



Indian and  
Northern Affairs

Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord

# **SITUATION REPORT** **Saskatchewan Region**

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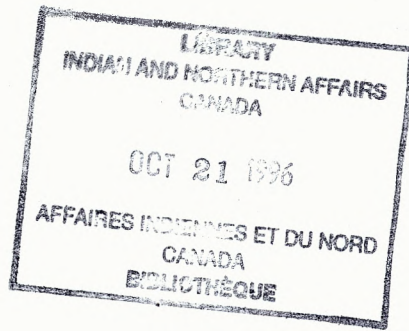


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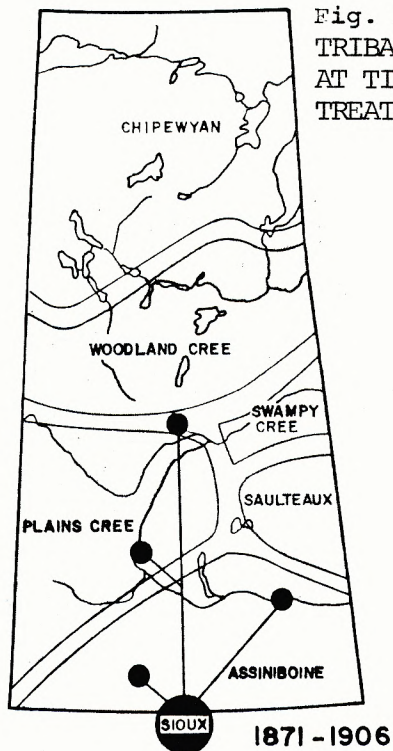


Fig. 1:  
TRIBAL TERRITORIES  
AT TIME OF  
TREATIES.

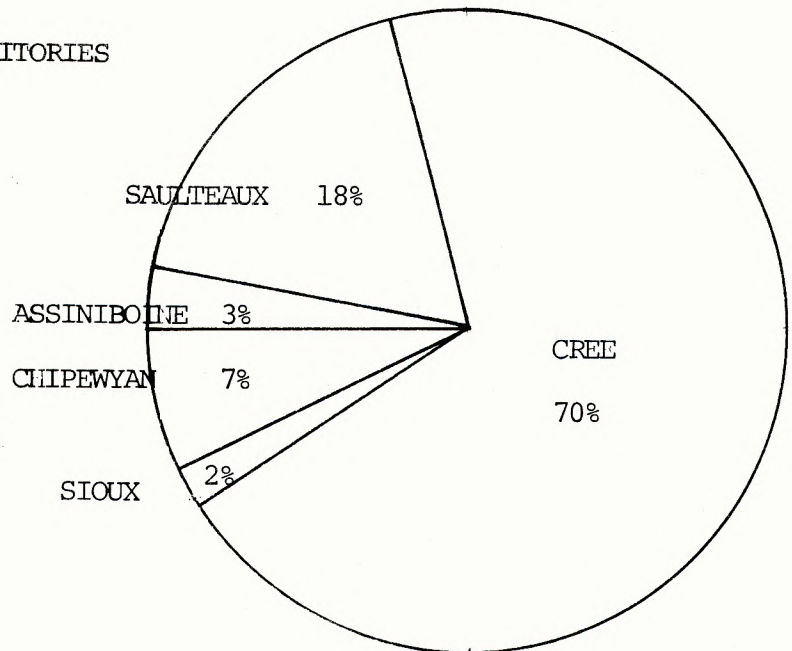


Fig. 2:  
TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION OF  
SASKATCHEWAN INDIANS, 1978.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are five Indian linguistic groups represented on the reserves in Saskatchewan: Cree, Assiniboine, Saulteaux, Chipewyan and Sioux. Another six tribes were in the province during the early 18th century, but have since moved westward. The tribes which are no longer here include: Slave, Beaver, Snake, Sarsi, Blackfoot and Gros Ventres.

The Chipewyan, Woodland Cree, and Swampy Cree were dependent on fishing, hunting and trapping; the Plains Cree, Saulteaux, Assiniboine and Sioux used the buffalo as the basis of their economy. They hunted it summer and winter.

Early contact with the white man for Prairie Indians came through the fur trade - the most direct and earliest contact being in the northern woodland areas. The Sioux came originally from the United States, fleeing the fear of reprisals after uprising against maltreatment by Indian agents.

The Indian people of Saskatchewan have historically had strong respect for the British monarchy, but their dignity has also meant that many played an active role in the Riel Rebellion.

DEMOGRAPHY

More than 10 per cent of all registered Indians in Canada live in Saskatchewan, which has a higher proportion of Indians in its total population than any province in Canada. Most people of Indian ancestry in the province today are under 16 years of age and attending school. Almost half are registered Indians with treaty status, and the rest are Metis (part Indian) or non-status Indians in terms of the Indian Act.

During the last thirteen years, the Indian population of Saskatchewan has increased from 29,996 to 45,333. Moreover, it is expected to multiply faster than the provincial average and increase as a proportion of the provincial total. Recent projections indicate that treaty Indians will represent about 8 per cent of Saskatchewan's total population by the turn of the century. And it is important to note that this population growth is tied to a significant migration from reserves to urban areas, particularly concentrated in the province's six largest cities of Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Lloydminster, Moose Jaw and North Battleford.

Today, approximately 30 per cent of the registered Indians in Saskatchewan live in urban centres. The remaining 70 per cent live on the 153 reserves and are members of the 68 Bands.

Fig. 3:  
TOTAL TREATY INDIAN POPULATION  
AS % OF TOTAL PROVINCIAL POPULATION.

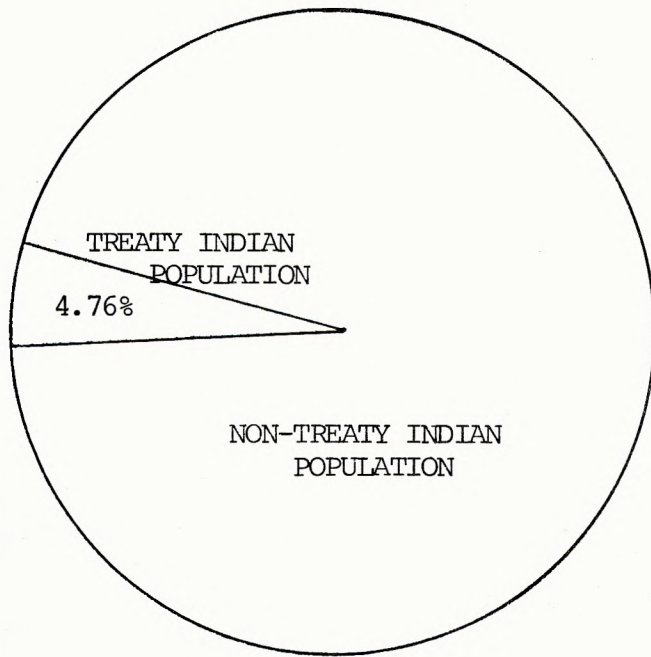
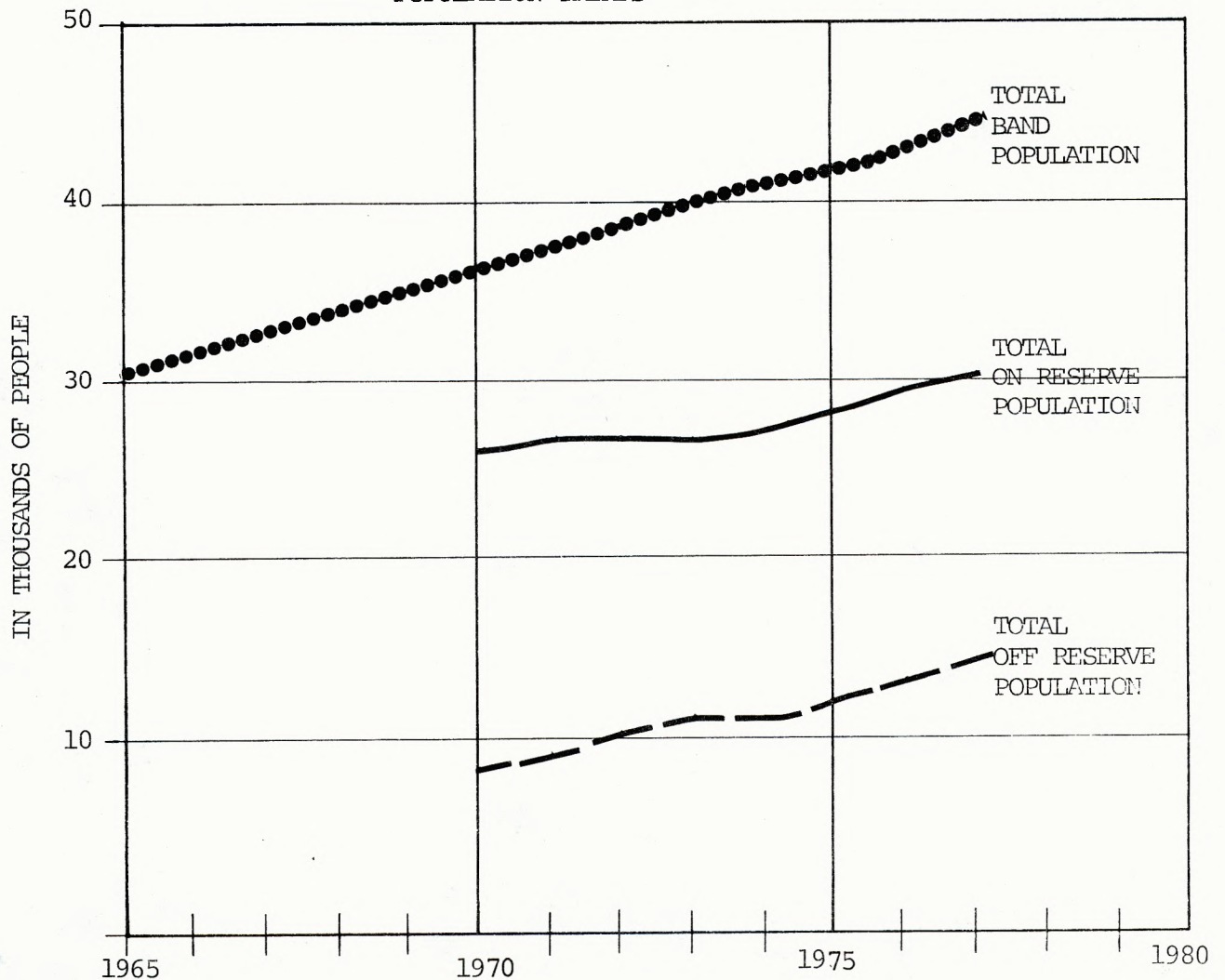


Fig. 4:  
POPULATION INCREASE OF  
TREATY INDIANS

3.

