

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S
INDIAN POLICY

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Q U E S T I O N S

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A N S W E R S

on the Government's

Indian Policy

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Many questions may be asked as a result of the announcement of the new Indian policy of the Government. Those that follow are suggested as examples - they are not in any way intended to be an exhaustive or detailed setting out of all that might arise.

It should be noted that the new policy has been designed to provide the greatest possible flexibility for each band in the country. As a result no firm answers are possible to most of the questions.

In almost every case, the final answer will only be arrived at after full discussion with all concerned - the Federal Government, the provincial governments, the Canadian community and, most importantly, the Indian communities concerned.

INDEX

	Page
General and Consultation	4
Services (General)	
Education	10
Housing and Community Improvement	11
Cultural and Community Development	13
Local Government	15
Economic (Land Development)	
Treaties, Legal and Constitutional	17
Lands, Funds and Estates (General)	19
Membership	20
Band Funds	20
Estates	21
Lands (Legal)	22

GENERAL AND CONSULTATION

- Q 1. *What sort of arrangements does the Government have in mind to enable the Indian leaders to meet and discuss all aspects of the new policy and its implementation?*
- A 1. The Government proposes to make financial assistance available to help Indian associations function more effectively. In addition, the government proposes to meet the expenses of meetings for the development of details of policy between Indians and Government officials and among the Indians themselves.
- Q 2. *Some Indians do not want to join the mainstream of Canadian society, which they consider places an undue emphasis on materialism and competition. What choice is there for them?*
- A 2. One cannot now enjoy the material rewards of society while standing apart from its productive processes. This poses a personal problem for many people in the world today and Indians have as much and as little choice as anyone else. No society could perpetuate a high standard of living for a non-participating group without reinforcing the barrier of separation.

As technology makes more leisure possible, a satisfactory compromise may emerge; more individuals may find means of meeting their conflicting desires within today's society. But such choices are for individuals to make for themselves. All that government can do is to help ensure that no one is shut out from the rewards of their own choices and efforts.

There is, of course, another point to be made. Society is changing all the time, as new ideas and concepts are adopted and pressed by different

groups among us. As Indians become more active in Canadian society, it is quite possible that concepts having their roots in Indian history will have an impact on the future shape of that society.

The policy simply opens opportunities to those who wish to take them and provides for a reinforcement of cultural identity so Indian people may better adjust to the broader framework.

Q 3. *Will the Government pay for independent legal advice for individual Bands?*

A 3. Generally speaking, the Government proposes to provide funds so that provincial associations may obtain professional advice. It is expected that this channelling of support will provide the necessary advice to the individual Bands served by the provincial associations.

Q 4. *How can the Indian people be assured that they will be consulted on the details of the policy?*

A 4. The general policy which is enunciated in the Government's statement is based on principles which the Government believes lay behind most of the views expressed at the consultation meetings. Definition of the details of the policy and implementation of the policy cannot proceed without a great deal more consultation in which Indian people must be involved.

Q 5. *Does the Policy Statement set goals for the Indian people?*

A 5. No. The Government believes that Indians must be as free as other Canadians are to set their own goals. It believes that the separate agency of administration has prevented this and that is one reason for proposing the changes.

Q 6. *How do the things said at the consultation meetings fit into the new policy?*

A 6. The Policy Statement is the Government's response to the many different things the Indians said at the consultation meetings. It would not have been possible to develop a policy that embodied every Indian opinion. The Statement sets the broad framework within which detailed policy must fit. It is the policy for Canadian society. Programs must be worked out by discussion and negotiation within that framework.

Q 7. *The Indians asked that their treaty rights be respected. Does the policy reflect this?*

A 7. Yes. The policy states that lawful obligations be recognized. It also suggests that the Indian people and the Government must reach a common understanding of their future role. It is expected that the committee appointed at the national consultation meeting will be examining the treaties carefully and will be working in close liaison with the Commissioner.

Q 8. *The Government says it will end the trusteeship over land; is that what the Indians asked for?*

A 8. Some did and some did not. What the Government has said is that it cannot continue to act as trustee in the same way it has in the past. A flexible system of land management will have to be evolved to meet the needs of Bands who want to manage their own affairs and also meet the needs of others who do not yet feel confident about management. The present system has satisfied no one and there have been many complaints about it. The Government wants to work out with each Band the system most suitable for it.

