDS BY TYPE OF LOCATION<sup>1</sup>, CANADA AND REGIONS, 1977

REGIONS <sup>2</sup>	TOTAL	URBAN	SEMI-URBAN	RURAL	REMOTE
ATLANTIC	29	6	10	13	-
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 - owns 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.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

TABLE 13 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION BY RESIDENCE AND BAND LOCATION,  
FOR ALBERTA, 1977

RESIDENCE	BAND LOCATION <sup>1</sup>				
	URBAN	SEMI-URBAN	RURAL	REMOTE	TOTAL
ON RESERVE <sup>2</sup>	% 19.3	% 37.9	% 33.4	% 9.4	% 100.0
OFF RESERVE	14.3	34.6	42.2	8.9	100.0
TOTAL	18.2	37.2	35.3	9.3	100.0

<sup>1</sup>See definitions in footnote 1, Table 12.

<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.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

areas to that of the Indian population is significant enough to be worth noting. In 1976, 25 per cent of the provincial population were living in rural areas and 75 percent in urban areas.

Among those registered Indians living off-reserve, the largest percentage comes from bands located either in rural or semi-urban areas, 42 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. The off-reserve population originating from urban and remote bands represent only 14 per cent and 9 per cent respectively of the total off-reserve population (see Table 13).

### 3. HEALTH

#### 3.1 Major Causes of Death

The standardized<sup>2</sup> death rate for the Indian population is more than double that of the provincial population, i.e. 15.9 Indian deaths per 1,000 population versus 6.6 deaths per 1,000 population in the province as a whole (see Table 14).

Recent data by cause of death show that deaths due to accidents, poisonings and violence account for over 36 per cent of all Indian deaths in comparison with less than 13 per cent of all such deaths in the provincial population (see Table 15). The next major cause of death among Indians results from diseases of the circulatory system which account for 17 per cent, followed by diseases of the respiratory system (8 per cent), neoplasms or cancer (6 per cent) and diseases of the digestive system (5 per cent).

TABLE 14 - 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 (/1000 POP.)	DEATH RATE TOTAL POPULATION 1974 (/1000 POP.)
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.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs  
Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.



TABLE 15 - SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH FOR REGISTERED INDIAN AND INUIT AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS,  
BY SEX, FOR ALBERTA, 1974-76

SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH	REGISTERED INDIANS/INUIT				PROVINCIAL POPULATION			
	1974-76				1976			
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	N	%	%	%	N	%	%	%
ACCIDENTS, POISONING AND VIOLENCE	301	43.5	26.3	36.4	1,483	15.4	8.6	12.8
DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	141	18.3	15.3	17.1	5,085	42.7	45.7	43.9
DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	63	7.8	7.4	7.6	931	8.7	7.0	8.0
NEOPLASMS	51	4.9	8.0	6.2	2,292	18.5	21.9	19.8
DISEASES OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	45	3.5	8.3	5.4	444	3.8	3.9	3.8
CERTAIN CAUSES PERI-NATAL MORTALITY	32	3.3	4.7	3.9	224	1.9	2.1	1.9
INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC	31	3.7	3.5	3.8	77	0.6	0.8	0.7
ALL OTHER CAUSES	162	15.0	26.5	19.6	1,048	8.4	10.0	9.1
TOTAL	826	100.0	100.0	100.0	11,584	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources: W.J. Millar, "Some Observations On The Mortality of Alberta Indians," unpublished, Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, Alberta Region, June 1979, Table XIV.  
Statistics Canada, Causes of Death 1976, Cat No. 84-206.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

Major causes of accidental deaths among Indians in Alberta during the 1974-1976 period were motor vehicle and train accidents (38 per cent), firearms (14 per cent) and drowning (10 per cent) (see Table 16).

Respiratory diseases, infective and parasitic diseases, and congenital anomalies ranked as the leading three causes of infant deaths (see Table 17). In percentage terms, the first two causes of infant death among Indians are more than twice the percentage of such causes of infant death in the provincial population.

### 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 a decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis among Indians between 1973 and 1975, both in terms of the number of cases reported and the rate. The number of cases reported decreased from 62 in 1973 to 44 in 1975, and the rate declined from 2.0 to 1.4 during this period (see Table 18). However, there has been an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis since 1975. In 1977, there were 56 cases reported, raising the tuberculosis rate to 1.6 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 1976.