DEC 31 OF YEAR	POPULATION		
	TOTAL	ON RESERVE	OFF RESERVE
1965	25,600		
1970	36,425	26,334	8,242
1971	37,664	27,050	9,414
1972	39,168	27,298	10,661
1973	40,204	27,296	11,659
1974	41,071	28,243	11,449
1975	42,506	28,597	12,444
1976	43,399	29,941	13,458
1977	44,980	30,402	14,578

Fig. 5:  
POPULATION TRENDS



## TREATIES

In Saskatchewan, more than in any other province, we have acknowledged the importance and significance of the treaties. These contracts were entered into by Indian bands with the Crown more than a century ago. Today these same treaties and the Indian Act form the basis, literally, for the continuing trust responsibilities of the Department and form the framework for the relationship with the Indian people of Saskatchewan.

A major dimension of Indian treaty rights is the fulfillment of outstanding treaty land entitlements. Land is the single most important issue facing the Saskatchewan Indian community. Today a larger, more diversified land base is an essential component of any socio-economic strategy aimed at increasing employment, improving living standards and facilitating Indian band control.

Five years ago, there was no agreement to settle outstanding treaty land entitlements. Today a formal tripartite mechanism is in place and functioning. The goal of the program is to satisfy the entitlement debt to fifteen bands that together have had more than 900 thousand acres of land certified. These settlements are being negotiated on the basis of a 1976 agreement which calls for December 31, 1976, band population as a base for calculating levels of entitlement.

In recent years progress has been made. All bands with certified entitlement have either completed or are in the process of completing their land selection. As a result of these studies, land in excess of 600 thousand acres has been chosen. The majority of this is Crown land heavily encumbered by third party interests in various resource sectors, such as mineral and oil leases, forestry and recreational leases and agreements for federal and provincial pastures.

In addition to existing entitlements, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, on behalf of the bands, is continuing to conduct research aimed at certifying additional claims. The issue of illegal land surrenders, which is in the study and analytical stage, is another land-related issue that has received considerable attention over the past five years.

Fig. 6:  
INDIAN TREATIES OF WESTERN CANADA

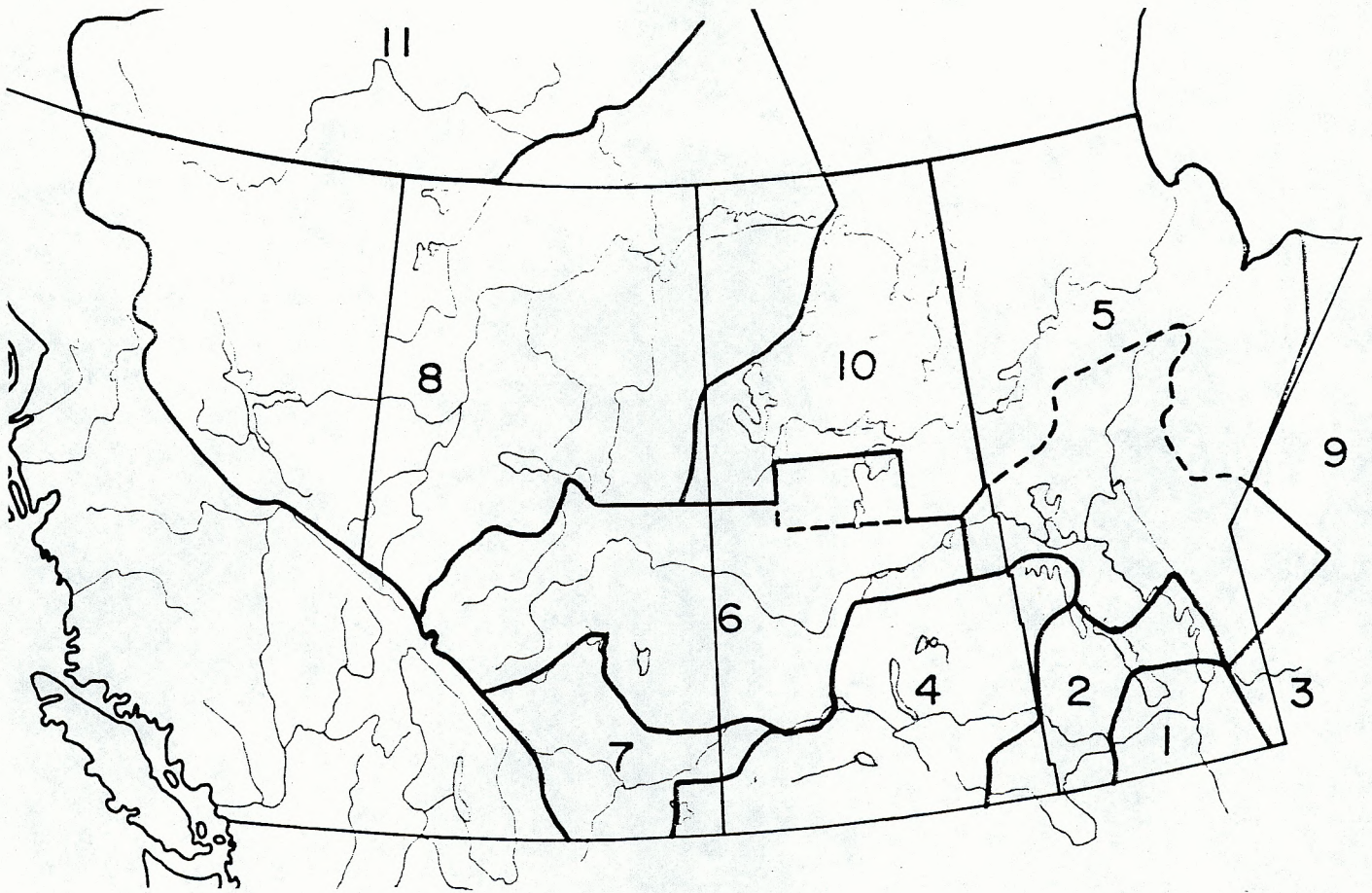


Fig. 7:  
SASKATCHEWAN TREATIES

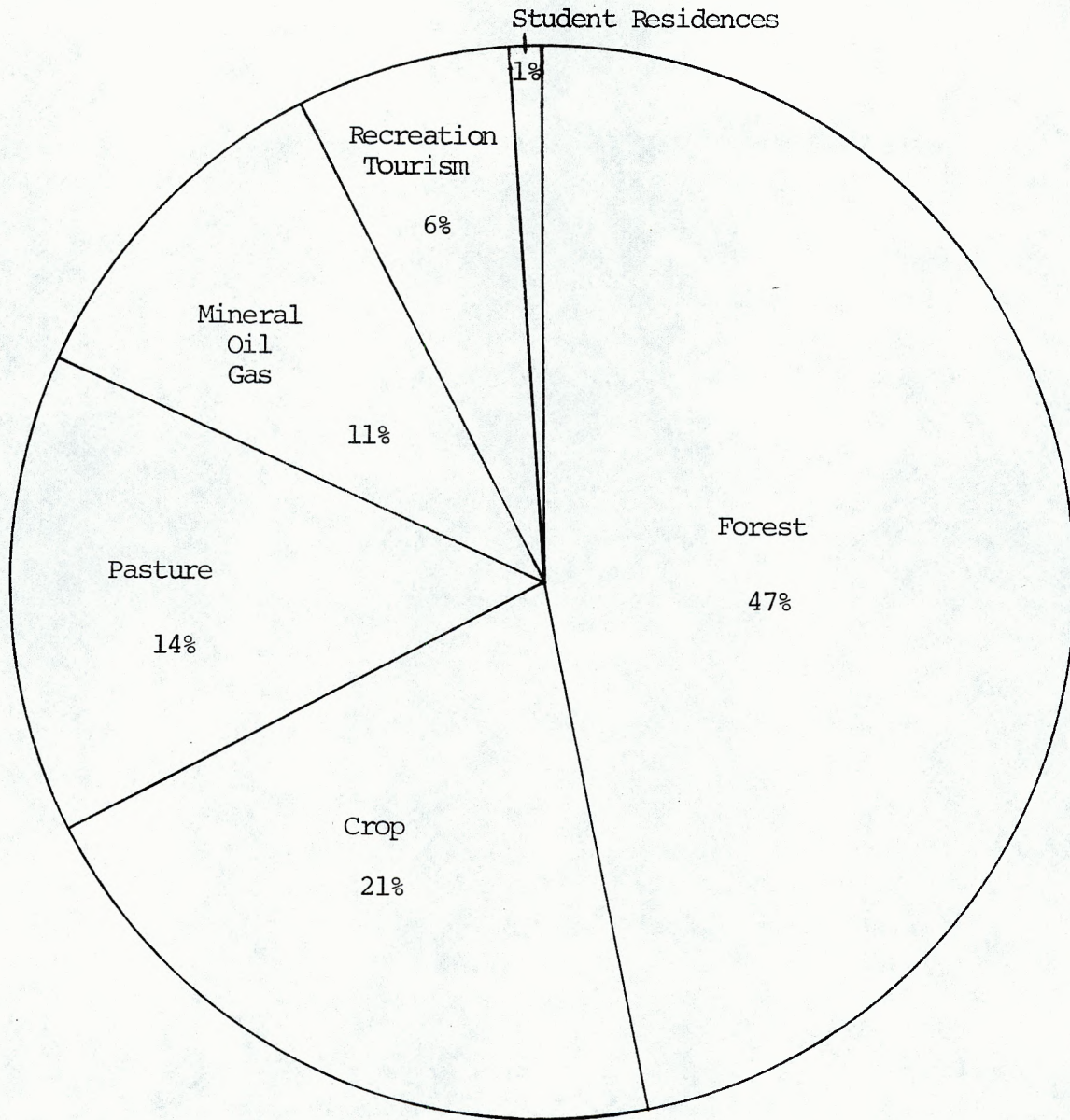
Treaty No.	Assiniboine	Cree	Chipewyan	Saulteaux	Sioux	Tribal Language	Total
2 (1871)	-	1,146	-	-	-	Algonkian	1,146
4 (1874)	895	6,616	-	5,945	681	Algonkian/ Siouan	14,137
5 (1875)	-	962	-	-	-	Algonkian	962
6 (1876)	481	15,449	-	1,778	275	Algonkian/ Siouan	17,983
8 (1898)	-	-	1,277	-	-	Athabaskan	1,277
10 (1906)	-	6,199	1,635	-	-	Algonkian/ Athabaskan	7,834
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>30,372</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>7,723</b>	<b>956</b>		<b>43,399</b>

Source: Saskatchewan Regional Office staff calculations.

