

## Section 2.—Education in the Territories\*

**Northwest Territories.**—Education in the Northwest Territories is carried on under authority of the Northwest Territories Act, the School Ordinance and the Regulations thereunder, and the Indian Act and the Regulations thereunder. Day schools for non-Indian children are operated by the Northern Administration and Lands Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources at Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Resolution and Fort Simpson where the inhabitants are predominantly of white and of mixed blood. Day schools for the education of Eskimos are also operated by that Branch at Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Coppermine, Chesterfield Inlet, Cape Dorset and Coral Harbour in the Northwest Territories, and at Fort Chimo and Port Harrison in the Province of Quebec.

The Roman Catholic Church operates residential schools at Aklavik, Fort Providence and Fort Resolution, and mission day schools at Fort Simpson and Fort Smith; the Church of England operates a residential school at Aklavik. The mission authorities of these churches and other mission organizations also conduct schools for Eskimos at a number of points in the eastern, central and western Arctic and in northern Quebec. Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited at Port Radium and the Discovery Yellowknife Mine in the Mackenzie District also operate day schools.

The only organized school districts are the Yellowknife Public School District No. 1 and the Yellowknife Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 2. The Public School District, established in 1939, operates a modern eleven-classroom elementary and high school which was opened in 1947. The Separate School District was established in 1951 and operates a four-classroom school.

A Superintendent of Schools, with headquarters at Fort Smith, periodically inspects the schools of the Mackenzie District. These schools follow the program of studies for elementary and secondary schools authorized by the Alberta Department of Education. In remote areas, elementary and high school students have access to correspondence-course studies issued by the educational authorities of Alberta and the cost is borne by the Territorial Administration. An inspection of all school facilities for Eskimo children in the Canadian Arctic is made annually by an Education Officer from Ottawa.

A modified elementary school curriculum is followed by some of the federal schools for Eskimos by way of meeting the unique needs in the Arctic regions, and a suitable curriculum for teaching Eskimo children in mission schools is being considered. Because of their nomadic way of life, Eskimos seldom remain long at the settlements and the periods available to the missions for teaching the children are comparatively short. The Eskimos of the Eastern Arctic have long had a system of syllabic writing (expressed as geometric phonetic characters) which most of them can read and write proficiently. Syllabic writing has been used successfully to provide educational material in the Eskimo language on health matters, hygiene and native economics for the benefit of both children and adults. It is hoped that the establishment of schools in Eskimo territory will be influential in teaching the Eskimos to understand, speak and read simple English.

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