

Venereal disease is still widespread, and is associated in many instances with the influx of workers from southern Canada. The aims of the social development program are to reduce infant mortality rates and to continue efforts to combat tuberculosis, venereal disease and other communicable diseases. The Department of National Health and Welfare has principal responsibility in these areas. Results, however, are dependent on other factors, such as better housing, improved water- and waste-disposal systems and home-management programs, all of which fall within the jurisdiction of the territorial government.

Tuberculosis is at the rate of 130 per 100,000 population, still substantially higher than the national rate in Canada. There were a total of 57 new reactive cases of tuberculosis detected in 1977. Of 797 people on antituberculous drugs, 176 were on active treatment and 621 on preventative medication. There have been no deaths from tuberculosis in the Northwest Territories since 1972.

Most Eskimos are now willing to report to medical authorities if they suspect they have T.B., whereas previously, they were unwilling to take tests or undergo X-rays, since these forms of treatment meant leaving home, relatives and native food for long periods. The new approach also reduces mental strain, due to the shorter treatment periods.

The North is not without its alcohol problems. The territorial alcohol-education programs, in collaboration with communities of concerned persons in various communities, now educate and counsel individuals, families and employers on the prevention and treatment of drinking problems. Several communities prohibit alcohol completely, while others have partial prohibition, by regulating the amount of liquor that can be brought in.

Housing and community service

One of the most difficult adjustments imposed on the Eskimo in recent years has been the increase in urbanization. Isolated settlements have become organized communities, and a sedentary way of life, with most of the amenities of southern Canadian towns, has become possible. Despite the good things that urbanization has brought, the Inuk-turned-townsmen still experience much frustration and much conflict between the new life-style and values and those he had been used to.

Northern programs are intended to provide adequate shelter for all Inuit at rents they can afford. The homes that are being built in accordance with this policy are of a standard as high as possible consistent with the level of services available in the individual communities. An important element of the success of such programs is the participation of