

There is quite a demand for Eskimo trainees and it is difficult to find enough of them with adequate academic backgrounds to fill all requests. During the past year, 43 Eskimo men, some with families, moved west to the Mackenzie region and northern Alberta to take on-the-job employment as engine drivers and engine maintenance men on the Great Slave Lake Railway. Another 20 men were employed in mining operations at Lynn Lake, Man. Apprenticeship offers another opportunity for training. Apprentice tradesmen with little education take academic upgrading at night and on-the-job training during the day and at intervals are examined on knowledge of their trade in Eskimo. Throughout the North, there are Eskimo men working at various levels of apprentice training, as heavy equipment operators, plumbers, carpenters and mechanics. They hold positions as interpreters and clerks in retail and co-operative stores and in government offices; one young Eskimo man is acting administrator in Coral Harbour. The objective of the Department, in co-operation with other federal departments in the North, is to have 75 p.c. of federal staff positions in the Territories filled by local residents by 1977. In vocational classes, Eskimo girls train as clerical assistants, stenographers, hairdressers, nursing aides and commercial cooks. Both boys and girls who are interested in teaching begin their careers in settlement schools as classroom assistants, dividing the day between academic studies and work with young Eskimo pupils. Special care is given to the development of curriculum for northern schools and guides are prepared for such subjects as trapping, fur preparation and the care and use of firearms and outboard motors. By 1972, the Department expects to have sufficient classrooms and pupil residence accommodation to provide for every child in the Northwest Territories and every Eskimo child in Arctic Quebec. This will require the construction of more than 200 classrooms and the provision of 1,000 beds in pupil residences.

The adult education program is designed to inform those of the older generation who feel themselves cut off from children in school. Much emphasis in this area deals with the terms and maintenance of the new housing program. Although permanent houses were introduced in 1959-60, Eskimo families could afford to pay very little toward housing costs and were forced into unsatisfactory single-room accommodation. Even families who could purchase a small house often could not afford the high cost of fuel, light and water. It became apparent that a public housing program was needed to assist the Eskimo people and, in October 1965, government approval was obtained for a five-year program to supply rental houses, allocated on the basis of family need. Rent is scaled according to income and services include heating, electricity, basic furniture and maintenance. Construction of three-bedroom houses began in 1966 on Baffin Island and in Arctic Quebec and, in the summer of 1967, 197 houses were shipped to Keewatin settlements. Credits are given to tenants in new houses for extra rental payments and for improvement or additions to the houses, thus providing an incentive toward eventual home ownership. To help solve the problem of fuel oil for heat and electricity, bulk storage tanks have been installed in many locations and more are being added each year; in 1967-68 such facilities are scheduled to be built at Arctic Bay, Broughton Island and Grise Fiord. Housing educators and home economists help to organize local housing committees and to interpret the financial agreements and home maintenance to the people.

In Eskimo communities, the Eskimo people are encouraged to assume management of their own affairs through local or regional councils; practical assistance, advice and financial support are given by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In 30 communities a development fund acts as a catalyst in social and economic development.

The full range of social services applicable to all Canadians is available to the Eskimo people—family allowances, old age and disability pensions and blind persons' allowances. A child welfare program cares for children who are neglected or whose parents are temporarily unable to care for them. Social assistance provides for persons whose income from employment or hunting is insufficient to meet their needs and those of their dependants. Medical and public health services are provided for Eskimos not included under provincial arrangements and who are unable to provide for themselves (see also