

March 5, 1969

Sixty-Second Edition

SIX NATIONS NEWS

New Health Services For Indians Planned

Health Minister John Munro says health services for Indians are being improved immediately and Indian liaison officers recruited to see that the federal health department knows the needs and effectiveness of the program.

He told a closed conference of regional health directors that provincial Indian brotherhoods will be asked to appoint liaison officers for which the department will make a \$10,000 grant covering salary and expenses.

"The role of the liaison officer will be to report to their brotherhood, myself, and to this department on Indian health needs in that particular province and to examine whether our policies are getting through to the people served."

One officer, Norbert McIvor, has already been named by the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood.

A later step in the plan is to form a national advisory council of health for Indians, representing the provincial brotherhoods. It will meet twice yearly to discuss liaison reports with the Minister and senior medical services officers.

Mr. Munro said he expects authorization soon to boost pay scales for new nursing station personnel and preliminary work is being done on a new pay structure, reflecting wider responsibilities and isolated postings of such personnel.

In addition, he hoped more nursing stations will be built in areas served only by lay dispensers, non-professionals authorized to dispense drugs.

Meanwhile, \$500,000 was being provided to build better radio communications between lay dispensers and nursing stations.

The department was working on a five-year plan covering 1970-75 to meet specific health goals for Indians. The Indians were mostly being treated differently than other citizens. They should be treated the same.

"Indians should have access to any health facility within reach, and the provinces should exercise the same financial obligations which they undertake for their other citizens."

Tap Water Soon At Ohsweken

With a little luck, residents here will be able to turn on water faucets in a few weeks time and get water.

The village water system is near completion now and workmen will begin testing mains in the community in the next few days.

Cost of the system is set at \$233,827, with the Indian Affairs branch paying for the utility.

(continued)