

Family allowances are paid to most Eskimos in kind from a list designed to supplement rather than supplant the normal native diet. Eskimos also enjoy the full benefits of old age security and assistance payments and of allowances for blind persons. Missions, assisted by Federal Government grants, operate hospitals at Aklavik, Chesterfield Inlet, Fort Rae, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Pangnirtung, and the Department of National Health and Welfare has nursing stations at Cambridge Bay, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson, Fort Norman, Tuktoyaktuk, Coppermine, Frobisher Bay, Lake Harbour, Cape Dorset, Hall Lake, Fort Chimo, Port Harrison and Great Whale River. Tuberculosis and other medical surveys are carried out from year to year and treatment where necessary is provided either at the hospitals within the territory or at larger institutions outside.

The Arctic Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources studies and deals with Eskimo problems. Many Eskimos have taken advantage of unprecedented opportunities for wage employment with mining companies, on the Mid-Canada and DEW radar lines, in transportation and communications, in government construction and with traders and missionaries. In some communities, the shift from the traditional trapping-hunting economy has been very sharp. While raising living standards, wage employment has added to the immediate problems of adjustment. Markets are being found in southern Canada for specialty Arctic foods and other Arctic products. Co-operatives are being introduced to give the Eskimos a greater degree of economic self-sufficiency and to provide education in the social and economic factors that govern their lives.

Increased activity in the North has required an enlarged field staff. Northern service officers, community development officers, and social workers are posted at Frobisher Bay, Cape Dorset, Fort Chimo, Great Whale River, Churchill, Baker Lake, Tuktoyaktuk, Sugluk, Aklavik, Rankin Inlet, Eskimo Point and Cambridge Bay. Some are assigned to the DEW Line to give guidance and assistance to Eskimos newly taking up wage employment; others work in remote areas where the full impact of an industrial society has yet to be felt.

At Frobisher Bay on southern Baffin Island, a Rehabilitation Centre is in operation training former Eskimo patients who, for various reasons, are no longer able to support themselves on the land. By developing special skills, they will again become productive members of society.

Projects, mainly on an experimental basis, are being carried out in order to expand and diversify the Eskimo economy. Handicrafts not only provide revenue but also a means of cultural self-expression. Reindeer herding in the Mackenzie Delta, animal husbandry at Fort Chimo, eiderdown collecting on Baffin Island and Ungava Bay, fishing at Eskimo Point and Frobisher Bay, sealskin tanning, boat-building, and the manufacture of Arctic clothing are a few of the undertakings. Studies to improve Eskimo housing are also in progress. Eskimos in overpopulated or depleted areas are encouraged and assisted to move to areas where game is more plentiful or where employment is available. A fund has been established from which loans may be made to assist Eskimos to carry out approved projects.

Since 1945, the Government has built fourteen schools primarily for Eskimo children. They are at centres spreading from the Mackenzie Delta to northern Quebec. Missions assisted by government grants also operate schools in thirteen Eskimo settlements. By the use of existing buildings the Government was able to establish three additional schools for Eskimos in 1958. Vocational training courses for Eskimos have been started in the south to help develop their mechanical aptitudes and to provide new opportunities for employment. A school and hostel went into operation at Fort Smith in January 1958 and in September the first federally owned composite high school and vocational school in the Territories was opened at Yellowknife and a new hostel opened its doors at Fort McPherson. A school and two hostels are under construction at Inuvik (Aklavik East 3) and additional hostels are planned for Fort Simpson and Frobisher Bay.