
national recognition and to take a leading part in the maintenance and development of the unique way of life of their people. This cultural program aims at the creation of a body of Inuit literature and the encouragement of Inuit participation in the performing arts.

Since 1970 the Federal Government has been supporting these aims by means of national and international exhibitions and a program of public information and lectures. These activities reflect an ever-increasing demand for art, the value of which to the Inuit community in 1974 was estimated at \$3 million.

During 1974, a contract was signed with Inuit Tapirisat of Canada for a survey to develop a universally-acceptable spelling system. Regular grants are now made to Inuit groups and individuals for the promotion of a variety of cultural endeavours, including the publication of literature, travel and exchange programs.

Since 1969-70, a number of Inuit writers have received assistance in publishing their work and certain Arctic communities have been encouraged to print local newspapers in Inuit and English. Inuit actors have demonstrated their talent on film and in the drama; an Inuit-produced film has received critical acclaim in international competition.

Cross-cultural conferences to promote Inuit understanding of southern conditions have been organized and video-taped for distribution in the Arctic.

Economic development program

The objects of this program include credit facilities, through a loan fund, in areas of the Arctic not served by commercial institutions and grants to stimulate economic growth. To encourage full participation in the economic development of the North through co-operative ownership and enterprise, as well as resource-harvesting in the N.W.T., loans are made to trappers for food and supplies.

In the beginning, the growth of co-operatives was slow, because of physical isolation and unfamiliarity with southern market conditions and business practices. The development of communications in the North has rectified this situation.

The first two native co-operatives in the Arctic were incorporated in 1959. By 1974 there were 41. These are multi-purpose organizations engaged in the production of arts and crafts, in fur trading, construction, retailing and the provision of municipal services. In 1974 the value of their business amounted to over \$7.5 million. They