

ganized and video-taped for distribution throughout the Arctic.

Economic development programs

The Eskimo Loan Fund lends money to Inuit business people in areas of the Arctic not served by commercial institutions. Grants to co-operatives and other organizations help 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 the 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 that situation.

The first two native co-operatives in the Arctic were incorporated in 1959 and, 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. In 1979, total sales volume was about \$24 million, generating about \$6.5 million in local income. They provide income for over 700 people.

Canada Arctic Producers (CAP), the wholesale marketing agency of

art work and crafts for some 30 Inuit co-operatives in the Northwest Territories, became a co-operative in May 1979. CAP was acquired as a marketing tool for Inuit arts and crafts by the Canadian government in 1970, with the objective of turning over control and ownership of the firm to Inuit. In 1979, CAP had sales of almost \$2.5 million.

Health and social development

The basic N.W.T. social and welfare programs are comparable to those of the provinces. They are provided mainly by the territorial government. Some responsibilities for health care for the Inuit and other residents are shared with the federal government. The N.W.T. has hospitalization and medical services similar to those available in the provinces, at no cost to residents. Health facilities range from modern hospitals in larger centres to nursing stations in the small communities. Medical care is available to all people, and arrangements exist to transport the sick to southern facilities in cases of emergency. Infant mortality and respiratory diseases have increased among the Inuit, but the harsh climate and the low economic status of many natives still take a heavy toll. Infant mortality rose from 27.77 *per* 1,000 in 1973 to 32.2 *per* 1,000 in 1977. This still remains a problem and reflects the conditions influenced by an extreme climate, isolation, rugged terrain and changing lifestyles.