

At the Fort Chimo Co-operative in Arctic Quebec, a handicraft programme is producing stuffed sealskin animals and birds with emphasis on the popular Ookpik (Arctic Owl) design.

The Eskimo Co-operative at Cape Dorset on Baffin Island is world famous for its stone-cut prints and stencils, for drapery design and soap-stone carvings.

In 1966, sales of Eskimo arts and crafts topped the \$1-million mark. Although the artistic output of the Eskimos is economically important, it is even more significant psychologically. Carvings of soapstone and ivory, stone-cut prints and sealskin stencils, drapery designs and the Keewatin Eskimo ceramics (introduced in 1967) have received world-wide acclaim. Here is a field in which Eskimos have proved not only their equality with non-Eskimos but, in many cases, their superiority.

Education

Great emphasis is given to education and vocational training as the means to help the Eskimo people adjust to a changing way of life. In 1967, 3,036 Eskimo pupils were enrolled in school in the Northwest Territories and Arctic Quebec.

A long-range programme will provide a complete school system throughout the North by 1971 (including matriculation, diploma, vocational, high-school and occupational courses). Most needed are classrooms for children who will reach school age in the next six years, and for older students (in the 16 to 21 age group) who would remain in school if appropriate facilities were available.

For young adults who missed early academic training, continued emphasis is being placed on pre-vocational training. At Churchill, Manitoba, renovations to the vacated military complex provided classroom, shop and pupil residence facilities to 250 teen-age Eskimo pupils from the East Arctic. Classrooms are equipped to teach commercial courses, home economics and child care; courses in carpentry, metal work and the maintenance and repair of motors are held for Eskimo youths in a spacious hangar vacated by the Department of National Defence. Fifty-nine of the pupils enrolled at Churchill are taking straight academic courses.

In the Mackenzie, 151 students at the Sir John Franklin School are taking pre-vocational training courses in carpentry, building construction, arts and diesel mechanics, heavy-equipment operation and food service.

During 1966, 41 men held positions as trade apprentices. In some cases they had been working in trades for several years; their knowledge was tested - through Eskimo interpreters if required - to determine their level in the programme. On-the-job training was combined with part-time classes in mathematics, English and science. Positions for apprentice clerks are giving trainees the opportunity to gain on-the-job experience.