



CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 20 No. 28

July 14, 1965

CONTENTS

The Future of the Eskimos of New Quebec.....	1
Stratford Shakespeare Seminars.....	3
P.E.I. Floral Stamp.....	3
Labour Department Research Awards.....	3

Traffic Accidents	3
Global Transport Flight	3
Ground Rules for Canada-U.S. Partnership	4
Traffic in Securities	4

THE FUTURE OF THE ESKIMOS OF NEW QUEBEC

The following release regarding the eventual transfer of responsibility for the welfare of some 3,000 Eskimos living in northern Quebec from the Federal Government to the government of the Province of Quebec was made by the Prime Minister on July 9:

In my press conference of July 8, I summed up federal policy regarding Eskimos in these words:

"We have certain obligations in the Federal Government to those indigenous inhabitants in Canada who have been placed under federal responsibility. It may well be in the future that many of these matters can be dealt with within provincial boundaries more effectively by the provincial administration than by a federal administration, and that is what we are considering. It will be done, if it is done, by stages with the interests of the indigenous people very much in mind, and in harmony with their views."

I have since asked my colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, ... to prepare a full statement on federal policy regarding services for Eskimos in Arctic Quebec, including reference to recent developments. That policy statement is as follows:

Recent events have to some extent obscured the record of negotiations and solid accomplishment with respect to the Eskimos of Arctic Quebec. Yesterday's statement clearly reaffirmed the position of the Government of Canada with respect to the gradual extension of provincial services to the Eskimo people commensurate with their growing involvement in Canadian life and subject always to full consulta-

tion and in accordance with the wishes of the Eskimos concerned. In addition, the long-term objective of full Eskimo participation in the Canadian and provincial community was implicit.

BACKGROUND OF THE QUESTION

To go more deeply into the background, under a ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1939, the legislative authority of the Government of Canada for Indians was held to include Eskimos. Since that time, and in particular during the last decade, the Federal Government has been providing an increasing array of services to Eskimos, including a number of matters of greatest importance normally under provincial jurisdiction, such as health, education and welfare.

The Federal Government has taken the position that it is a desirable objective, beneficial to all concerned, that Eskimos eventually enter the mainstream of Canadian life, served by the various levels of government as would be any Canadian. Federal measures in the transition phase recognize the special problems of adjustment involved. This transition is now proceeding more rapidly than in the past, but the need for special services and federal involvement must be considered in longer terms than the immediate future. Nor will the end of this requirement for special federal intervention come at any particular point in time; rather, it must be expected that some federal activity will continue for an extensive period, but that particular services may be undertaken by the provinces, at points in time commensurate with developments.

(Over)