Q 9 . *Will there be a central authority within the Federal Government to which a Band may refer when it has a problem relating to residual federal responsibilities?*

A 9 . There will be separate arms of the Federal Government in the various fields of operation. Indian people will have access to all the agencies and services of government in the same way as other Canadians. It is expected that the proposed Indian Lands Act will be administered by a federal department.

Q 10. *The programs and services provided by the Department of Indian Affairs were on the whole administered by people who had some knowledge of and sympathy with the Indian situation. How will the provinces and other Federal Departments be able to render similar service?*

A 10. The general public and public servants in all levels of government are becoming increasingly aware of and in sympathy with the Indian situation. During the period of transition, the Department will make a particular point of passing on to its successors its particular experience and understanding of the Indian situation and working with the Indian people. In addition, it may be expected that some employees of the Department will transfer to the employ of the provinces and other Federal Departments, where they will still have the opportunity of working with Indian people. More and more Indians can be expected to enter the employ of governments. For all those reasons, the Indian people can expect informed and sympathetic treatment in the years ahead.

Q 11. *How can Indians be sure that they will receive from the provinces services that are as good and programs that are as effective as they now receive from the Federal Government?*

A 11. Representatives of the Indian people will be involved in the discussions for the extension of programs and services by the provinces. They will have opportunities to assure themselves that the programs and services in question are carefully described and fully understood by all concerned. It is expected that the Indian associations will see that the Indian people are fully aware of what is due them under the terms of agreement and will speak for their people should any shortfalls become apparent. The services and programs that benefit Indians will be administered by the same

agencies as for all other citizens, and, like all other citizens, the Indians will be able to make representations to their legislators and express their opinions at the polls.

Q 12. *Will the Indians have any say in shaping programs and services to be provided by the provinces?*

A 12. The Federal Government has committed itself to consult with Indian people on programs and their implementation. It will ask the provinces to respect this commitment. It will also ask that Indian representatives be involved in the discussions which will precede the provincial assumption of responsibilities. In addition, of course, the Indians will be able to use the normal political processes to achieve ends they believe to be desirable.

Q 13. *How does the Government plan to assure a measure of equality in treatment of Indians from province to province?*

A 13. There may be some variation between provinces in respect of services, but the variation between Indians and non-Indians within provinces will be eliminated. However, the elimination of regional disparity is a long-term national goal.

Q 14. *In the search to achieve a better goal, partnership of the Indians, the governments of the provinces, the Canadian community, and the Federal Government is suggested.*

(a) *Can the Indians be assured that the other partners will respect their interest in it; and*

(b) *Can the Indians be assured that when they require assistance, it will not be a case of passing the buck between each level of government?*

A 14. (a) The partnership will be equal in the sense that all parties to it will have an input in the process of making decisions and drawing up agreements. However, the supply of funds to support programs will not be unlimited, and whatever decisions are reached will be subject to the necessary funds being made available by Parliament and Legislatures.

(b) Care will be taken in the drafting of agreements in respect of services and programs so that it is quite clear where executive responsibility lies. In other words, every effort will be made to eliminate in advance the opportunities for passing the buck.

Q 15. *The Policy Statement says "additional funds will be available from a number of different sources". What are these different sources?*

A 15. It is expected that the implementation of the policy will lead to the reduction of overlapping efforts on the part of governments and there will thus be the opportunity to re-deploy funds.

Additional opportunities to re-deploy funds should also result from the beneficial effects of programs, as more and more Indians achieve economic and social independence.

Q 16. *The policy paper refers to enriched services. What services are to be enriched and to what extent?*

A 16. Reference is made in the Government's statement of policy to extra effort in the field of cultural affairs and in the Minister's statement in the House to the provision of \$50 million in support of economic development. It is expected that during the negotiations with the provinces, particular attention will be given to the needs of Indian communities to develop their capacities for local government. The Grants to Bands Program is a step in that direction, but it does not properly meet all present needs. Negotiations with the provinces in respect of grants will be based on the concept of an improved and enriched program and will necessarily involve whatever provision there is for local government grants in each province. It is proposed that particular attention will also be given to the need to bring the physical aspects of communities to a par with other communities in the region. Consideration will be given to the development of programs to support those activities to be administered by the provinces and funded by the Federal Government.

Q 17. *Will the Federal Government continue to provide services to Indians until a province takes over responsibility for services.*

A 17. Yes.

