

The territorial Department of Education is continuing the work done in the past by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and is providing educational opportunities for northern residents equivalent to those enjoyed by citizens in southern Canada. New schools have been constructed at Edzo, Frobisher Bay, Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Coral Harbour and Clyde River and an education curriculum has been developed relevant to the cultural heritage of Eskimo, Indian and Métis students, who make up the majority of pupils in the schools. The Department, with the assistance of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, is initiating the collection of stories and legends of the Dogrib people and a Dogrib grammar and a dictionary are being produced.

7.2.4 Education of Indians and Eskimos

Indians. The key to continual progress in Indian education is the increasingly active participation of the Indians themselves through their education committees and membership on school boards, strengthened by support from non-federal governments and from professional groups concerned specifically with the classroom instruction of Indian students. During 1971-72, 45 Indian trainees attended special courses for social counsellors in Ontario and on graduation were employed by band councils, school boards or the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to provide counselling in various areas of the education program; 53 Indian students were enrolled in training programs in Manitoba that will fully qualify them as teachers; and in Alberta 39 teacher assistants were trained and later employed in the school system. Indian history, traditions and languages are now being included in the curriculum and native culture is stressed by means of language, visual aids, tapes and printed matter as well as by Indian dances and arts.

Although the Education Branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development maintains and operates a number of schools for Indians, of the 71,523 Indian students in elementary and secondary schools in January 1972, more than half attended non-federal schools, a system arranged for the most part through agreements between band councils, the Branch and individual school boards. In Manitoba, British Columbia and New Brunswick, however, under agreement with the respective provincial governments, a uniform tuition fee is paid for Indian students attending schools under the jurisdiction of the province. Federal financial assistance for Indian students attending non-federal schools varies from payment of tuition fees and provision of school buses, many of them operated by band councils or Indian contractors, to full maintenance either in boarding homes or student residences, which during the year accommodated 12,000 Indian students unable to attend local schools because of isolation or other reasons. Promising senior students are awarded scholarships to attend university or vocational school, and scholarships are given to those who show promise in the arts; in 1971-72, 89 scholarships were awarded for continued professional training.

Federal schools for Indian students are in operation in all provinces except Newfoundland. During 1971-72, 17 major school construction projects were under way or completed, providing 89 classrooms, 12 kindergartens, 11 gymnasiums and 12 staff units to the federal school system at a cost of approximately \$11 million; an additional \$5.3 million was paid for classroom space in provincial schools attended by Indian pupils. The two-year kindergarten program continued to receive special emphasis and is viewed as a major step in reducing premature withdrawal from school and age-grade retardation; enrolment in this program increased by 13.5%.

Eskimos (Inuit). Great emphasis is given to education and vocational training as the means to help the Eskimo people adjust to a changing way of life. In 1971-72, 4,375 Eskimo pupils were enrolled in school in the Northwest Territories compared with only 451 out of a total of 2,000 pupils in 1955. There are 69 settlements in the Northwest Territories, 32 of which are Eskimo settlements. Of the 58 schools, 30 are in Eskimo settlements. Kindergarten classes are provided in 35 of these schools, 22 of them in Eskimo settlements.

Throughout the Northwest Territories education is a responsibility shared by the federal and territorial governments and administered by the Department of Education of the Northwest Territories. In April 1969 the territorial government assumed responsibility for the administration of education in the Mackenzie District, and a year later took over the same responsibility for the eastern Arctic district. The responsibility for education of the Eskimos in Arctic Quebec remains with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.