December 31, 1976 population statistics.



Fig. 8:  
LAND SELECTION STATUS



Overall Selection to Date

Type of Land	Acres Selected	%
Forest	449,281	47
Crop	197,598	21
Pasture	129,715	14
Recreation/Tourism	58,145	6
Mineral/Oil/Gas	99,126	11
Student Residences	9,637	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>943,502</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Settlement of land entitlements will strengthen the economic base of reserves. There may be mineral and agricultural resources on these lands which can be developed. Saskatchewan's economy is currently strong and is projected to be increasingly so, based on natural resources. An approach that builds on the natural wealth of these lands will provide the means for Indian economic self-sufficiency and prosperity.

During the 1920's, many Indians established viable farm units on their reserves, surviving the drought of the 1930's with their non-Indian neighbours. Many of them, however, did not survive the change from horse power to gas tractors during the 1940's. As a result there were very few Indian grain farmers in Saskatchewan in the 1950's.

In the early 1960's, there was no program which enabled Indian people to become involved in the development of agricultural or other business enterprises. The establishment of the Indian Economic Development Fund with loans, grants and contributions, assisted in the start-up of many family farm units and has been instrumental in the development of several large band farms. These initiatives have resulted in the creation of an Indian-controlled and managed agricultural program. Last year the Saskatchewan Indian Agricultural Program enjoyed its most productive fiscal year, exceeding program objectives of upgrading existing farm units and creating new ones. Treasury Board approval of nearly 3 million dollars was received.

In 1976, 3.4 million dollars were generated from agriculture. Indian farmers cultivated 326 thousand acres of land and worked 315 thousand acres of natural pasture. In the last three years alone, more than 300 Indian people have successfully turned to farming. We have seen the beginning of Indian-organized 4-H Clubs and other youth-oriented programs.

Thirteen hundred licensed trappers in the north generated revenue of roughly 3.5 million dollars during 1976-77. It is expected that in 1979 the revenues from trapping will increase significantly. In addition, a variety of small business enterprises have been established. The major change that is now taking place in the Indian community is the concept of the development of wealth as opposed to the distribution of government appropriated funds.

It is becoming apparent that the Region cannot afford to maintain even existing low levels of support, quite apart from the cultural and social problems associated with dependency. An economic development approach must replace the economic support approach. Band reliance on the results of development must replace reliance on economic support. Happily, such a shift, which is financially necessary for the Department, coincides with the Indian people's desire to move in this direction, as expressed by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians:

"The broad objective within a development program must be to identify a configuration of institutions, programs, and support resources, that will support and assist development toward self-reliance."

Even more fortunate is that the need and desire to shift from support to development comes at an excellent time when the provincial economy is very healthy.

Appropriate economic development approaches must be developed band by band on the basis of band resource opportunities and economic goals. It is now recognized that economic development cannot be approached in isolation from cultural, social, educational, managerial, or physical development and that all of these must be directed by the Indian people affected. Under the Region's development thrust, planning efforts are directed to helping individual bands plan comprehensively. Over the past two years, bands in the region have made a significant stride in the field of community planning. Today there are 40 bands with organized on-going planning processes on their reserves. It is by respecting the Indians' abilities to manage their own affairs in general that the climate is set for allowing and encouraging economic autonomy. Development priorities, both among and with programs, will be set by band and regional direction plans.

Fig. 9:  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRENDS  
1965 - 1970 - 1979

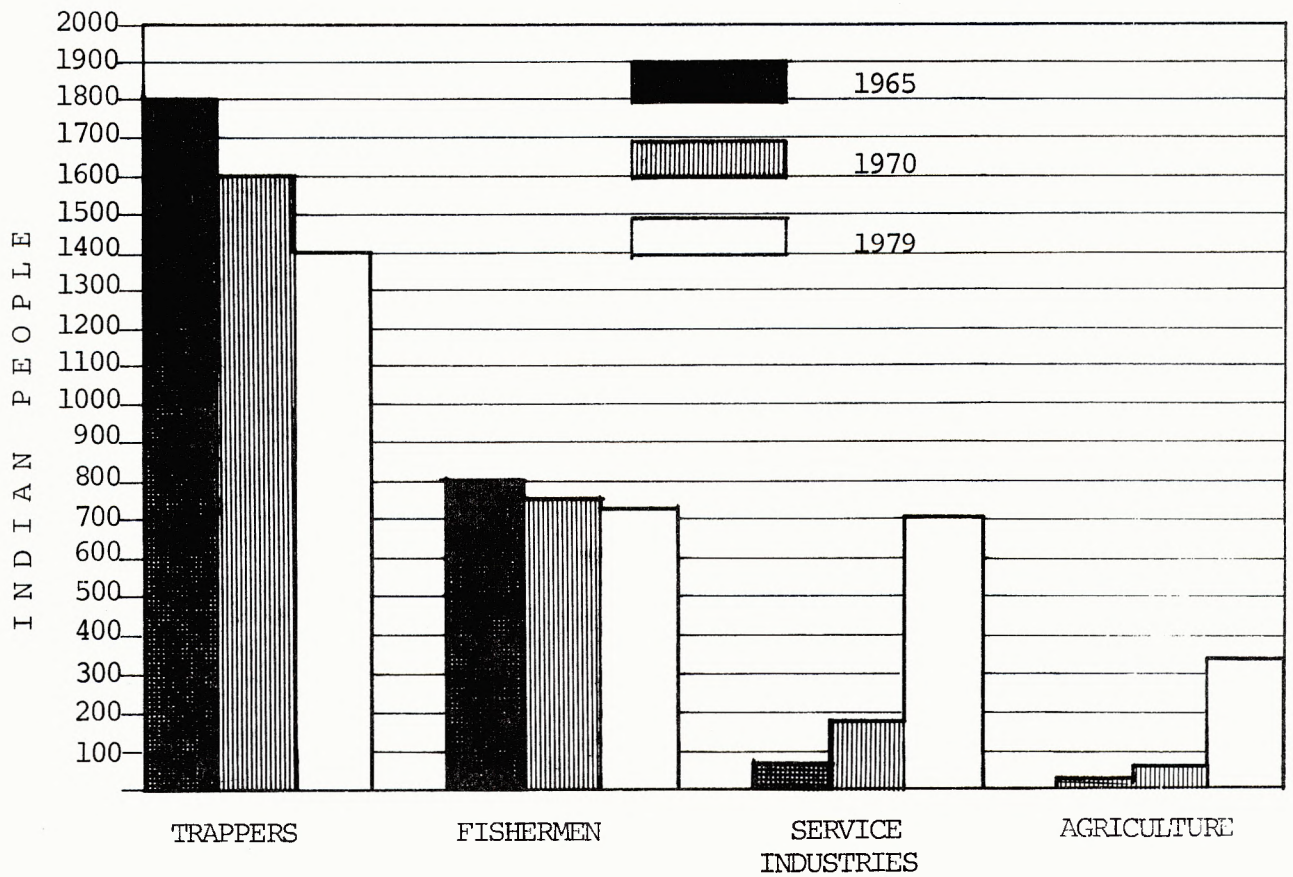


Fig. 10:  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
JOB CREATION TREND  
1968/69 - 1978/79  
(approximation)