Q 18. *Will the Indian people be forced to obtain services from the provinces even if they prefer to deal with the Federal Government?*

A 18. The policy proposes elimination of special services so that all residents of a province will receive services from the same sources and the same governmental agencies, whether they be provincial or federal.

Q 19. *Will the Indian people be able to prevent the "transfer" to provinces of particular services?*

A 19. No, as no transfer of particular services to provinces is contemplated. The policy simply proposes that provinces extend their normal programs to all residents (including Indians) thus eliminating the need for special federal programs in the same fields.

Education

Q 20. *Can the Indian people expect the same degree of sensitivity to their special educational problems from provincial school authorities as they have received from federal authorities?*

A 20. Yes. All provinces are now very much concerned with the educational problems of Indian children, because they already have the majority of them in their schools. This concern is reflected in the establishment of inter-cultural teacher training programs, curriculum committees to develop curricula for schools in which Indian children are enrolled, special kindergarten and teacher aide training programs, numerous research projects on Indian education, the authorization of books by Indian authors for use in provincial schools, etc.

Q 21. *Can the provisions of the Indian Act with respect to the religious affiliations of schools be carried out if all education is transferred to the provincial systems?*

A 21. There are similar provisions in the school systems of some provinces. Where these do not exist, the matter will be the subject of discussion and negotiation.

Q 22. *What can be done to develop and improve Indian history for school textbooks?*

A 22. All provincial governments are committed to the enrichment of Canadian history and literature courses through the introduction of more material about the past and present contribution of the Indian people to Canadian culture, their society, arts, religion and folklore. Special courses on the history of the North American Indians are being developed and universities are developing resource centres of authentic Indian resource materials for use in schools.

Q 23. *Can the Indian people participate in the development of educational services for their children?*

A 23. Yes. School legislation across Canada is now being broadened to recognize Indians as electors who may vote for school trustees and stand for election to school boards. Provincial franchise gives the Indian people representation in the provincial governments. Provincial and local curriculum committees have Indian representation to deal with areas of Indian cultural content.

Q 24. *Can provincial schools provide adequately for the needs of Indian children?*

A 24. Yes. With the support of their parents the education of Indian children is already being transferred rapidly to the provincial systems with a large measure of success. At present 60% of the Indian school population attend provincial schools and current trends indicate that the percentage will increase sharply this year. Where federal schools provide services which are not ordinarily available in the provincial system they can be administered by Band Councils, local school authorities or provincial governments.

Housing and Community Improvement

Q 25. *How does the Government propose that the programs for housing, the provision of water and sanitation services, and electrification be continued when most provinces have no capacity to offer such a program?*

A 25. There can be no general answer to this question until there have been discussions about it with the provinces. However, some provinces have agencies that might undertake the Departmental Indian housing program. Other provinces may wish to start rural housing programs, and federal support for Indian housing may help them get under way. In any event, the Indian people may be assured that the program announced by the Government in 1966 will be completed, whether it is managed by federal or provincial agencies or combinations.

Q 26. *The levels of welfare assistance provided by several provincial governments are below that provided to Indians in those provinces now. Will Indians be asked to accept these levels in lieu of what they are now receiving?*

A 26. There is a great deal of attention being given today, both federally and provincially, to establishing welfare programs at acceptable levels and standards. The situations referred to will be the subject of discussions with the appropriate governments.

Q 27. *The proposal mentions a readiness on the part of the Federal Government to provide the provinces with funds for expenditures on Indian matters. How will the amounts be determined?*

A 27. The amounts available will be those spent by the Department on Indians within each province, modified as may be necessary as a result of negotiations with the provinces.

Q 28. *Does the proposal take into account the fundamental and continuing need of Indian people for training in matters relating to the administration of Band affairs, citizenship, and in local government generally?*

A 28. Yes. The Government recognizes the importance and urgency of training in these fields for Indian people and has under way now an extensive training program. New approaches to training and new training methods are being examined and tried out.

The Government also recognizes that the need of Indian people for training in these and other areas will exist after programs and services are assumed by provincial governments. Transitional arrangements will be made to continue federal financial and technical assistance in this field.

The manner in which this assistance will be given, and the amount of funds involved will be the subject of consultation and discussion between all concerned.

Q 29. *What is the possibility that provinces may try to force Indian communities either to become municipalities or to join with neighbouring municipalities or regional governments against the wishes of the Indian people?*

A 29. The Government hopes to negotiate arrangements which will permit Indian communities to have a choice of the full range of alternatives from becoming separate municipalities to retaining an unincorporated status. The final definite answer to this must await discussions.

