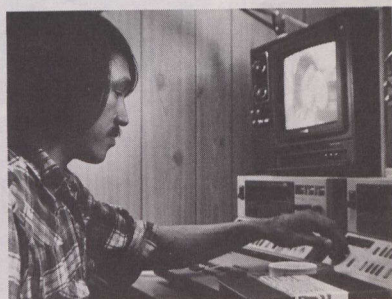


Broadcasting and communications

A generation ago, television was unknown in the North, but radio, when the reception was good, might come from anywhere in North America or even abroad. There were local stations, with low transmitting power, only in Frobisher and Inuvik. With the advent of satellite transmission in the early 1970s, television became available in every community in the North. The programming, however, was entirely from the south. The Northern Service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) made a modest beginning to fill this gap, as it had in radio broadcasting earlier, but the major initiative came from Inuit organizations themselves. After a successful pilot project in the late 1970s, the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation was established in 1981, with representation from all regional Inuit organizations. Headquartered in Ottawa, it now has production facilities in Frobisher Bay, Igloolik, Baker Lake, Eskimo Point, and Cambridge Bay, which regularly provide five and a half hours of programming weekly in Inuktitut, chiefly on public affairs, cultural heritage, and educational programming for children. Programs are transmitted to nearly all Inuit communities by satellite via the CBC network.



Learning the techniques of broadcasting (Inuit Broadcasting Corporation)

Art and folk crafts

To outsiders, the best-known expressions of Inuit arts and crafts are soapstone sculptures and prints. Both of these, however, are of recent origin, although Inuit have made carvings and etchings in ivory, stone, and antler since Paleoeskimo times.

Today, carving and print-making from cut stone blocks are the work of specialized artisans living in communities like Povungnituk, Baker Lake, Holman Island, and Cape Dorset. As well, Inuit designed and manufactured parkas have become a frequent sight on the streets of southern Canadian cities.