

Northwest Territories, co-operates in the following programs.

Government

The federal government has been committed to promoting the evolution of self-government of the Northwest Territories, with the aim of establishing a fully representative and responsible government in the North.

In 1975, two bills were introduced in the Parliament of Canada giving the North greater representation at the national level—Bill C-9, providing the Yukon and the Northwest Territories each with a seat in the Senate, and Bill C-59, providing the N.W.T. with a second seat in the House of Commons. The life of the territorial council was extended from three to four years in 1970 by amendments to the N.W.T. Act. In 1974, another amendment established a fully-elected council of 15 members and a speaker to preside over it. In 1975, two elected council members were appointed to the executive committee for the first time, one of them an Inuk. Elections held in March 1975 resulted in the first native majority in the council—of the nine members, six were Inuit.

In October 1979, the number of executive committee (Excom) members was changed to "between five and seven", and the position of assistant commissioner was dropped. A further amendment earlier in 1979 established a fully-elected council of

22 members—nine Inuit, eight white, three Dene (Indian) and two Métis.

Of 62 settlements listed in the Northwest Territories in 1979, 51 are incorporated or organized municipalities governed by locally-elected councils. The majority of members on these councils are native.

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 N.W.T. Commissioner on hunting and wildlife. Inuit representatives have also been appointed to the Strathcona Sound-Training and Employment Advisory Committee, the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council and the Board of Directors of the N.W.T. Housing Corporation, Canadian Arctic Producers (a co-operative as of May 1979) 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 elected councils of their own, with most having Inuit majorities.

Such factors as geography, populations, 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,