

## NORTHERN RESEARCH LAB

A scientific research laboratory costing \$500,000 will be built at Igloolik, the main Eskimo settlement of the Foxe Basin area of the Northwest Territories.

In making this announcement at Frobisher, Baffin Island, Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, said that the laboratory, which is to be started this year, will provide much-needed scientific facilities.

"The extent of interest expressed by government agencies has greatly exceeded expectations and the laboratory should be fully used," Mr. Chrétien said. "The recent policy statement — *Northern Canada in the Seventies* — has stressed the increased emphasis being placed on the people and the renewable resources of the North. There must be increased research in support of these objectives. Igloolik is exceptionally well placed for this work."

Historically and geographically, Igloolik is the centre of the Canadian Eskimo population. It is growing in size (its present population is 700, almost all Eskimo) and is in a region whose renewable resources are exceptionally rich. It is located on the coast in an area of geographical, climatic and topographical diversity, and has reasonably high geographical and geomagnetic latitudes. The establishment of a laboratory in the Eastern Arctic will favour increased scientific research in the human sciences and in other major disciplines, much of which will be applicable to local problems.

## HEALTH EXPENSES

Canadians spent an average of \$205 each on personal health care in 1970, when combined expenditures for hospital care, physicians, dentists and prescribed drugs reached an estimated \$4,387 million. This information is contained in a report released recently on personal health care expenditures in Canada, 1960 to 1970, issued by the Department of National Health and Welfare. The report concerns only those four principal components of personal health care, representing at least 90 per cent of all funds spent on the direct provision of health services to Canadians.

Annual percentage increases in those expenditures, the report states, were never below 8 per cent during 1960 and 1970. As a percentage of the gross national product at market prices, their total rose from 3.8 per cent in 1960 to 5.2 per cent in 1970.

In 1970 the national *per capita* expenditure of \$205 was exceeded only in Ontario (\$228) and Alberta (\$216). British Columbia and Manitoba came next with \$203; Quebec, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan followed with \$193, \$183 and \$180. Then came New Brunswick with \$160, Prince Edward Island with \$138 and Newfoundland at \$136 *per capita*.

Hospital care expenditures in 1970 amounted to an estimated \$2,787 million, or 63.5 per cent of the total. This was an increase of 13.1 per cent over that of the previous year.

Estimated expenditures on physicians' services rose to \$1,029 million in 1970, an increase of 14.2 per cent. The amount spent on dentists' services in 1970 was \$269 million, an average *per capita* expenditure of \$12.57.

Canadians in 1970 spent \$301 million on prescribed drugs purchased from retail drug stores.

The report does not include expenditures on community public health, professional training or research and construction of health facilities.

## CATTLE FROM DOWN UNDER

Permits have been issued to 75 applicants to import 246 head of cattle from Australia, the first time cattle from that country have been imported into Canada.

Permit-holders have been allotted one of three shipment dates — July 1972, November 1972, or March 1973. Dates will be allotted in the order the requests were received.

The animals will be carried by air and will enter the quarantine facilities now under construction at the Edmonton International Airport at Leduc, Alberta. They will undergo preliminary quarantine in Australia and on arrival at the Edmonton quarantine station, will be quarantined a further minimum period of 90 days. Providing they meet health requirements, they will be released to the importer.