TABLE 16- CAUSES OF DEATH DUE TO ACCIDENTS, POISONINGS AND VIOLENCE, FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN AND INUIT AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS OF ALBERTA, 1974 - 1976<sup>1</sup>

INDIAN 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 TRAIN	113	39.2	33.7	37.5	569	38.4	38.2	38.4
DROWNING	30	13.7	1.1	10.0	56	4.5	1.8	3.8
EXPOSURE	14	4.2	5.6	4.7	--	--	--	--
BURNS	10	2.4	5.6	3.3	45	3.2	2.6	3.0
FALLS	20	7.1	5.6	6.6	145	8.0	14.8	9.8
FIREARMS	43	17.0	7.9	14.3	19	1.6	0.3	1.3
OTHER	71	16.5	40.4	23.6	649	44.3	42.3	43.7
TOTAL	301	100.1 <sup>2</sup>	99.9	100.0	1,483	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

<sup>2</sup>Percentages may not add up to 100.0 per cent due to rounding.

-- not available.

Sources: W.J. Millar, "Some Observations On The Mortality of Alberta Indians," unpublished, Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, Alberta Region, June 1979, Table XV.

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

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

TABLE 17 - SELECTED CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL INFANT DEATHS FOR REGISTERED INDIAN AND PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS, FOR ALBERTA, 1974-76<sup>1</sup>

CAUSES	INDIAN %	PROVINCE %
INFECTIOUS & PARASITIC	12.0	5.5
NEOPLASMS	-	0.2
DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM	0.9	0.8
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	13.9	6.6
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	3.7	2.1
CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	12.0	22.1
CERTAIN CAUSES OF PERI- NATAL MORTALITY	27.8	42.9
ACCIDENTS, POISONINGS & VIOLENCE	7.4	3.0
ILL DEFINED AND UNKNOWN	13.9	15.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
TOTAL DEATHS	108	471

<sup>1</sup>For Registered Indians causes of death are averaged over 1974-76; for the provincial population causes of death are for 1975.

Sources: W.J. Millar, "Some Observations On The Mortality of Alberta Indians", unpublished, Health and Welfare Canada, Medical Services Branch, Alberta Region, June 1979., Table I.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.



TABLE 18 - THE INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS AMONG THE REGISTERED INDIAN AND TOTAL PROVINCIAL POPULATIONS, ALBERTA, 1973-1977

YEAR	INDIAN		PROVINCIAL	
	TOTAL <sup>1</sup>	RATES/1000 POP.	TOTAL	RATES/1000 POP.
1973	62	2.0	269	0.2
1974	59	1.7	249	0.1
1975	44	1.4	226	0.1
1976	53	1.6	201	0.1
1977	56	1.6	--	--

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

-- not available.

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

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

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

#### 4. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the eleven year period between 1966 and 1977, the number of Indian children in Alberta attending school at all levels has increased markedly, with the exception of those attending special education classes (see Table 19). There was an increase in the percentage of students attending non-federal schools in all grade levels during this period, except in grades nine to twelve where the opposite trend occurs (see Table 20).

The retention rate for Indian students from Grade 2 through to Grade 12 has increased between 1965-66 and 1975-76. The greatest increase occurred during the 1965-66 to 1970-71 period; and the retention rate has remained relatively stable since 1971. However, the Indian retention rate at 22 per cent was still substantially lower in comparison with 75 per cent for all provincial students (see Table 21).

The percentage of Indian children aged 5-13 enrolled in primary school has marginally decreased from 93 per cent in 1966 to 92 per cent in 1977 (see Table 22). The percentage of Indian young people aged 14-18 enrolled in secondary school also has declined from 43 per cent in 1966 to 40 per cent in 1977.

There has been more than a three-fold increase in the number of Indians enrolled in post-secondary schools in the 1968-76 period (see Table 23). Enrolment in university, including professional schools, during the same period grew more sharply from 26 to 342. The number of students enrolled in pre-vocational and formal vocation courses also increased between 1968 and 1976, however it reached a high in 1971.

TABLE 19 - REGISTERED INDIAN STUDENT ENROLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL AND TYPE OF SCHOOL, FOR ALBERTA, 1966, 1971 AND 1977

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>	324	2,069	1,005	103	152	3,653
	NON-FEDERAL <sup>2</sup>	66	1,814	1,394	767	132	4,173
	TOTAL	390	3,883	2,399	1,870	284	7,826
1971	FEDERAL	638	1,612	1,049	162	25	3,486
	NON-FEDERAL	231	2,517	2,115	1,107	87	6,057
	TOTAL	869	4,129	3,164	1,269	112	9,543
1977	FEDERAL	588	1,607	1,257	537	29	4,018
	NON-FEDERAL	304	2,776	2,592	1,277	121	7,070
	TOTAL	892	4,383	3,849	1,814	150	11,088

<sup>1</sup>Includes Federal and Band operated schools.

