



CANADA

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CANADA'S ARCTIC POPULATION

The twenty-third session of the Council of the Northwest Territories was opened at Cape Dorset, Baffin Island, on July 30 by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Gordon Robertson. To the members of the Council, Mr. Robertson observed that their current session would be the first held on Baffin Island since the Council had assembled at Frobisher Bay in 1957. "Members who were here then," he said, "will have been struck by the changes which have taken place in the interval, not only in the growth of Frobisher Bay and the planning for a new townsite but also in the development of other northern communities". Concerning the growth of the communities that had begun to flourish in Canada's Eastern Arctic during the past few years, Mr. Robertson went on to speak as follows:

"...Frobisher Bay will provide a centre for transportation, education, and economic development in the Eastern Arctic. In this sense, it is counterpart to the new town of Inuvik, which serves the Western Arctic in the same way. While such centres are essential if development is to proceed, they do not by any means represent the whole answer to improving conditions and standards of living in the north. Frobisher is only the hub of the wheel, and development there must be paralleled by growth in the other centres in which many people will continue to make their homes. It is fair to suggest that, although development in these centres has been of a different character, it has in its way been no less striking than the progress at Frobisher.

ESKIMO CO-OPS

"One of the most effective, and indeed spectacular, areas of growth during the past three years has

been in Eskimo-owned co-operatives. You will recall that, at the January session in 1959, this Council passed legislation which made possible the establishment of co-operatives in the Northwest Territories. Since then, 10 co-operatives have been established in the Arctic part of the Territories. This form of business enterprise has already placed substantial cash income in the hands of Eskimo members. Perhaps even more important than that, it is gradually placing in the hands of Eskimo people the responsibility for managing their own corporate affairs.

"During the past three and a half years, there has been a steady increase in the business done by northern co-operatives. This year, it is expected that the 10 enterprises will do business of a gross value in the neighbourhood of \$800,000. Of this, about \$125,000 will represent cash payment to Eskimo people, either as dividends or as payment for production. An additional \$75,000 will be used to retire debt and buy new capital equipment.

CAPE DORSET

"Perhaps the best known Eskimo co-operative is the one here at Cape Dorset, which began in 1959 as a tourist operation. Soon after that, it expanded into Eskimo graphic art and, last year, established its own retail store. This co-operative has shown remarkable financial success. It is the first such enterprise in the North to hire full-time salaried employees from Southern Canada.

"While Cape Dorset has attracted much of the attention directed toward Eskimo co-operatives, it is by no means the only one which has shown remarkable achievement. Other Eskimo co-operatives — at Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Holman Island, Coppermine,

(Over)