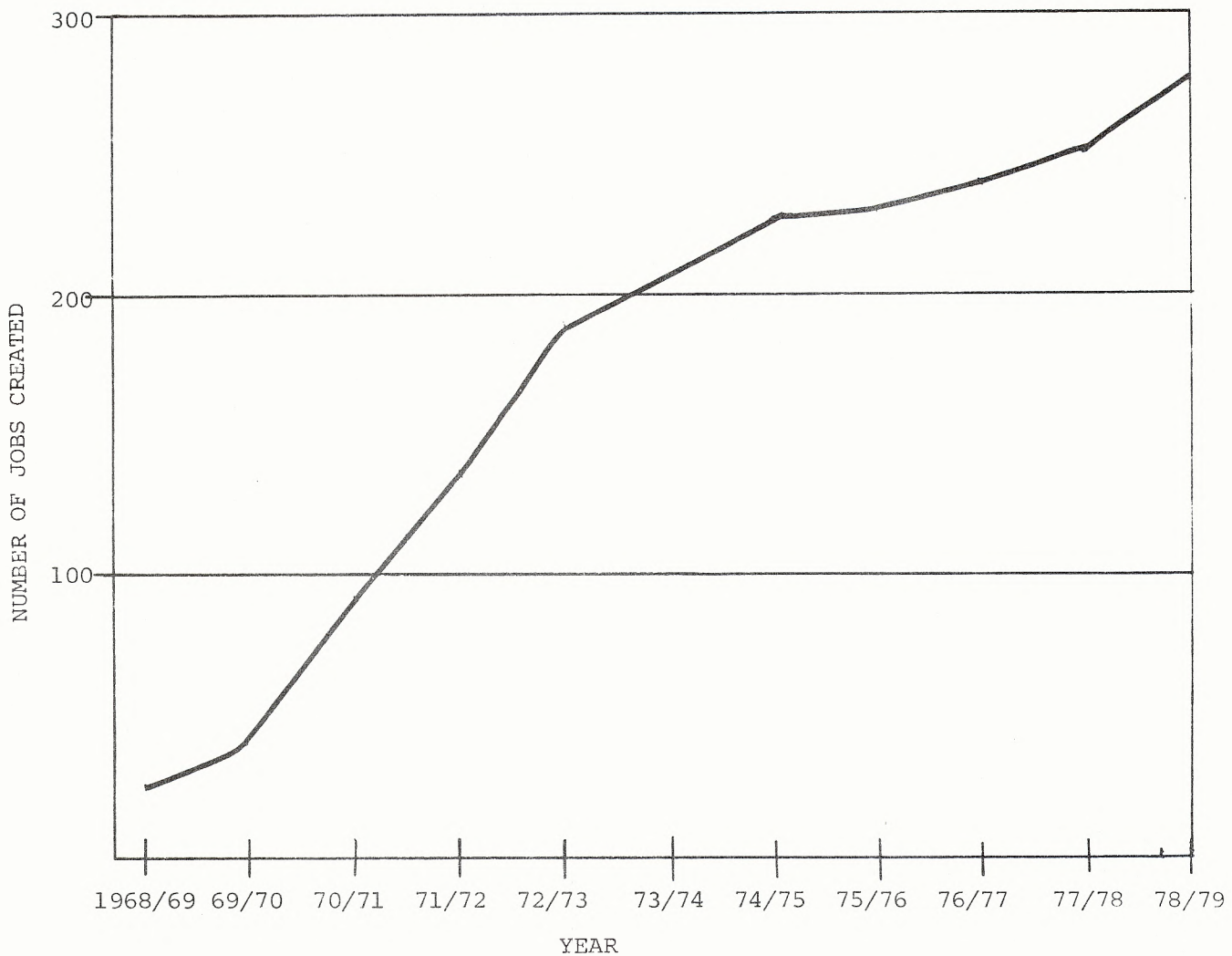
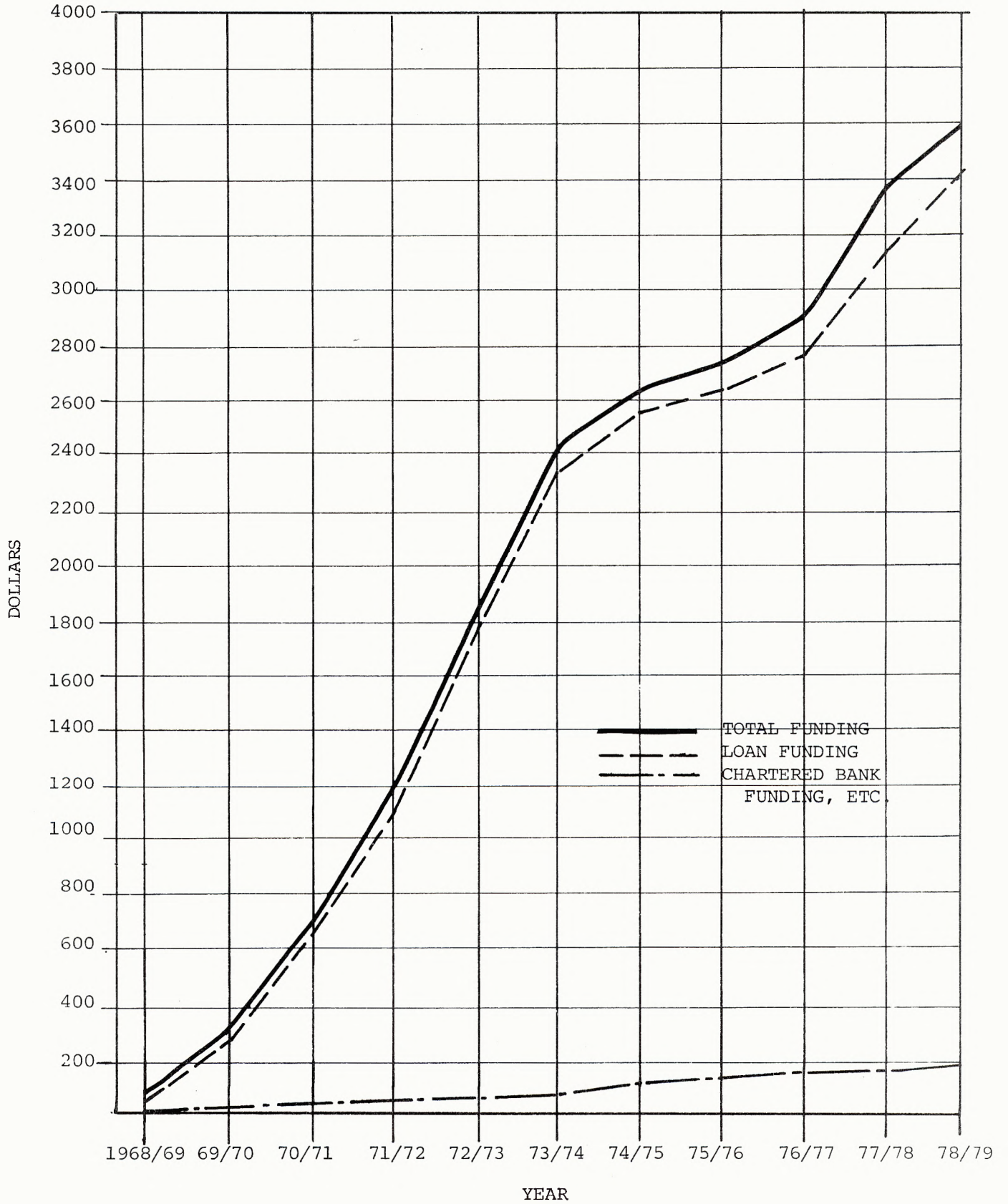


Fig. 11:  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMERCIAL LOAN TREND  
1968/69 - 1978/79  
(000's omitted)



### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

In order for our communities to take advantage of these developmental activities, we must continue to build a sound physical infrastructure. Considerable progress has recently been made in the field of capital construction.

The number of bands delivering their own program has increased and this trend is likely to continue. It is a rapid and remarkable transition in the space of a few years from minor involvement in a recreational program to administering large budgets for education, housing and community facilities.

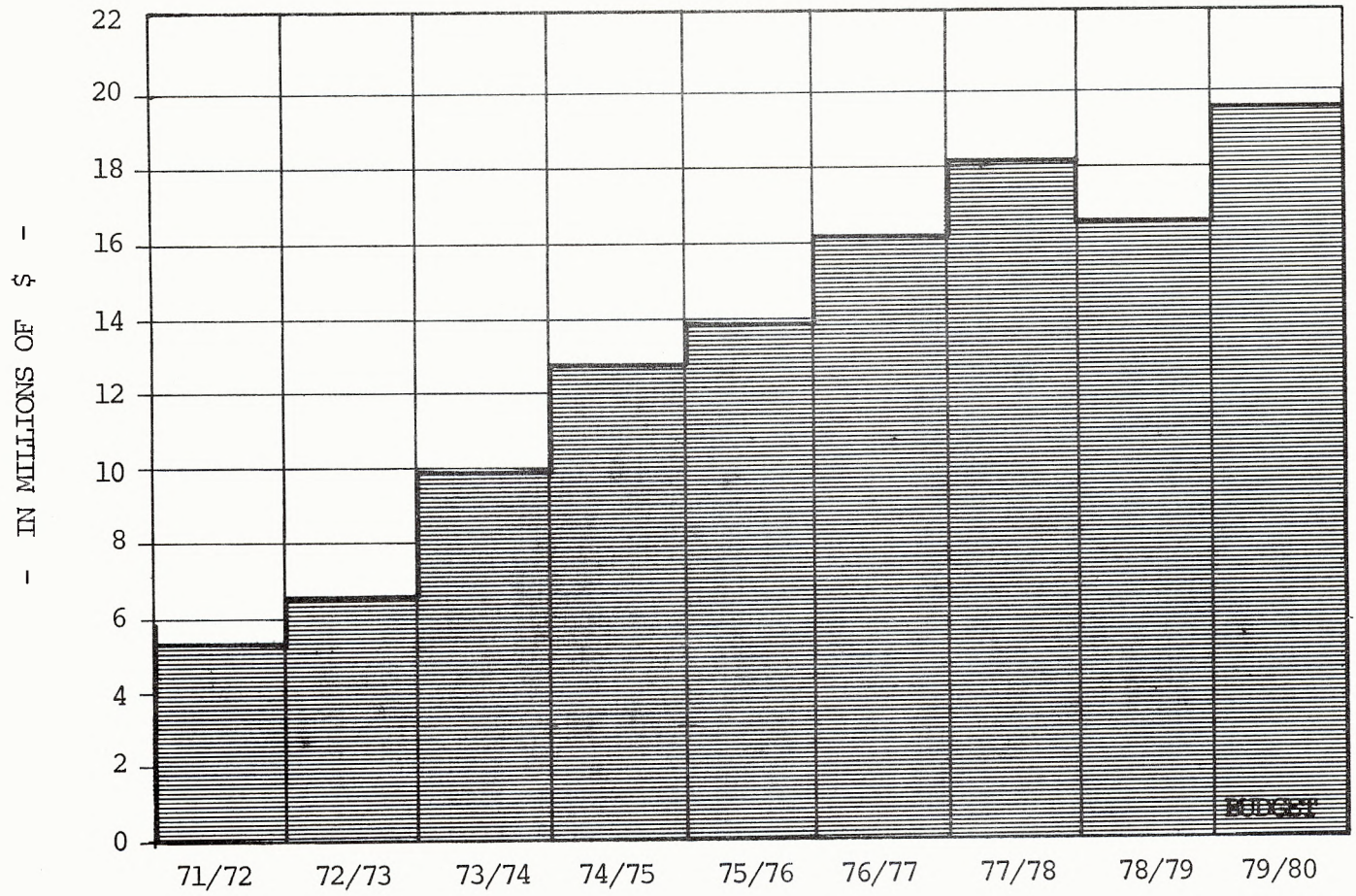
In the last eight years, fifteen new federal schools have been built and four new separate gymnasiums constructed. Five new schools are under construction and in varying stages of completion and plans call for the construction of eleven more new educational facilities in the near future. We have committed 8.4 million dollars for the construction of new educational facilities this year alone. This year's capital budget is one of the largest commitments of any Region in Canada. Nearly 20.5 million dollars has been earmarked for the construction of schools, houses and community facilities.

During the late 1950's and early 1960's, many Indian people lived in log houses and some of them still had sod roofs. Through the subsidy housing program and job creation programs from other Departments, as well as this one, housing conditions have improved substantially. There is, however, still a great backlog of houses to be constructed in order to replace the inadequate homes as well as to meet the requirement created by new family formations. Recently Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation amended legislation and this change should enable bands to take advantage of CMHC programs.

Very few on-reserve houses have sewer and water. During the 1980's, our goal must be to assist bands and individuals to provide sewer and water to all on-reserve homes.

The off-reserve housing program commenced during the mid-1960's and since that time in excess of 450 houses have been purchased by Indian people in urban centres in the Saskatchewan Region.

Fig. 12:  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE





### COMMUNITY LIFE

During the past ten to fifteen years, life styles in Indian communities have been modified with the greatest change taking place in communities where roads and electricity have been built or installed during this period. The positive aspects of electricity are easy to chart. Many people now have refrigeration, electric stoves, power washing machines and lights, which have improved the lifestyle of Indian community residents.

Electricity means the use of television. This powerful medium brings the activities of a larger society into Indian homes and changes the aspirations of the young people in the communities. Roads have provided necessary transportation links with the market place. On-reserve consumers now have easier and more direct access to a wider variety of goods and services at a reduced cost. There is, however, a negative aspect to an improved transportation network in that the community is immediately bombarded by enterprising salesmen, particularly in the used car business. An additional consequence on the social fabric of communities is easier access to drugs and alcohol.