Q 30. *The Department has had a program of Grants to Bands. What will happen to these if the proposals in the Policy Statement are implemented?*

A 30. The Government hopes and expects to be able to negotiate an arrangement with provinces which will enable Indian communities to receive not only grants comparable to those received by other communities but also those additional funds necessary to help reduce present disparities.

Cultural and Community Development

Q 31. *The Policy Statement says that Indian languages are unique and valuable assets. How does the Government propose to safeguard them?*

A 31. The preservation and enrichment of cultural heritage can only be done by those who live within the culture. The Indian people are the only ones who can preserve and develop this heritage, but government can assist them to become more aware of the possibilities for cultural enrichment by working through associations and regional groupings who share a common language. With government support they can do much to make Indian people aware of the need to preserve their language and the Secretary of State will be evolving many aids. A major problem is the lack of awareness of non-Indians and their disregard for the Indian heritage and its worth. Intensified communication programs can help overcome these factors.

Q 32. *What will the Government do to foster adequate communication among all Indians and between them and the Canadian community as a whole?*

A 32. The Government has done and will continue to do a number of things.

The principal step will be to provide funds to Indian associations to enable them to carry their message to the Canadian people and to hold more meetings which will broaden the base of communication among Indians.

Another major effort will be to continue to press all news and information services to assist the Indian people to gain access to communications. When provinces take over in their program areas, the Indian people will be brought into contact with more of the arms of government and as the barriers which now keep the Indians apart from others are lowered, communication will flow more freely.

The Government's community development program has always had better communication as one of its aims and, as a result, communication among Indian communities and between them and other communities has improved. The cultural development program has helped to disseminate information about Indian people to all Canadians. Friendship Centres are another activity which allows Indian people, originally from a variety of communities, to meet, to work together and to meet and to work with other Canadians.

Q 33. *How does the Government propose to bring Indian history and the Indian heritage before all Canadians?*

A 33. The Government will continue to co-operate with agencies such as the National Film Board, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, private radio and television, universities and publishing houses.

All provincial governments are committed to the enrichment of Canadian history and literature courses through the introduction of more material about the past and present contributions of the Indian people to Canadian culture, their society, arts, religion and folklore. Special courses on the history of the North American Indians are being developed and universities are developing resource centres of authentic Indian resource materials for use in schools.

Q 34. *Implementation of the new policy will require change and induce stress. It is in such times that community development work is particularly useful. Will the Government continue to support it?*

A 34. Yes. The Government believes that community development will have a continuing and increasing importance in the future.

Q 35. *Definitions of community development vary. What definition will be used in negotiating with provinces?*

A 35. The Government generally follows the definition of community development given in the regulations under the Canada Assistance Plan which emphasizes social development. It is very much aware of the needs which Indian people have for economic development and for community improvements, but feels that funds for these should come from the same sources as they do for other Canadians. It intends to make the funds available to the full limit permitted by the economy and in conjunction with regional development.

Local Government

Q 36. *Will the Government support Indian Bands in their current disputes with provinces and municipalities as regards the application of municipal by-laws respecting non-Indian use of reserve lands?*

A 36. The Government will support their effort to achieve a solution to this complex problem which it is obvious requires the co-ordination and welding of conflicting positions and legislation. The Government also believes that because of the complex nature of the question it will be necessary that it be thoroughly discussed by federal, provincial and Indian representatives and the Government proposes to initiate discussions in this respect.

Economic (Land Development)

Q 37. *After a Band takes title to its reserve will the Government give technical advice and assistance in land use and development?*

A 37. The several levels of government provide a variety of services related to land use and development, and these, of course, will be available to Indians as they are to other citizens. Many Indian Bands can expect to benefit from the special services and supports provided in certain areas under the programs of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

Q 38. *Who will be eligible for grants, loans, guarantees provided from economic development moneys?*

A 38. Any Indian or group of Indians proposing a potentially viable project.

Q 39. *What are the purposes for which economic development moneys can be used?*

A 39. They may be used for grants, loans, or as guarantees for loans.

Q 40. *Will there be restrictions on the type of activity which can be supported by economic development moneys?*

A 40. Only that each must have a clear potential for viability.

Q 41. *Will economic development moneys be available to finance on-reserve development corporations?*

A 41. Yes.

