
Of 60 settlements listed in the Northwest Territories in 1974, 48 are incorporated or organized municipalities governed by locally-elected councils. Membership on the councils is 76.2 percent native; the majority of native members are Inuit.

An increasing number of Inuit are forming their own associations or serving in groups with non-Inuit people -- for example, in hunters' and trappers' associations and on the Game Management Advisory Council, which advises the Commissioner. Inuit representatives have also been appointed to the Strathcona Sound-Training and Employment Advisory Committee, the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council and the Boards of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Canadian Arctic Producers and Panarctic Oil.

The N.W.T. government is following a policy of introducing "grass-roots" control of individual communities by creating hamlets and villages with councils of their own, in most cases with Inuit or Indian majorities.

Such factors as geography, population, the tax-base, economic growth and the administrative experience of the N.W.T. government have had a bearing on the achievement of self-government. The territories are large in size but small in population. Their revenues are low in comparison to their expenditures, and will remain so until there is increased economic development.

Eskimo associations

During recent years, a number of associations devoted to the special interests of the Inuit have come into existence. These groups have been supported by federal funds since 1971. The most notable are: Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC), the national Eskimo organization; the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement (COPE), active in the Western Arctic; the Northern Quebec Inuit Association (NQIA); and the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA). All these groups are dedicated to the retention and preservation of the culture and traditional values of the Inuit, to the promotion of social improvement, and to the securing of aboriginal rights and claims to lands and waters historically used by the Inuit. The native associations have initiated numerous projects involving land claims, the Inuit language, the laws, education and game-management.

Cultural development

One of the principal aims of the Eskimo associations is the preservation of Inuit culture. In the pursuit of this goal, they encourage native artists, craftsmen and writers to seek national and inter-