Community life in the southern part has improved considerably through services such as bussing being provided for school children. Roads are much improved. All communities are serviced by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, and many homes now have telephones. Communities have also in many instances established community facilities, arenas, sports centres and gymnasias. Several communities in the province have their own stores and service stations.

The Saskatchewan Indian standard of living measured by contemporary economic indicators is lower than that of the general Saskatchewan population. However, when total lifestyle, rather than only income, is considered, Saskatchewan Indians enjoy a unique lifestyle which all too often is not understood by the non-Indian society. This failure on the part of society at large to appreciate Indian culture frequently results in expressions of discrimination. Faced with the problem of adapting to an unfamiliar environment that at times is hostile, Indian people frequently experience difficulty in negotiating the transition from reserve life to urban centres for purposes of training and employment.

However, Indian communities are gaining in responsibility, respect and independence. They are proving themselves to be financially, socially and culturally self-reliant. Bands are carrying out their own planning, setting their own priorities and controlling their own budgets. There has been steady growth in this area both in numbers of bands administering programs and the dollar value of these programs. This year virtually all of the Indian communities in Saskatchewan are administering some programs, together representing over 34 million dollars.

Each Indian community is taking stock of its own strengths and weaknesses, expressing its own problems and identifying its opportunities in light of its own uniquely expressed aspirations.

Many bands are witnessing a trend toward greater cultural, social and economic strength. There is greater community involvement in the planning and setting of priorities. And this is being done by depending less on Federal Government services and being less directly influenced by the government. Hard and fundamental questions are being asked about the need to move toward greater self-reliance and self-sufficiency. People are realizing that many responsibilities cannot be carried out by governments; they should be carried out by families and by the communities themselves. Though many environmental, social and economic problems still remain, there is good reason to believe that Indian communities will be able to solve their own problems on the basis of their growing cultural, social and economic strength.

To exercise their rights, Indian people must have the respect and tolerance of Canadian society. Nurturing that respect and fairness within the broader Canadian society is one of the responsibilities Regional Management is moving to assume. This also means a reorientation in the Department itself from being autocratic to being genuinely responsive to Indian initiatives.

In the last five years, efforts have been made in this Department to improve methods and systems to meet the challenge of the 1980's. We see our role as largely being that of assisting the elected leaders of Indian communities to meet the local responsibilities entrusted to them by the electorate. In other words, the Department has slowly begun to shift from its traditional role of attempting to control Indian people to one of responding to their initiatives, to assisting and advising. This is a major, fundamental, and important change for the better.

The role of Indian Affairs staff is to aid Indian communities not only with respect to the goals set by these communities for themselves, but also with respect to the approach each community sets for itself for working towards its goals. The Region's role is to provide opportunities for Indian communities to determine their goals and means in the light of the fullest and best information possible and then to provide opportunities for the communities to tell the Saskatchewan Region and Ottawa what these goals and selected means are. We must be responsive to the wishes of Indian people...not passively responsive, but actively indicating to Indian people our genuine desire to receive their advice and to learn to listen.

Through the co-operation and support of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians and the Chiefs of Saskatchewan, the process of strengthening management practices has begun. Planning, co-ordination, reporting, control and accountability are improving. A new regional management team involving program and district managers, Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, district representatives and district Chiefs is moving to wrestle with the issues at hand. The Department, with considerable input from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, has set up several review and evaluation committees in a number of strategic areas. This new mechanism will establish working consultative arrangements between the Chiefs and the Department. All of this will help in the development of a directional plan for Saskatchewan - an important concept if we are going to be successful in the 80's and beyond.

All Department activities are oriented to supporting development of Indian communities. The aim is to properly represent the aspirations of the Indian people of Saskatchewan.

STANDARD OF LIVING INDICATOR COMPARISONS  
FOR SASKATCHEWAN AND CANADIAN INDIANS AND  
SASKATCHEWAN NON-INDIAN POPULATIONS (1973)

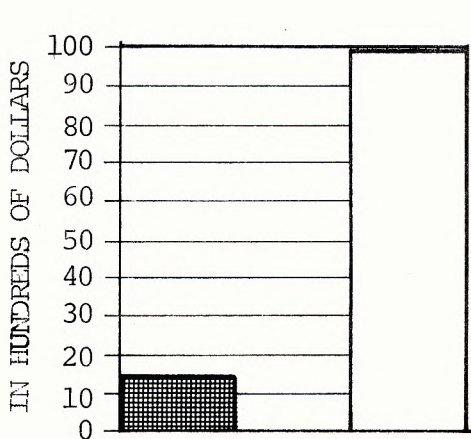
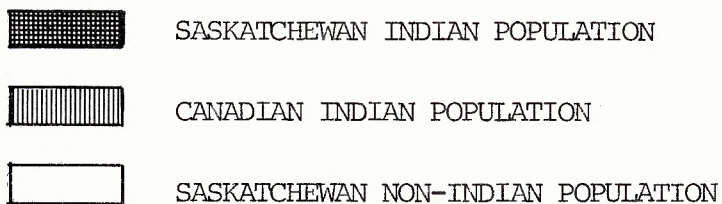


