

In recent years, the Indian Affairs Branch has had the co-operation and assistance of university extension departments, provincial education authorities and various health and welfare organizations in the conduct of community development programs. An intensive program in community action by Indians on all reserves on Cape Breton Island, N.S., and certain reserves in New Brunswick has been directed by the Extension Department of St. Francis Xavier University. Leadership training courses for Indians have been held annually under the auspices of the Community Welfare Planning Council, Winnipeg, Man. Universities are assisting in planning and developing programs for Indian groups in Alberta, British Columbia, the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec. In Ontario, the Community Programs Branch of the provincial Department of Education has planned and organized a special leadership training course for Indian band chiefs and councillors.

The Eskimos*

While many still hold to the traditional way of life, an ever-increasing number of Canada's 11,835 Eskimos living in the Northwest Territories, northern Quebec and Labrador are making the change from a nomadic existence to a pattern of regular wage employment. Continued northern development, coupled with a decrease in some types of game, is settling the Eskimo people more and more in modern communities with school, health and transportation facilities, and wage employment opportunities. The Government of Canada, through the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and other agencies, is helping in this transition and adjustment by providing such forms of assistance as education, welfare services, vocational training and economic development programs.

One of the prime aids in easing this transitional period and preparing for the future is education. Close to 2,400 Eskimo youngsters now spend the school term at desks; more than half of them live in student residences. In 1958 only 17 p.c. of Eskimo children were in school; now, with the improvement of facilities and despite the increase in population, almost 66 p.c. are in school. Because of the relative newness of the school system the majority of these children are in the junior grades but increasing awareness of the value of education is keeping them in schools longer. A program approved at the January 1963 session of the Northwest Territories Council provides for grants and loans to finance university education for Eskimo, Indian and white children, without distinction.

While a basic education will open doors to employment for many, it is not the only avenue provided. Vocational training classes offer opportunities for employment in carpentry, electronics, mining, automobile and diesel mechanics, and domestic science. On-the-job learning is showing adult members of the Eskimo community how to make a better living in a changing world, and how to better use traditional skills and natural resources.

One of the most encouraging developments in the Arctic has been the steadily improving success of Eskimo co-operatives, formed on the basis of pooled labour and shared harvest, a formula long known to the Eskimos. Sixteen co-operatives in the Northwest Territories and northern Quebec are now engaged in a variety of operations based on commercial fishing, handicraft production, carving and graphic arts, tourism and the operation of retail stores. During 1962, five Eskimo fishing co-operatives were catching, processing and shipping Arctic char to markets in Southern Canada and the United States; the first shipment of char was sent to Britain in mid-year. Soapstone carvings and graphic arts, maintained at a standard of excellence, continued to bring the Eskimos, and Canada too, world-wide recognition. In 1962, approximately \$100,000 worth of graphic arts was sold by the Cape Dorset Co-operative alone. An increasing number of handicrafts, ranging from small sealskin animals and toys to delicately embroidered duffel coats, were produced to satisfy the growing market in Southern Canada. Although not attracting as much attention as the graphic arts or carvings, co-operatives based on logging, boat building and sealing also provided valuable business experience, employment and wages.

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