



## NORTHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology at Thunder Bay, Ontario, is a Northland college that reaches out far beyond the confines of its campus to educate the people.

While it embodies the community college idea, Confederation College goes further than most such institutions in innovation and flexibility to meet the educational needs of the community at a post-secondary-school level. Besides Thunder Bay, the college serves 38 other centres across an area the size of France.

### VARIETY OF COURSES

Some of the most varied courses are offered by the college. Students can embark on careers ranging from radio and television arts to education work in Indian communities. Enrolment averages about 800 students a year. About 2,000 adults pass through Confederation College's retraining program and there are about 300 enrolled every year in the school's extension department.

The college recognizes that the northwestern region of the province offers a unique market for tradesmen. For example, the technology department has initiated a course designed specially for the numerous "bush" airlines operating in the area.

Says the calendar: "Aircraft used in Northwestern Ontario range from *Supercub* and *Cessna 180*

to *Beechcraft 18* (twin engine). These aircraft operate extensively on skis, wheels and floats. At present, a very definite need exists for maintenance personnel for this type of aircraft. The need is particularly acute in the area, whose vastness coupled with the remoteness of its communities makes air travel the truck-line of the North.

Planes are used in a wide variety of operations in the Northland, from fire suppression to transportation of food and supplies in the more isolated districts. According to an Ontario Department of Labour survey, about 59 per cent of the air-service industry in the province has a shortage of aircraft maintenance engineers.

Because of the nature of northern airline operations a prerequisite for admission to the course is a student's love of the outdoors and an ability to work with a minimum of equipment at his disposal. So he's put to the test during his first summer spending 15 weeks in a remote location keeping aircraft flightworthy.

Other departments offer band-management courses for Indian students, elementary English classes for new Canadians, stenographic training, and letter-writing. The list goes on and on, and even includes on-the-spot training in a welding shop a few miles from the Thunder Bay campus.

The emphasis is on teaching people to help