

has been of fundamental importance in the social and economic development of the territory during the past 20 years. It has, for example, been instrumental in bringing Inuit art to international attention. There are about 40 co-operatives, with a membership in excess of 3,600. The annual volume of business transacted in 1979 was \$14.5 million, with 360 employees.

The Northwest Territories has two members of Parliament in the federal Parliament at Ottawa; they represent the ridings of Nunatsiag (the Eastern Arctic) and Western Arctic. The population of each constituency is only 20,000 or so, compared to a national average in excess of 75,000, but the difficulty in representing such remote areas is onerous. The current member for Nunatsiag is the first Inuit elected to the House of Commons. The N.W.T. also has one representative in the Senate of Canada, who is the first Inuit appointed to the Upper House.

Recreation and the arts

As development of the North has increased, so has the influx of visitors. Thirty-two communities in the N.W.T. now have hotels. There are also hunting and fishing lodges (most accessible only by air) and wilderness tours can be arranged.

There are three national parks in the N.W.T. — Wood Buffalo, Nahanni and Auyuittuq (pronounced ah-you-ee-tuk).

Wood Buffalo, which straddles Alberta's border, is the world's second largest park. Its 44,980 square kilometres are home for a variety of wild animals. The park was established in 1922 as a haven for Canada's last herd of 1,500 wild bison. Shortly thereafter 6,000 plains bison were brought in from central Alberta and the resulting hybrid animals today number 6,000. The park is the only breeding ground of the rare whooping crane, whose known population in the wild is 98.

Nahanni National Park in the southwest corner of the Territories covers 4,765 square kilometres. Because of its unique geology, the park, which was established in 1971, was entered in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's world heritage list in 1978, and was opened officially in 1979. One of the world's eight deepest canyons is found there. The South Nahanni River, a favourite of white water canoeists, has been known to rise more than 1.5 metres overnight from heavy rain. At Virginia Falls, the major cataract, the river plunges more than 90 metres — twice the height of Niagara Falls.

The third national park Auyuittuq, "the place that never melts", straddles the Arctic Circle at the 66th parallel on the Cumberland Peninsula of Baffin Island. The park's 21,470 square kilometres experience 24 hours of daylight