Fig. 13: AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME

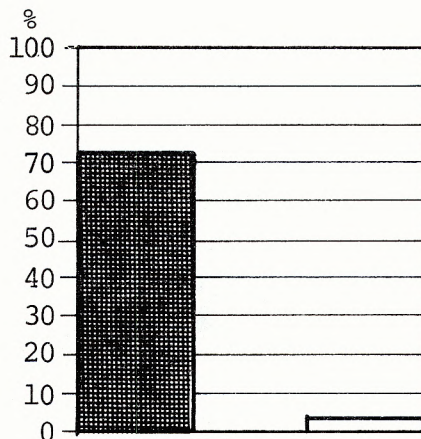


Fig. 14: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

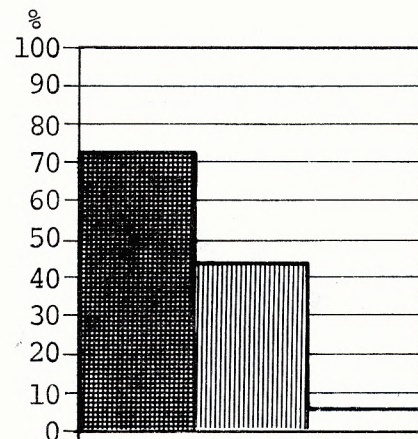


Fig. 15: WELFARE DEPENDENCE

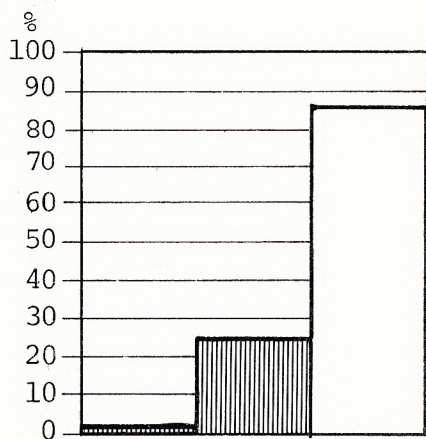


Fig. 16: HOUSES WITH SEWER OR SEPTIC TANK

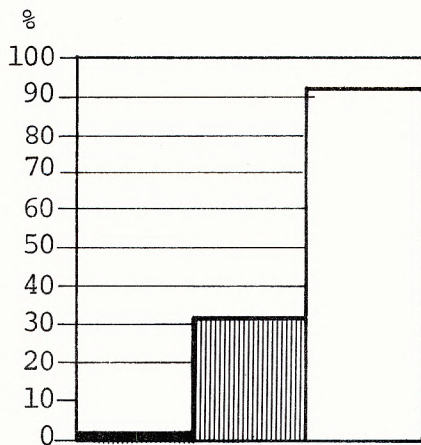


Fig. 17: HOUSES WITH RUNNING WATER

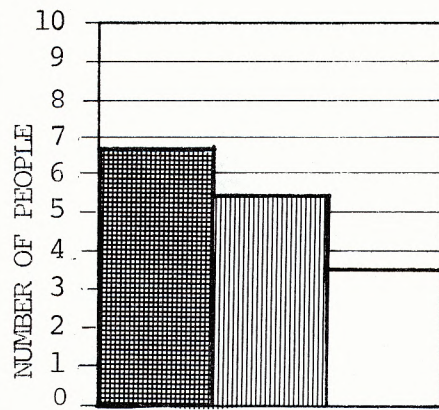


Fig. 18: AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HOUSE

INDIAN BAND GOVERNMENT

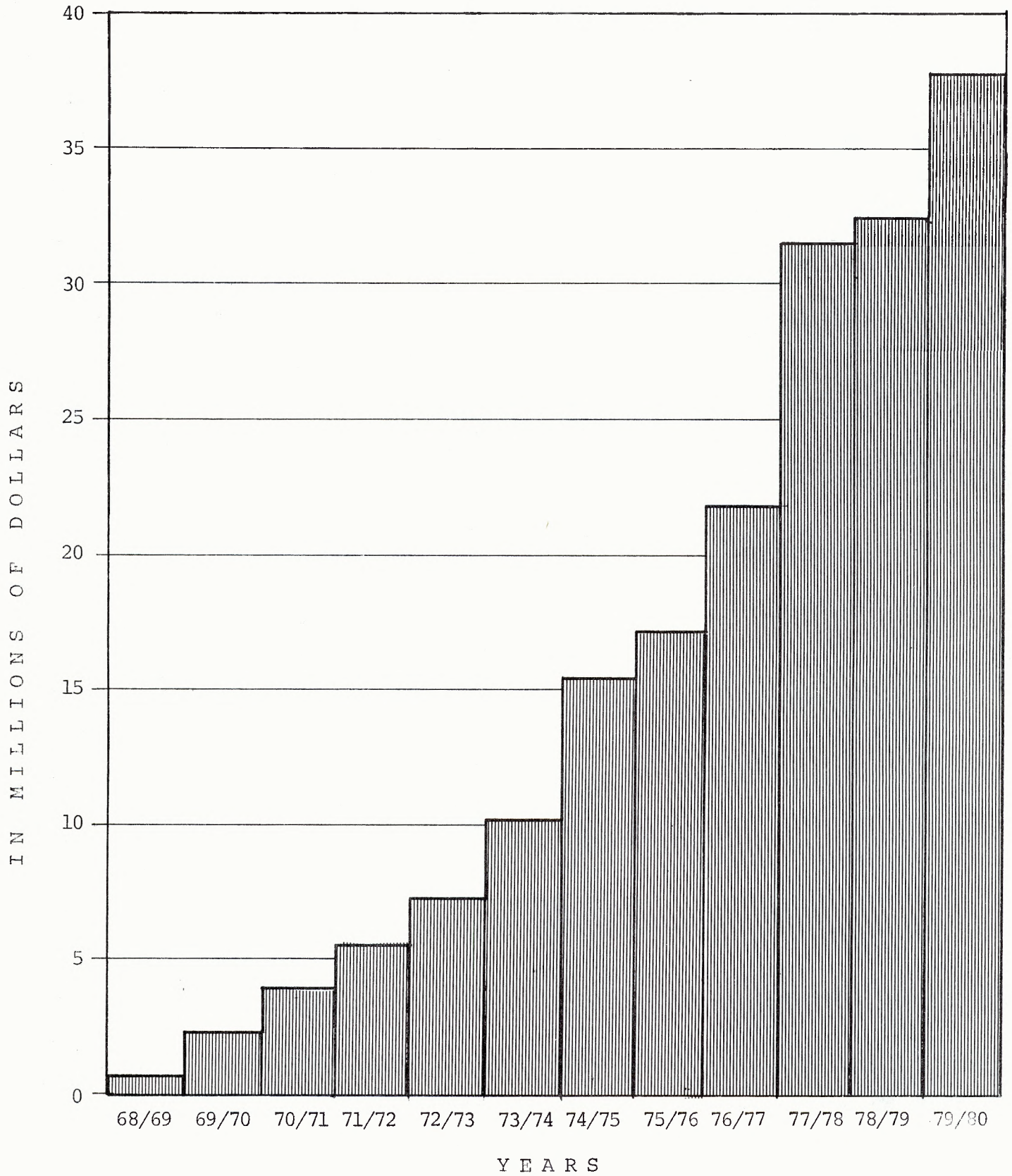
Band leadership has over the past 13 years been developing. Prior to the mid 1960's, most leaders were traditional and many were products of the residential school system. More recently, through training and with the support of their Indian institutions, many younger leaders have emerged. These leaders have the ability to cope with the senior governments and with new concepts but also have a respect, appreciation, and understanding of the treaties, the Indian Act, and Indian culture.

Chiefs of Saskatchewan, who together form the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, have developed an Indian organization characterized by effective and efficient leadership, planning, research and developmental capability.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indians has been instrumental in carrying out the research which enabled 15 bands to get in excess of 900 thousand acres of land certified as an entitlement under the treaties. Their Executive, with the support of the bands, has been successful in creating important Indian institutions, such as the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College, the Saskatchewan Indian Community College and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. While the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians has important responsibilities that impact not only on the provincial scene but also at the national level through their association with the National Indian Brotherhood, the primary focus of their activities is geared to band development.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, Bands were not managing any programs which provided services to the band members. The Grants to Bands Program, which was initiated in 1966, later followed by the Contributions to Bands Program, has enabled Bands to establish administrative units capable of managing programs and the establishment of the Core Fund has enabled the development of Band Councils who in fact can take the time to provide the necessary leadership. In Saskatchewan, Bands now administer in excess of \$34 million per year.

Fig. 19:  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO BANDS



## EDUCATION

A significant part of this Indian progress has been achieved through the development of Indian education. During the 1950's, Indian reserves were making the transition from the use of student residences to the use of small Indian day schools in Indian communities. During the 1960's, the trend was to enter into joint school agreements with provincial boards and transport children to surrounding town schools. Since 1970, we have in Saskatchewan constructed 15 schools on Indian reserves and, although there are still 5,000 children in provincial schools, the enrollment in Indian-controlled schools and federally operated schools on reserves is increasing.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, the majority of Indian children left school at about the Grade 5 or 6 level with very few progressing beyond Grade 8. During the late 1960's, most children progressed to Grade 8 or 9 and then discontinued. Today, the majority of Indian youngsters complete their Grade 10 and we now have many more graduates, not only from provincial schools but from federally operated and Band-operated schools as well.

The following significant trends in developing responsibility for education to the Indian people over the past five years are noteworthy: seven bands have taken over the administration of the education program and requests have been received from several other bands for the same. Most bands are administering a significant portion of their education program. All student residences have Indian Advisory Boards, and one residence is operated by Indian people incorporated under the Societies Act.

Six years ago, approximately 60 per cent of the Indian children were attending provincial schools, whereas the situation today is approximately 48 per cent in provincial and 52 per cent in federal/band schools.

There has been a notable increase in band staff employed in the education program including Teacher Associates, Language Instructors, and Indian Guidance Counsellors. The number of such staff totals approximately 176.

There has been the establishment of Indian-controlled educational institutions; i.e., the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College, the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College and the Saskatchewan Indian Community College. Also initial presentations have been made by the Federation for the establishment of an Indian regional library to provide service to all bands.

Increasing numbers of Indians are proceeding to higher levels of formal education. For instance, university and professional school enrollments have increased from 92 to 360 over the last five years. In part, this has been due to the development of special university programs based on the special cultural and academic needs of Indian students. However, Indian formal education levels are still lower than those of non-Indians.

The Indian school-age population is growing much faster than the non-Indian school-age population. The construction of modern educational facilities to serve this growing population will require additional dollars for their continued operations and maintenance.



Fig. 20:

ENROLLMENT IN FEDERAL, BAND AND PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS

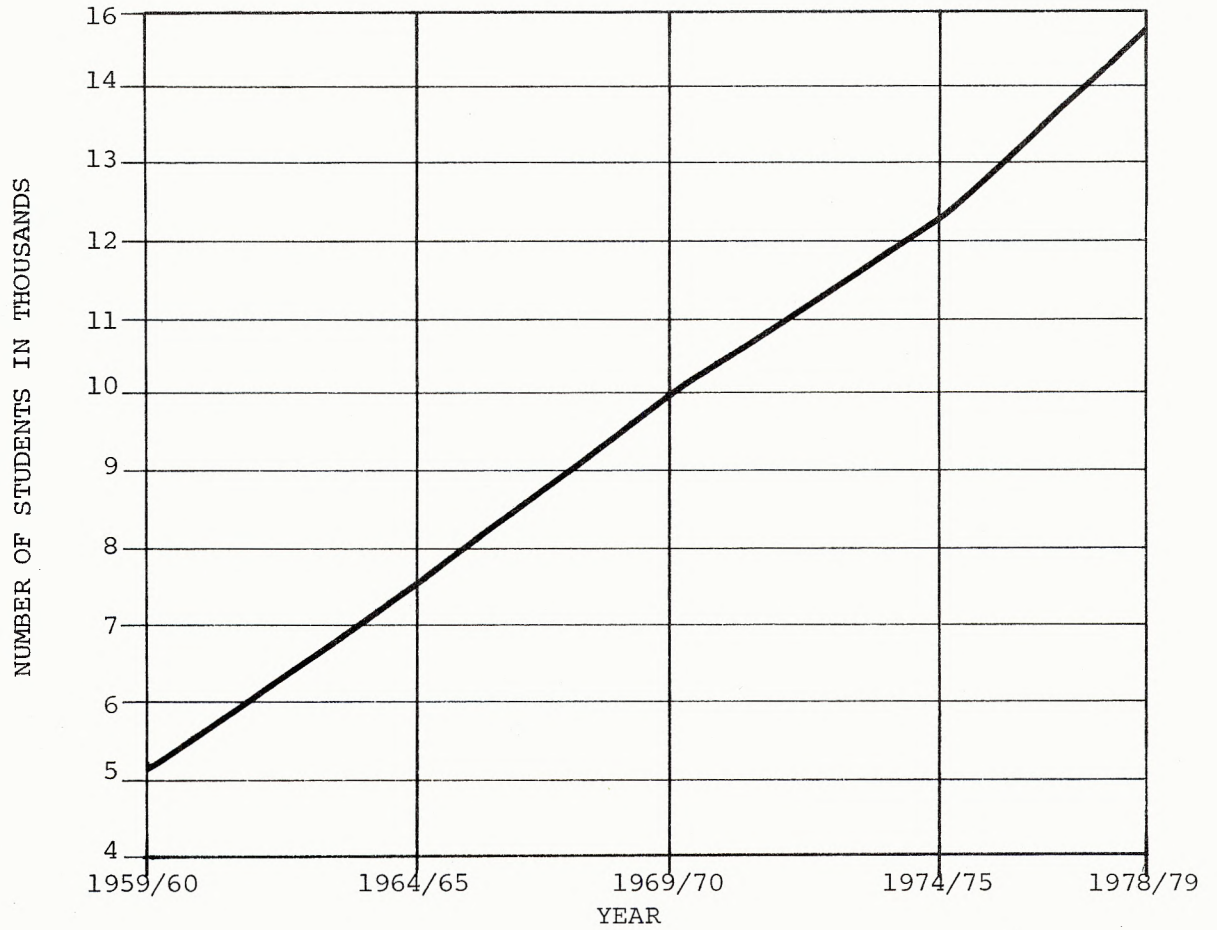


Fig. 21:

POST SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Note: 1968-70 indicates full-time students

