

other northern countries. Canadians have never attempted to build a town comparable to this so far north.

"Great reserves of resourcefulness and ingenuity had to be summoned to work out new and special types of construction. You will say - and I agree - that, since 40 per cent of our country lies north of the provinces, it was time we took major Arctic construction seriously. Inuvik is the teacher, which will stimulate the thirst for more knowledge of the Arctic....

"The interesting thing about Inuvik is that it is a modern town, yet with the most unmistakable Arctic characteristics. And I do not mean only in the pile construction and the system of utilidors that act as such vital supply lines - for essential community services.

"I do not minimize the fact that here - almost within sight of the northern seas - is a town with amenities that many others of comparable size in southern Canada could envy - school, churches, hospital, a power plant, radio station, hotel, stores, dwellings .... These are essentials. But what gives them purpose and meaning to the north is people.

#### PEOPLE OF THE NORTH

"Our northern territories today include many different types of residents - more than at any time in the past. And many of them are here today.

"There are those born in the north - second and third generation families from many different countries of the world. There are the Indians, the Eskimos, and the Métis who have shared with them - and still do - life on the land in all sorts of economic weather. There are men and women from Southern Canada and other countries who - years ago - came north, made it their adopted land and would not now live anywhere else.

"And there are the most recent immigrants of all - the men and women whose duties have taken them into the north in recent years, sometimes for long periods, sometimes only on field trips. They are the scientists and the engineers, the administrators, doctors, nurses, teachers, technical experts, welfare workers - a cross-section of many of Canada's most respected professions, who are here to work for the north and with northerners.

"This was not a town that Canadians from the south came north and constructed single-handed. Far from it. Built into the town - in places we cannot see - are thousands of man-hours of work put there by men from surrounding communities of all races. This urgent need for local labour was in fact utilized in the most practical way and made part of the Government's programme of vocational education. Young Eskimos, Loucheux Indians and Métis worked side by side. Some had taken a training course in the use of heavy equipment outside the north and came back to jobs waiting for them. But for the majority of young trainees this was the first job of its kind that they had ever worked on.

#### ARCTIC EDUCATION

"I do not need to remind you - with the facilities you have here for the industrial arts at the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School - how much importance

the Government attaches to vocational education. This is as true in the rest of Canada as it is in the north where, as you know, vocational training is built right into the curriculum wherever facilities can be provided. Life is hard now on the unskilled and the half-skilled, no matter where they live, north or south. In the Territories this type of trade skill is more than acquiring the ability to drive a bull-dozer or build a house or run an engine. It is a particularly vital form of insurance in an economy where the game is subject to cycles and demand affected by the whims of the fur market....

"When I see the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and the residences I regret...that we are here too late to see the children. When one flies here - even though we flew over a relatively small part of this immense Mackenzie Delta - it is not difficult to know why the problem of providing education for the children who live in far-off hunting camps has to be solved by air-lift.

"Our northern schools have a responsibility even wider than to their own people. Through them Canada has an opportunity that is unique to show the rest of the world that we mean what we say when we express our views on race discrimination. Those of you who are familiar with the Bill of Rights I advocated for so many years and Parliament enacted into law for them will know how strongly I feel about discrimination. But here in Inuvik there is more than an invitation to show our deep distaste of according privileges to one race that are not available to another. It is a wholly positive opportunity to show how the future of the north will be influenced by young people who have been taught in a way to honour their racial distinctiveness. This is a pride of race that has no taint of arrogance. It is a source of strength.

"As you know, the Government is building a centre here for Arctic research - for research into resources, into a wide range of problems and possibilities common to an Arctic environment. Its facilities are not limited to government scientists, but are to be available to industry and universities too. Research is yet another field where Canada takes her northern responsibilities seriously. It is teamed with what we have done with roads, communications, mining, agriculture, surveying and community development.

"Perhaps with the stimulus from all these developments Canadians will become more conscious of their tri-oceanic inheritance. It took us a long time to progress from the Atlantic watersheds to the shores of the Pacific, but we did it. Now, there looms the horizon of the Arctic and all it might hold in wealth, knowledge of climate and peace in the world.

"Our northern territories look toward a future that few Canadians would have pictured for them even a few years ago. You, and your neighbours in Aklavik and other neighbouring communities, live on wide horizons...."