<sup>2</sup>Includes Provincial and Private schools.

Source: Student population by grade and age, Alberta, 1966, 1971 and 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

TABLE 20 - PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN ENROLMENT BY SCHOOL TYPE WITHIN GRADE LEVELS, FOR ALBERTA, 1966, 1971 AND 1977

YEAR	SCHOOL TYPE	PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY SCHOOL TYPE WITH GRADE LEVELS					
		K4-K5 %	1-4 %	5-8 %	9-12 %	SPECIAL %	TOTAL %
1966	FEDERAL <sup>1</sup>	83.1	53.3	41.9	11.8	53.5	46.7
	NON-FEDERAL <sup>2</sup>	16.9	46.7	58.1	88.2	46.5	53.3
	TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	FEDERAL	73.4	39.0	33.1	12.8	22.3	36.5
	NON-FEDERAL	26.6	61.0	66.9	87.2	77.7	63.5
	TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1977	FEDERAL	65.9	36.7	32.6	29.6	19.3	36.2
	NON-FEDERAL	34.1	63.3	67.4	70.4	80.7	63.8
	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: Student population by grade and age, Alberta, 1966, 1971 and 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.



TABLE 21 - RETENTION TO GRADE XII ENROLMENT, RELATED TO  
GRADE II ENROLMENT TEN YEARS EARLIER FOR THE  
TOTAL AND REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATIONS,  
1965-66 TO 1975-76

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIANS %	CANADA %
1965-66	14.5	50.5
1970-71	24.5	69.8
1975-76	22.0	75.2

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

Student population by grade and age, Alberta, 1965,  
1971 and 1975, Program Reference Centre, Indian  
and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs  
Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

YEAR	PRIMARY GRADES <sup>1</sup>					
	ACTUAL ENROLMENT N	RESIDUAL N	TOTAL POPULATION AGED 5-13 N	ACTUAL ENROLMENT <sup>2</sup> %	RESIDUAL <sup>2</sup> %	TOTAL POPULATION AGED 5-13 %
1966	6,672	503	7,175	93.0	7.0	100.0
1971	8,162	793	8,955	91.1	8.9	100.0
1977	9,124	805	9,929	91.9	8.1	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 <sup>2</sup> %	TOTAL POPULATION AGED 14-18 %
1966	1,154	1,537	2,691	42.9	57.1	100.0
1971	1,381	2,197	3,578	38.6	61.4	100.0
1977	1,964	2,925	4,889	40.1	59.9	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 13.

Sources: Registered Indian population by age, sex and residence, by province, 1966 to 1977, for Alberta, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Student population by grade and age, Alberta, 1966, 1971 and 1977, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

TABLE 23 - REGISTERED INDIAN POST-SECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION STUDENT ENROLMENT, ALBERTA,  
1968, 1971, 1976

TYPE OF POST-SECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES	ALBERTA					
	1968		1971		1976	
	ENROLMENT N	ENROLMENT <sup>1</sup> %	ENROLMENT N	ENROLMENT <sup>1</sup> %	ENROLMENT N	ENROLMENT <sup>1</sup> %
PRE-VOCATIONAL <sup>2</sup>	57	1.3	303	6.0	124	1.9
FORMAL VOCATIONAL <sup>3</sup>	120	2.7	231	4.6	169	2.6
SPECIAL VOCATIONAL <sup>4</sup>	36	0.8	133	2.6	143	2.2
UNIVERSITY <sup>5</sup>	32	0.6	111	2.1	349	5.3
TOTAL <sup>6</sup>	245	5.5	778	15.5	785	12.2

<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 1976, Program Reference Centre, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Employment and Related Services Program Summary, 1972, 1976, Education Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

As a percentage of the population 19 to 29 years old, the participation rate of students enrolled in any post-secondary education has increased from 5.5 per cent in 1968 to 12.2 per cent in 1976, the participation rate peaked at 15.5 per cent in 1971. In all courses, except for formal vocational, the 1976 rate was higher than in 1968. However, the participation rates in all courses have declined since 1971, with the exception of the participation rate for university which has continued to increase.

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 4 to 5 per cent for the provincial population in 1977 with one which is variously "guesstimated" as being in the range of 50 to 80 per cent for the Indian population.