1970-75 indicates full-time and part-time students

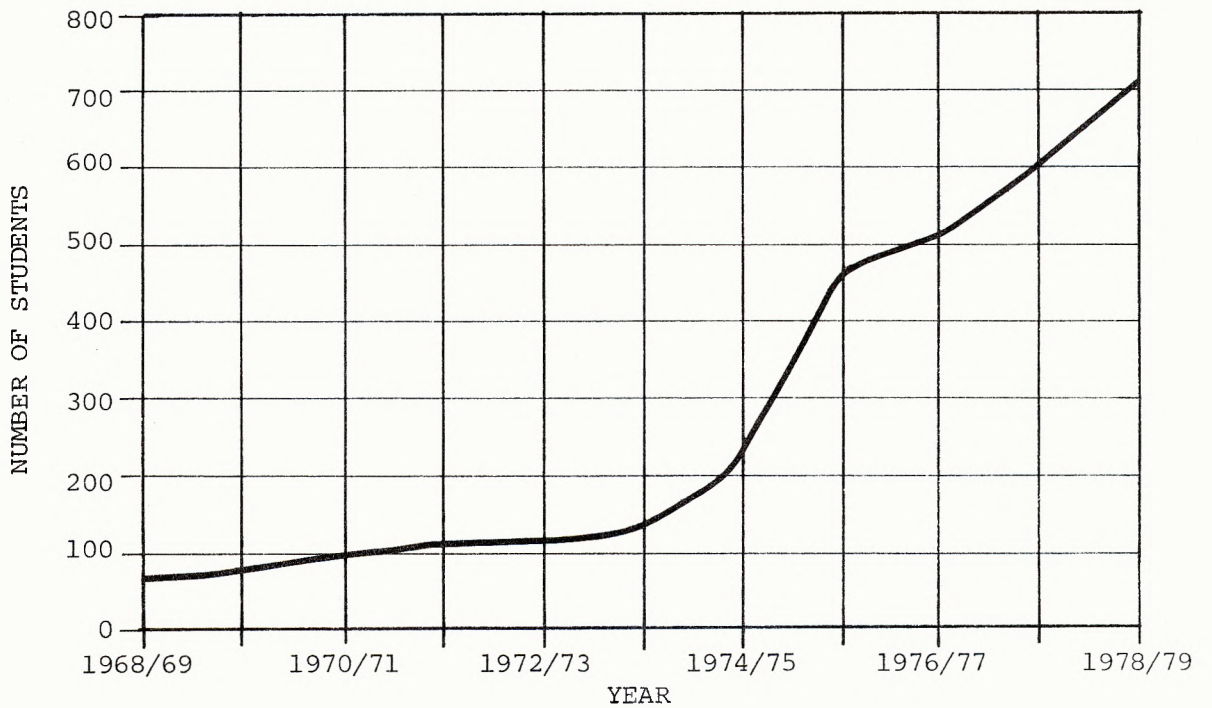
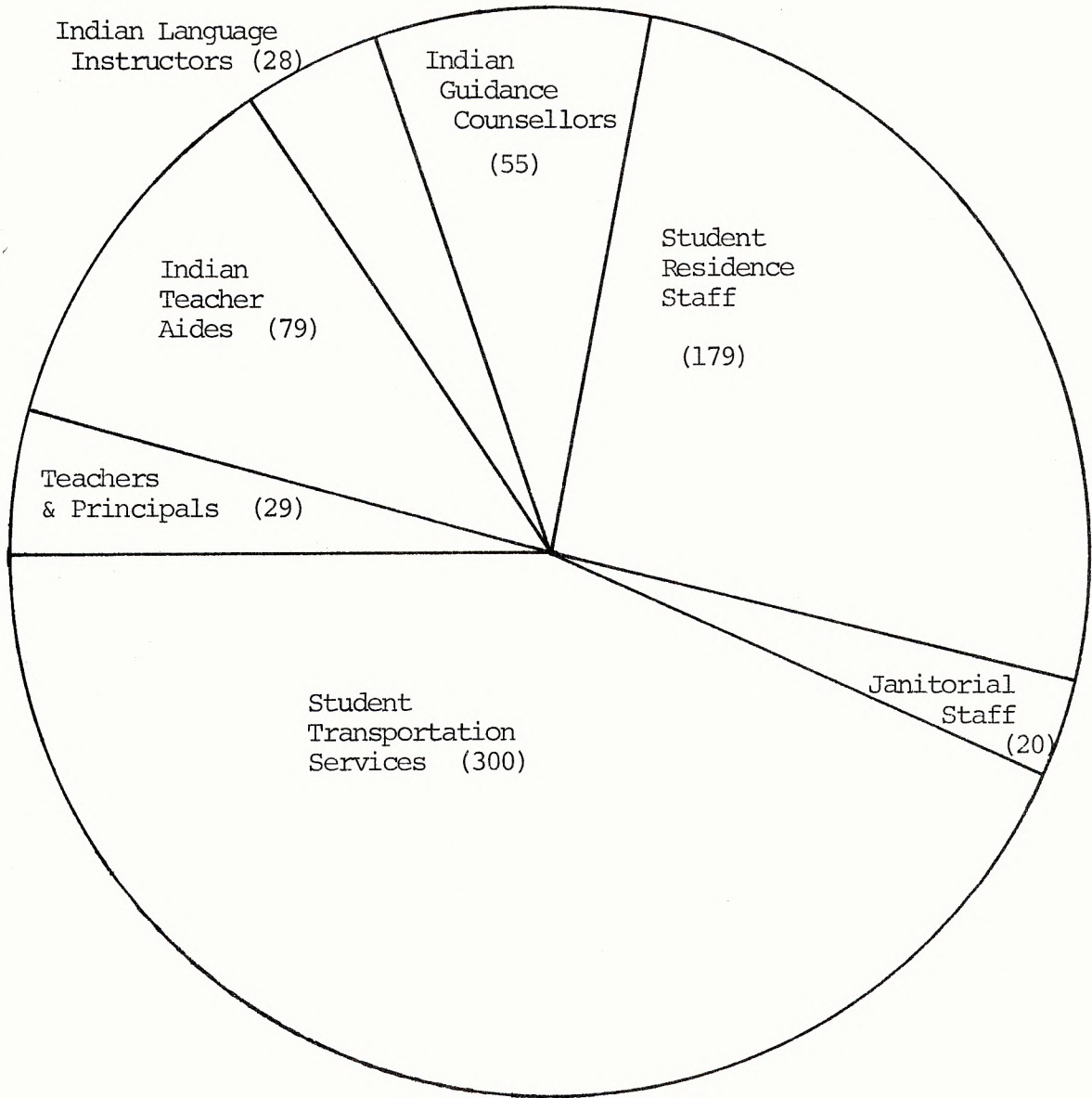


Fig. 22:  
INDIANS EMPLOYED IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

1978 - 79



TOTAL - 690 PEOPLE

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

During the late 1950's, Indian people who were destitute received rations in the form of basic staples. This was in 1960 changed to the issuance of social assistance through the form of a purchase order. A further step in this development was that purchase orders have now been discontinued and for the past several years cheques are issued to recipients. Because of changes in the farm community where labourers are required and because of the highly skilled nature of urban jobs, there is a greater dependency on social assistance today than there was 15 years ago. However, with the increased education among Indian people and with more jobs available on reserves, the escalating caseload is now dropping and should, during the next decade, be reduced considerably.

Morbidity rates of a social character have increased, primarily because of alcohol, which in many cases leads to fires and accidental deaths in car accidents.

Fifteen years ago, the majority of the child care required was provided by nine student residences in the Saskatchewan Region and by placing children in foster homes. Today we are using seven student residences; however, only four of them are used for children who are there because of home conditions, but we also have approximately 700 children in foster homes and the province is maintaining an additional 700 children through their plan. The high welfare dependency reflects the same conditions that account for a high criminal conviction rate.

While basic welfare needs continue to be met, the increase in social assistance has led to reductions in preventative social services programs. Further, the province of Saskatchewan has continued to reduce services offered to Indian people, both on and off the reserve. Their position that Indians are a responsibility of the federal government has become more adamant. It is an important point that where the lack of family and community cohesion results in large numbers of broken or incomplete families, women have even fewer options than men on the reserve.

Although Saskatchewan as a province has been in the forefront of social services and education, the responsibility for Indian people rests with the federal government in this area. Social services provided by the Department have fallen behind both the Saskatchewan non-Indian and the Canadian averages. A review and adjustment is seriously required in this program. Further social service support must be replaced by a social development approach if these grievous conditions are to be reversed.

HEALTH

Health services to Indian people in Saskatchewan are provided through Medical Services and through the Saskatchewan health program. Indian Affairs, as such, is not directly involved in the provision of health services except when an individual or a Band complain that services are inadequate, then we become involved in negotiations with Medical Services. Health services to Saskatchewan Indian people have been improving. However, the general health of Indian people is still below that of the province as a whole.

Many Bands are developing health clinics on reserves in their administration offices and others are requesting clinics in new school facilities; National Health and Welfare and Indian Affairs are co-operating with the Bands in the development of these facilities.