Q 42. *Who will administer the economic development moneys?*

A 42. In the immediate future, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Administration after the Department is phased out will be the subject of discussion with the Indian people, the provinces, and other federal agencies.

Q 43. *Who will administer oil, gas and mineral rights on lands that remain for a time as reserves?*

A 43. Administration will be the responsibility of the Federal Government until such time as the function is transferred to the Indian Band when it undertakes administration through a procedure yet to be worked out in discussions with the Band concerned.

Q 44. *Will Indians retain mineral rights on lands to which Bands assume title?*

A 44. It is expected Bands will receive title to all that the Federal Crown holds. Where the lands are now held by the Provincial Crown, consultations will be required to ascertain the extent to which the provinces are prepared to grant mineral rights to those Bands.

Treaties, Legal and Constitutional

Q 45. *Indians occupy an unique position in Canadian society. Why should there not be a special reference to them in the constitution?*

A 45. Any reference to any group on the basis of race sets Canadians apart from one another and does so on a necessarily artificial basis. The Government is endeavouring through its new policy to eliminate the need to perpetuate the artificial distinction which is now a primary element of the Indian Act.

Q 46. *Does the Government propose to allow Indians full and unfettered rights to take migratory birds, as some claim the treaties guarantee?*

A 46. The Government takes the view that the concept of Indians having been guaranteed a full and unfettered right to take migratory birds is not well founded. Nearly all treaties contain a provision that the right to take game is subject to regulation. In any event, the supply of migratory birds and other game is not now sufficient to withstand an unlimited drain, and the additional rights to take migratory birds for food that the Government proposes to extend must be limited to those who live in isolated circumstances and customarily depend on game and other country food for survival.

Q 47. *Will the Government establish uniform hunting and fishing privileges for Indians in Canada?*

A 47. It is expected that existing rights and privileges will be continued as long as they are consistent with conservation needs or until modified through the discussions and negotiations that will take place. It is not expected that special rights of a continuing nature would be created as they would be inconsistent with a policy based on equality of rights and privileges.

Q 48. *How does the Government propose to meet its obligations in regard to the setting aside of reserve lands in the Northwest Territories and the northern parts of the Prairie Provinces?*

A 48. The Government has had recent discussions with Indians in these areas but no clear views emerged as to carrying out the terms of the treaties with respect to lands. Additional discussions are required and will be initiated.

In regard to the Prairie Provinces the Government proposes to bring the Bands and the provinces in question into a three-way discussion designed to consider how the provision of the treaties might best be satisfied.

Q 49. *Will repeal of the Indian Act make Indians liable for payment of taxes on income earned on reserves?*

A 49. The policy does not contemplate Indians having income tax exemptions that are not shared with other Canadians.

Lands, Funds and Estates (General)

Q 50. *What are the steps between the present system for administering Indian lands and the full holding by Indians of title in fee simple?*

A 50. No single step or set of steps will be satisfactory to all Bands. Whatever the steps or their number, they will be worked out with the Band concerned to meet the needs of that Band.

The present system calls for full control to be exercised by the Minister. Title is held in the name of the Crown, subject to a right of use and benefit given to the Band.

The move towards title being in the name of the Band, or its designate, could be an immediate single step taken by the comparatively simple process of issuing Letters Patent in the name of the Band.

It could, however, be accomplished in a series of steps, involving a gradual increase in the amount of participation by the Band in the day-to-day management of the land.

Q 51. *What are the alternative methods for the control of lands that will be made available to Indian individuals and Bands?*

A 51. The choice of the method will have to be worked out with each Band to meet the needs of the Band itself.

It is contemplated that there will be different methods desired by various Bands in Canada. Some may wish to take, immediately, full title in fee simple to their lands. Another alternative would be to take an intermediate step by having title to the lands transferred to a special body in which both the Indians and Government would participate. A further alternative might be a Band holding a lease from the Crown and carrying out all the functions and prerogatives of ownership except the power to sell.

Q 52. *How does the Government propose to enable the Indians to protect their land heritage?*

A 52. This can only be determined after full discussions with the Indian people.

Q 53. *What happens if the Band members cannot agree to take title?*

A 53. The answer to this question must come from the Band. It is anticipated that each Band will, when and if this problem arises, work out for itself the answer which will best protect the rights and interests of the members.

