

of Ungava Bay, and Great Whale River on the east side of Hudson Bay—do Eskimos and Indians share the same community. By tradition, treeline is the southern boundary for the Inuit while for the Indian people treeline has been a limit north of which they have not chosen to live.

Today the Canadian Eskimos and the vast forbidding land in which they live have begun to emerge as a fresh force in national development. The more than a million and a half square miles that comprise the Yukon and Northwest Territories and include all the Arctic islands extending northward from the mainland to the North Pole are being actively appraised for their resource potential. The geological structure underlying the tundra and the polar seas is being determined and recorded. The government is building roads over muskeg and permafrost, wrestling—slowly and at great cost—the ground transportation problem, which is the toughest and most basic of all the problems of northern development. The oil industry, already with a substantial investment in the sub-Arctic, is vitally interested in increasing that investment by searching the Arctic regions for new sources. Over 180,000,000 acres in the sedimentary basins of the Yukon and Northwest Territories are now under oil and gas exploration permit. Appraising the resources of the North and developing and marketing those resources will take longer and most certainly will cost more than such developments elsewhere in Canada, but for a region that has for so long lain unknown and untouched, the changes of the past few years are rapid indeed, and basically responsible for those changes is the present-day efficiency and versatility of air transport.

Few areas of the country, even in the barren wastes of the North, are now inaccessible. Although thousands of square miles are still considered remote, the main centres are only flying time away from the great commercial cities of the south; Frobisher Bay, for example, is a mere day's flight from Montreal, and Aklavik about nine hours from Edmonton. Multi-engined aircraft are flying the polar routes to and from Europe. The meteorological and communication stations that dot the North, the survey crews and the small settlements are served by aircraft so that landing strips are Main Street to much of the Arctic and movement by air more familiar to the inhabitants than any other form of transport.

These happenings in the North are some of the reasons why life for the Inuit is changing and some of the reasons why new opportunities for employment are opening up for them and why they must be trained to take advantage of them. Change has not come to the Eskimos in all areas at the same pace. Social change seldom works that way but comes in a series of segments, large and small, which, when merged together, resolve into new patterns. But regardless of speed, no aspect of development north of treeline has aroused keener public interest than the position of the Eskimo people. Their fellow Canadians, though sometimes divided as to how the Inuit should be equipped to adapt to change, are united in wanting them to have all the help they need. Inuk, as a man, is known to relatively few persons outside the Arctic, but he belongs to a race that is exceptionally well regarded.

The Canadian Government, through the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the agency having over-all responsibility in the North, and the Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare, has initiated vigorous programs to bring education and medical care to every northern resident who can be reached. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police also carries out field duties for both departments. The Arctic has always tested to the limit the resourcefulness and courage of those who live and work there and it makes no exceptions of race. To keep contact—over some 900,000 sq. miles—with an Eskimo population that still often chooses to live the life of the hunting camps, calls for the co-operation of all who share the high latitudes with them—northern service officers, teachers, doctors, nurses, missionaries, traders, radio operators and weather men.

Radio and air patrols maintain administrative contact. The first of an experimental system of emergency units has been set up in the Keewatin District. Insulated, radio-equipped, and stocked with food and medical supplies, these units will be established