Fig. 23:  
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE CASE LOAD

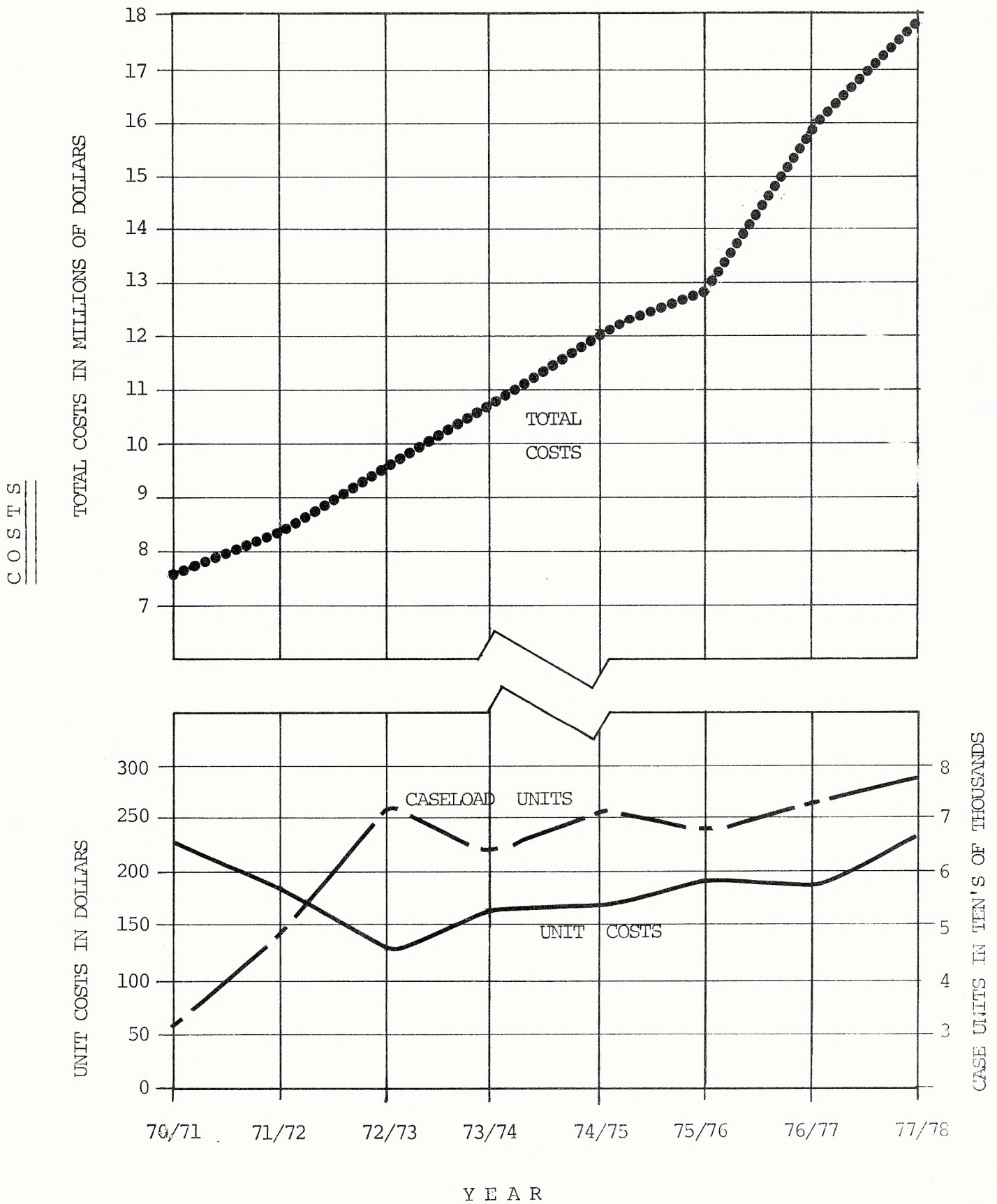
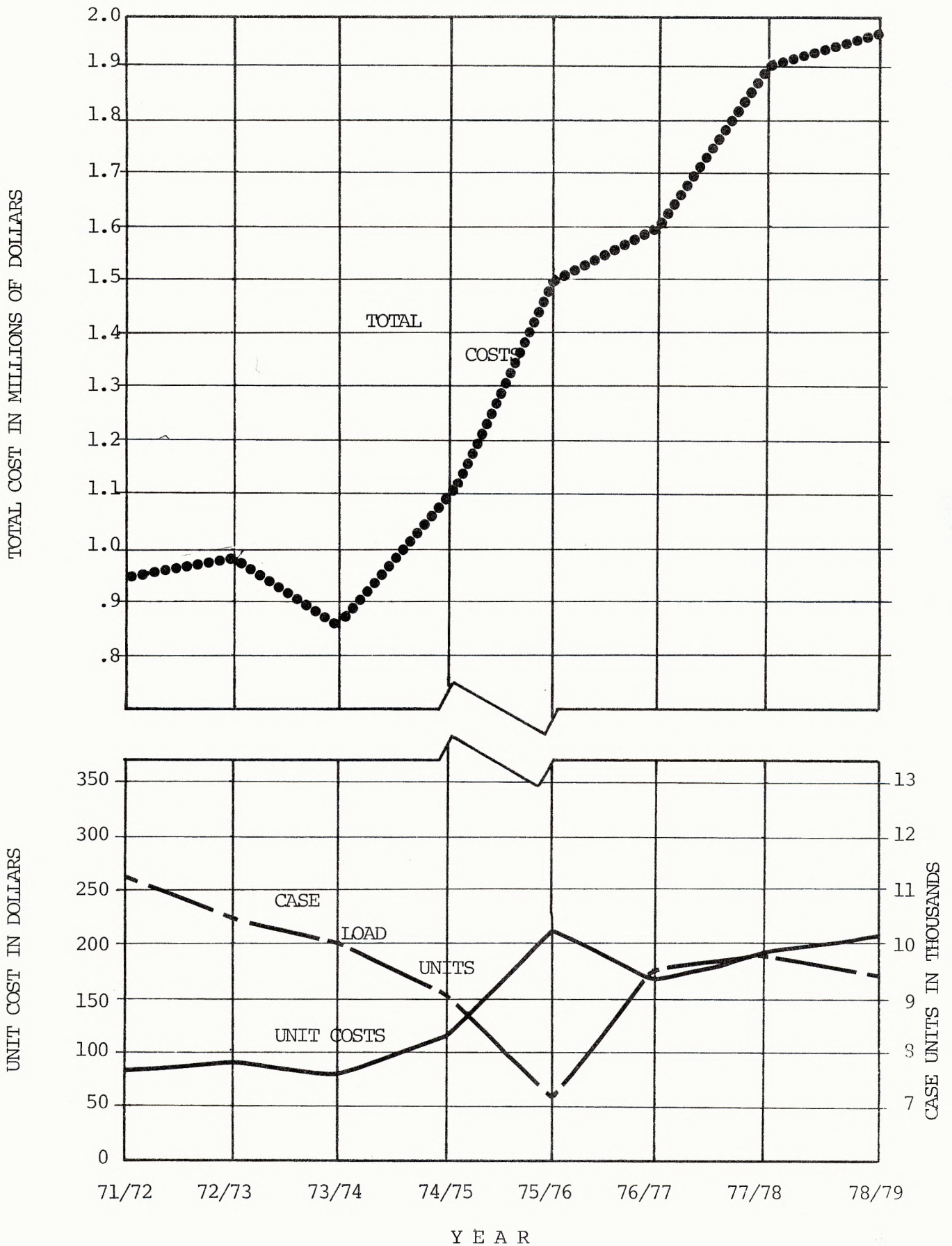


Fig. 24:  
CHILD CARE

C O S T S

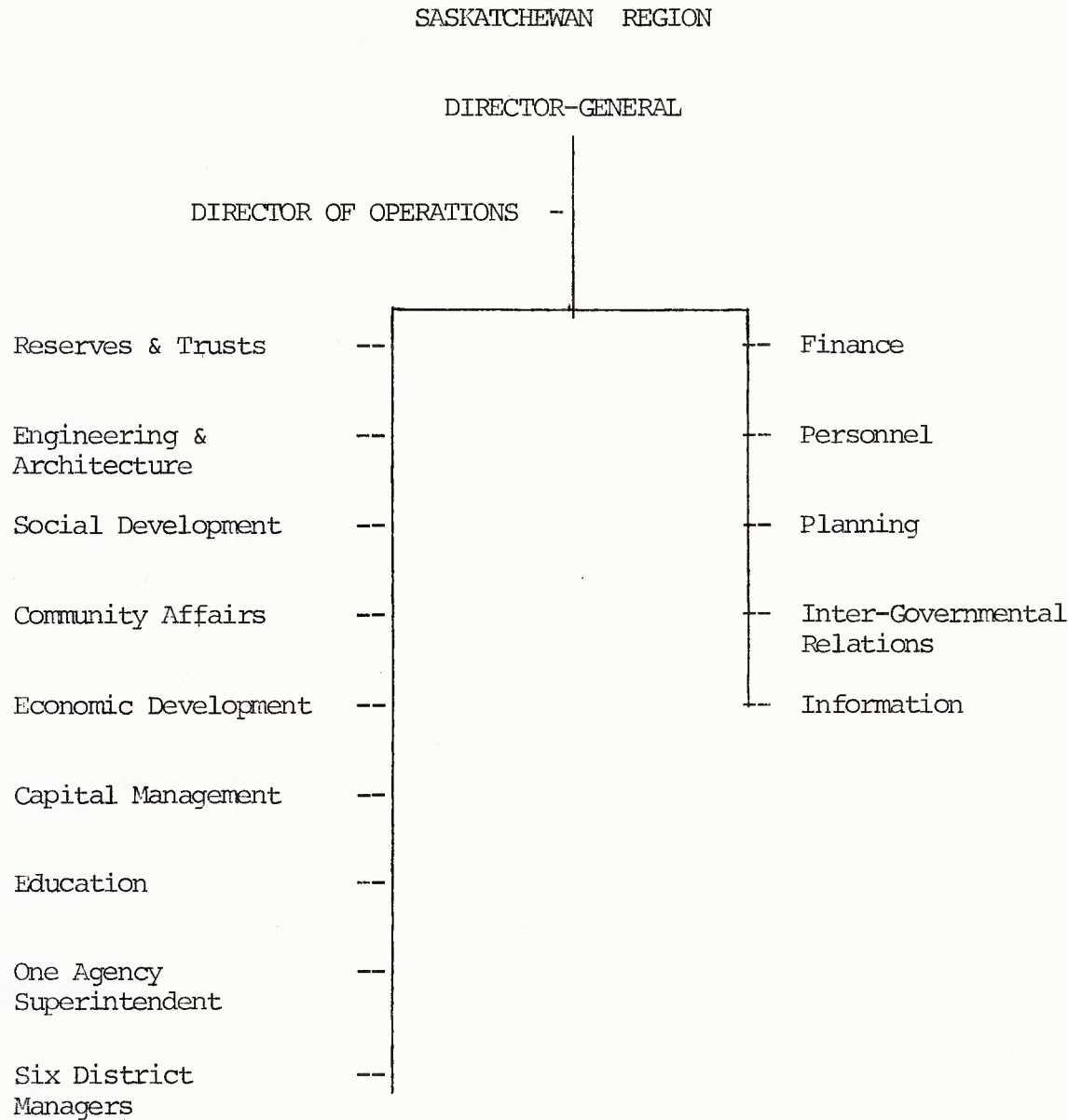


ORGANIZATION SASKATCHEWAN REGION

Until 1969, the Saskatchewan Region was divided into nine Indian Agencies for administrative purposes. During the ensuing three years, the Region was reorganized and divided into five Districts. Shortly afterwards, the North Battleford District was split into two, which brought about the creation of the Meadow Lake District, and four Bands in the Saskatoon District requested and received an administrative district referred to as the Shellbrook Indian Agency. Today, in Saskatchewan, we have six Districts and one Indian Agency.

In the late 1950's, early 1960's, departmental field staff were generalists. During the 1960's, professional educators were employed as District Superintendents of Education and Education Counsellors were also added to District Offices. Early in the 1970's, Economic Development specialists were engaged as were Band Management Officers with experience and training in the development of local governments. Finance and Personnel were also strengthened during the late 1960's and early 1970's with specialists. We have, in the course of fifteen years, moved from generalists to specialists.

Fig. 25:





### GENERAL CONCLUSION

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indians is in the forefront in demanding that Indian Affairs place its primary objective in the delivery of services to Indian people in ways which respect Indian aspirations. For a number of years relationships between the Indian people and the Region were strained and occasionally acrimonious. Recently, interaction has taken on more of a mutual consultative rather than a confrontational temper. In part, this is due to a shift in policies of the Indian Affairs program in general, and in those of the Saskatchewan Region in particular. We are witnessing today the continuing evolution of the meeting of two cultures, the interaction of two peoples with different backgrounds but with many common values and aspirations.

We have seen interactions that have been beneficial; we have seen those which have been destructive. And now we stand on the threshold of an era of greater understanding, mutual respect, and genuine sharing of knowledge, the basis of which has been established in the last decade.

We in Saskatchewan would like to think that at the turn of the century, in the year 2000, an historian will write about the experiences that we are living through. Hopefully he would say that in Saskatchewan the Indian people were blessed with good leadership and management that created the dreams and transformed these dreams into action. He might also say that the decade of the 1980's was a time when Indians and non-Indians reached a level of understanding and co-operation that had never been seen before in the history of the province, and that this relationship led to a period of systematic and orderly progress as the Indian people planned and created a better future.