Membership

Q 54. *Will there be legislation providing for membership in Bands or control of it?*

A 54. As long as there are reserve lands held by the Crown for the use and benefit of Indians there will have to be a record of those who are entitled to share in that use and benefit. This is currently provided for under the Indian Act. It will be necessary also that transitional legislation set out the criteria for membership.

Q 55. *If a question has to be put to a vote, who will determine who has the right to vote?*

A 55. The criteria established for registration of a Band member are set out in the Indian Act as are the criteria for voting rights. Transitional legislation may also contain such criteria but these will no doubt require discussion with Indian people. When a Band takes title to its reserve lands, it is anticipated it will itself assume responsibility for establishing voting and membership criteria.

Band Funds

Q 56. *Will the Government retain any control over the use of Band funds transferred to Bands?*

A 56. The objective is to remove any governmental controls, and once the funds are transferred Bands will manage their own funds.

Q 57. *Will Bands who are given full control of their funds be able to distribute the moneys to their members?*

A 57. The decision will rest with the Band. It might be expected that funds originally accumulated for the benefit of the community would continue to be held and used for the same purpose.

Q 58. *Will the Government continue to act as trustee for Band funds?*

A 58. For the present yes, ultimately no. The objective of having Bands take control of their land is equally true for their Band funds.

Q 59. *When will each Band be given control over its Band funds?*

A 59. Bands can obtain control of their revenue funds now. It is expected that arrangements will be made to enable Bands to assume control of their capital funds.

Estates

Q 60. *If the Act is repealed who will administer Indian estates?*

A 60. Repeal of the Indian Act will make it possible for the Indian people to enjoy the same rights and privileges with respect to the administration of their estates as other Canadians. This will become, as it should be, the private business of the individual and his family.

The administration of the estate of a deceased person is normally the function of an executor nominated in the will of the deceased. It is the function of the courts to grant Letters Probate to the executor of the estate. From that point it is the responsibility of the executor to see that the wishes of the deceased as expressed in his will and the laws of the province dealing with succession of property are respected in the distribution of the assets of the deceased.

It is anticipated that estates now being handled by the Administrator of Estates will be completed in accordance with provincial law by an executor or administrator appointed by the courts. The individual families concerned will be consulted in this matter to ascertain their wishes.

Lands

Q 61. *Will the Government retain the trustee function for lands until title is transferred to the Indians?*

A 61. Until Indians take title to the lands or until other arrangements are made the Government will continue as trustee.

Q 62. *Will a majority living off the reserve be able to sell the reserve and will it be possible for land to be alienated without the knowledge of all Band members?*

A 62. The procedures and requirements for alienation will remain much as they are now as long as the land is held by the Crown. When a Band takes title to its lands, it will establish its own rules and procedures with respect to alienation.

Q 63. *What will happen to existing leases?*

A 63. All existing lease commitments must be respected. Thus any transfer of title to reserve lands from the Crown to Indian Bands will be made subject to these and other commitments (e.g., easements) affecting the land. However, if both parties wish to terminate an agreement, that can be done by mutual consent.

Q 64. *Who will resolve disputes between Band members as to rights to the land?*

A 64. Disputes as to legal rights to lands in a reserve or within a former reserve which cannot be resolved by the disputing parties will have to be resolved in the courts in the same way as any other legal dispute.

Q 65. *Will the Indian reserves continue to be exempt from legal process?*

A 65. This has yet to be determined through discussion. Some middle course will hopefully be worked out.

Q 66. *Will reserve lands be taxable?*

A 66. No. Reserves are Crown-owned and as such not liable to general taxation. However, when Bands take title to lands they can be expected to become subject to tax. There may be arrangements made to provide for a transitional period of tax relief to meet Band needs.

Q 67. *Will a Band that takes title to its reserve lands have to pay taxes on those lands?*

A 67. At the present time this is possible. The system of taxation in use today has land taxes at its base. Land is the principal source of money to pay for the essential municipal-type services (roads, water and sewer systems, etc.) and a large part of the cost of education.

All levels of government are seeking new methods of paying for essential services. It may be possible to work out other means by which Indian Bands could contribute to the cost of these services.

Q 68. *Does the announced five-year time frame for phasing out the federal responsibility for Indian affairs mean that title to the lands must be taken by Indian Bands within the same five-year period?*

A 68. The control of reserve lands will be retained by the Federal Government until such time as title is taken by the Indian Bands concerned or some other suitable arrangement satisfactory to all concerned can be made.