

## McGILL MEDICINE IN ARCTIC

The Department of National Health and Welfare has entered into an agreement with McGill University, Montreal, whereby the McGill Faculty of Medicine will assist in a program of support to the health services of the Baffin Zone (Baffin Island, the Melville Peninsula and Southampton Island in the Northwest Territories). The population of the Zone is about 6,000, of whom some 4,000 are Eskimos.

The Health Department has assumed financial responsibility for this project, under which the university will provide medical personnel on a continuing basis to serve in the Baffin Zone, and will assist in the reception and discharge of patients in a major teaching hospital of the McGill medical center.

Health Minister John Munro commented on the recent agreement as follows:

"As far as possible, illness should be treated in or near the home of the patient. Both the adverse sociological consequences of evacuation to the South, and the cost, increase with the distance from home. These disadvantages can be overcome to a considerable extent by reinforcing the health team in the settlement and at Frobisher Bay Hospital.

"When evacuation to the South is absolutely necessary, it should as far as possible be referred to one medical center and should be handled by one agency. An increasing number of individuals in that center should have a knowledge of the conditions in the North. This would go far towards solving problems related to interpreters and to meaningful clinical decisions and expeditious handling of administration in general.

"The final objective will be to assist in the training of young Eskimos in the health services, in hope that in the future they will themselves build a major role in the health services of the North.

### TORONTO HAS SIMILAR PROGRAM

"This program is similar to that presently being carried out by the medical school of the University of Toronto in Sioux Lookout in Northwestern Ontario. The involvement of these universities and other medical associations in these health programs shows a recognition of new social responsibilities. I am grateful for the initiative shown by the schools and hope it will be the basis for continued progress."

The main base for the project will be Frobisher Bay, the largest settlement in the Zone. At the present time, medical personnel for this area consist of the Zone Director, Dr. D. Horwood, and two doctors stationed at the Frobisher Bay Hospital. Each of the 12 settlements in the area has one or two nurses or a lay dispenser.

McGill will help recruit general duty medical officers for the Frobisher Bay Hospital. Also, two senior undergraduate medical students and two residents from McGill postgraduate training programs will serve in continuity of short rotations at the base hospital in Frobisher or in the outpost stations.

Another feature of the agreement involves visits of small teams of medical specialists as often as four times a year. Patients will be treated in the Zone rather than evacuated to Montreal.

## AUTO INDUSTRY MUST EXPAND

Canada's automotive industry must prepare at once for a period of expansion that will exceed the unprecedented growth between 1964 and 1968, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, told the Canadian Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association recently.

In an address at the Association's annual dinner, Mr. Pepin reviewed as follows the industry's progress since the Canada-U.S. Auto Agreement came into effect in 1964: vehicle production had increased from 671,000 units to 1.1 million units in 1968; automotive exports rose from \$99 million to \$2.5 billion, an increase of 2,400 per cent; average monthly employment rose by 15,000 workers; total automotive trade with the U.S. rose from \$818 million to \$5.3 billion; and factory value of parts shipments rose from \$627 million to \$1 billion.

Mr. Pepin warned the manufacturers not to be complacent about this progress, particularly in view of the Economic Council's projection of a gross national product of at least \$100 billion by 1975.

He pointed out that it had taken investment of about \$1 billion between 1964 and 1968 to bring the

industry to its present development. "I can tell you it will take at least another \$1 billion in new investment by 1975, just to enable you to stand still!" he added. "Just to have the value of Canadian production match our consumption, a further investment in excess of \$2 billion would be required."

The new investment required between 1964 and 1968 was met largely by the industry itself. Government aid was provided through the Adjustment Assistance Board, which was formed to provide financial assistance and tariff remission on production machinery. Since 1965, the Board has granted 73 loans totalling about \$60 million, and granted tariff remissions of some \$5 million. A further 24 remission applications are still under consideration.

The Minister stressed the need for strong management, and urged the manufacturers to train personnel and provide for greater specialization in the division of work.

He urged a spirit of aggressiveness and competition in the critical areas of price, quality and delivery to overcome the difficulties of selling to foreign customers that had grown up over many years.

He suggested that more use be made of the Trade Commissioner Service.