



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 14 No. 5

February 4, 1959

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## REPORT ON NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

In his opening address to the sixteenth session of the Council of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Gordon Robertson, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, reported on various measures which were being taken to solve the problem caused by the marked decline in the numbers of caribou, upon which the Eskimos have traditionally depended for a livelihood.

Mr. Robertson said:

"First, every effort will be made to keep in contact with the people who live off the land in the District of Keewatin so that the possibility of serious emergencies developing without access to outside help will be kept to a very minimum. At Churchill, the R.C.M. Police has arranged for a second aircraft and the Department of Northern Affairs are sending in a second Northern Service Officer so that patrol work can be intensified. Regular patrols will also be sent out from Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet to all camps within ground reach. Co-ordination between the Mounted Police and the Department of Northern Affairs has been worked out with great care so as to ensure the most effective use of the limited man-power available in the vast Keewatin area.

"Secondly, there is the Keewatin Re-establishment Project which has been set up about one mile from Rankin Inlet. This was referred to in my last opening address as the Tavani project but circumstances made it impossible to set it up at that particular point. Already at the new location near Rankin, some seventy

Eskimos have been re-settled. An airlift is now in progress to move an additional seventy persons from Garry Lake and the surrounding region. This latter group includes Eskimos from the most inaccessible areas or from among those in most straitened circumstances. Many of these Eskimos, we hope will be able to make the adjustment to a sea economy which can, with effective methods of exploitation, sustain many more than now rely on it. Some will be encouraged to follow handicraft production, while others will be trained to enter wage employment. Still others may be settled elsewhere in the Arctic to follow their traditional hunting way of life.

"Finally, as a supplementary measure, arrangements are underway for the establishment of an Emergency Camp Unit at a suitable point on a trial basis. This will consist of a small building, emergency food supplies, a radio transmitter and a medical kit. The unit will be inspected regularly by the Northern Service Officer in the course of his patrol and supplies replenished as required. Experience this winter will determine whether additional units might profitably be established at other locations.

"As a result of these various measures, it is our hope that a substantial number of Eskimos will not only be protected against hardship and starvation but that they can gradually be introduced to new ways of earning a livelihood.