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 Alberta has been estimated recently at 54 per cent in 1979. These estimates<sup>3</sup> indicate that there was a total of 3,647 Indians living on-reserve in Alberta who were employed during this year, of which 75 per cent were working on-reserve and 25 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 102 dependents per 100 persons in the 15-64 year age group for Indians compared to a provincial dependency ratio of 56 per 100 (see Table 24). Demographic forecasts indicate that the Indian ratio may decline to 73 dependents per 100 persons 15-64 years old by 1986, however this ratio is still considerably greater than that for the provincial population which is expected to be at 49 per 100 by 1986. Nevertheless, 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. 54 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 amelioration 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.



TABLE 24 - DEPENDENCY RATIOS FOR THE REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION BY RESIDENCE AND FOR THE TOTAL PROVINCIAL POPULATION, IN ALBERTA  
1966 TO 1976 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1981 AND 1986.

YEAR	REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION									PROVINCIAL POPULATION		
	TOTAL			ON RESERVE			OFF RESERVE			TOTAL DEP. RATIO	CHILD DEP. RATIO	ELDERLY DEP. RATIO
	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			
1966	122.7	114.9	7.6	125.7	117.7	8.0	92.3	88.2	4.1	72.5	60.2	12.3
1971	118.4	110.8	7.6	119.1	110.6	8.5	113.9	112.0	1.9	63.7	51.8	12.0
1976	102.2	95.2	7.0	101.3	93.2	8.1	105.1	102.8	2.3	55.6	44.0	11.7
1981	84.0	78.1	5.9	84.6	77.4	7.2	82.3	80.1	2.2	48.4	38.2	10.2
1986	72.8	67.6	5.2	74.6	68.2	6.5	68.2	66.3	1.9	49.4	38.0	11.4

<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 from aged 15 to 64 years.

Sources: Unpublished worksheets. Research Support Section, Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program.

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

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.

## 6. HOUSING

The latest housing data as of 1977 indicates that 37 per cent of Indian reserve and settlement houses in Alberta were in need of major repairs or replacement. While the majority of Indian houses had electricity (94 per cent), only 54 per cent had potable water piped into homes and only 48 per cent had sewage disposal and indoor plumbing. These conditions were particularly marked in rural and remote communities (see Table 25) By contrast, the 1977 Housing Facilities and Equipment Survey indicated that at least 97 per cent of all houses in Alberta were equipped with electricity, sewage disposal, indoor plumbing and running water.

When these Indian housing conditions are combined with the fact that 39 per cent of the units accommodate two or more families living within or require an addition to accommodate large families,<sup>4</sup> it appears that overcrowding may be a problem for Indians living in housing on-reserve. Such living conditions may be also 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 nearly 63 per cent or by approximately 3,500 persons during this period. In addition, it can be assumed that the expected

TABLE 25 - HOUSING CONDITIONS ON INDIAN RESERVES BY GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION, FOR ALBERTA, 1977

BAND LOCATION BY TYPE OF AREA	INADEQUATE HOUSING PER. 100 FAMILY UNITS <sup>1</sup>	PERCENTAGE OF HOUSING				OVERCROWDED HOUSING PER 100 FAMILY UNITS <sup>6</sup>
		ELECTRICITY	SEWAGE DISPOSAL	INDOOR PLUMBING	WATER	
ALL AREAS	37	94	48	48	54	39
URBAN AREAS <sup>2</sup>	39	96	67	67	68	41
RURAL AREAS <sup>3</sup>	32	92	20	20	35	38
REMOTE AREAS <sup>4</sup>	36	87	7	7	7	26
ALL PROVINCIAL HOUSING <sup>5</sup>	-- <sup>7</sup>	99	97	98	98	--

<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, Housing Facilities and Equipment, 1977, Cat. No. 64-202.

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

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D. 9-1-80.

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

## 7. JUSTICE

Native inmates in relation to their percentage share of the provincial population are overrepresented in federal prison's, representing 26 per cent of the total inmate population<sup>5</sup> (see Table 26). More than 63 per cent of native inmates and 52 per cent of non-native inmates are aged 20-29 years. Approximately 45 per cent of the native inmates have grade 8 schooling or less in comparison with 26 per cent of the non-native inmates.

A higher percentage of native crimes are of a violent nature in comparison with non-native crimes (25 per cent and 18 per cent respectively). Approximately equal percentages (29 per cent) of native and non-native inmates had been convicted one or two times before. However, the percentage of native inmates who have been convicted three or more times before is nearly double that of non-native inmates (8.3 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively).

TABLE 26 - SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE INMATES IN FEDERAL PENITENTIARIES, ALBERTA, 1979.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	INMATES	
	NATIVE <sup>1</sup>	NON-NATIVE
Number <sup>1</sup>	204	582
Per Cent	26.0	74.0
AGE GROUP:	%	%
Under 20	8.3	9.5
20 - 29	63.3	52.0
30 and Over	28.4	38.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT <sup>2</sup>	%	%
GRADE: 8 or Less	44.6	26.0
9 - 13	54.0	70.1
13+	1.4	3.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
OFFENCE TYPE:	%	%
Violent <sup>3</sup>	25.0	17.7
Non-Violent	75.0	82.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
NO. OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS:	%	%
0	62.8	66.3
1-2	28.9	29.2
3+	8.3	4.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Includes registered and non-status Indians, Metis 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 include murder, rape, assault, etc.; non-violent are offences not against persons.

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

Prepared by: Research Branch, Indian and Inuit Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D., 9-1-80.



## 8. SUMMARY

### Demographic Characteristics

1. Currently the growth rate for the Indian population is slightly higher than that of the total provincial population (Table 1).
2. The growth rate for the Indian population is projected to decline in the 1980 decade due to an expected continued decline in their birth rate (Table 1).
3. The Indian population constituted approximately 1.9 per cent of the provincial population in 1976, and this is expected to decrease slightly to about 1.7 per cent in 1986.
4. Indian fertility declined substantially between 1966 and 1976, although their birth rate is currently almost twice that of the provincial population; the decline in the Indian birth rate is expected to continue to 1986 (Table 2).
5. Although Indian infant mortality rates have been decreasing, i.e., from 57 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1963 to 26 by 1976, their infant mortality rate is still more than twice that of the provincial population (Table 3).
6. The death rate for the adult age group 15-49 is at least four times higher than that for the provincial population in the same age group (Table 4).

7. As early as 1981, the young adult Indian population (aged 15-29) will increase its share of the total Indian population to 32 per cent having risen from 24 per cent in 1966 (Table 5).
8. In recent years the trend in the growth of the population off-reserve has been slowing down; if this trend continues, the proportion off-reserve is expected to increase more slowly than in the past ten years, increasing from 21 per cent in 1976 to 28 per cent by 1986 (Table 8).
9. Since 1974 the proportions of the mobile age groups 20-29 on reserves and Crown land has been decreasing more slowly than in the 1966-1973 period. Between 1975 and 1976, in the mobile age groups and in most of the others, the on-reserve percentages have remained quite stable (Table 7).
10. Most bands were located in rural and semi-urban areas (46 per cent and 29 per cent respectively). Approximately 42 per cent and 35 per cent of Indians residing off-reserve originate from rural and semi-urban bands respectively (Tables 12 and 13).

#### Health

11. The standardized death rate for the Indian population is more than double that of the provincial population (Table 14).

12. Over 36 per cent of Indian deaths are due to accidents, poisonings and violence (includes suicides, homicides, drug overdoses, motor vehicle accidents) versus under 13 per cent in the provincial population (Table 15).
13. The incidence of tuberculosis in 1976 was 16 times higher in the Indian population than in the provincial population (1.6 and 0.1 per 1,000 population respectively) (Table 18).

#### Education

14. Even though the retention rate for Indian students from Grade 2 through to Grade 12 increased between 1966 and 1976, only 22 per cent of all Indian students were retained to Grade 12 as compared to 75 per cent for all provincial students (Table 21).

#### Employment

15. The current estimate of unemployment among Indians is 54 per cent in 1979.
16. The Indian labour force age group is expected to increase by about 37 per cent from 17,300 in 1976 to 25,200 by 1986.
17. During the next decade, the ratio of the dependent Indian population to the working aged Indian population will decline from 102 per 100 persons to 73 per 100 (Table 24); this could improve their per capita standard of living if sufficient employment opportunities are also created.

### Housing

18. In 1977, 39 per cent of the housing units on Indian reserves were overcrowded (Table 25).
19. 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 nearly 63 per cent by 1986, or by approximately 3,500 persons.

### Justice

20. Native people are overrepresented in federal prisons; these natives tend to be young adults. The percentage of native inmates incarcerated for violent crimes is higher than that among non-native inmates; native inmates have higher percentages with 3 or more previous commitments in comparison with non-native inmates (see Table 26).

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 Canadian population because the Indian population has a much younger age structure than that of the Canadian one. If it were not standardized, the Indian death rate would not be strictly comparable to the Canadian.
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. 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.
5. The penitentiary data for native inmates includes registered Indians, Non-Status Indians and Metis.



