

the natives in their own operations and administration.

The main housing agency in the N.W.T. is Northern Rental Housing, which came into existence in the eastern Arctic and now serves the whole of the N.W.T. The rent for a house provided with heat, light, water and sewer services starts at \$5 a month. About 2,500 homes have been erected in the N.W.T. under the NRH program, which has paid high dividends in better health conditions and has played an important part in the process of rapid urbanization. Tenant associations have taken over the administration of the program in the settlements. Such groups have been very successful in developing community spirit and social goals with the common objective of improving living conditions and services in their own communities.

The Northern Rental Housing program contains a provision for home ownership as soon as tenants become financially able. If they desire to become owners, part of the rent they pay is applied to the purchase price. Ownership is hindered by the fact that, whereas fuel-oil, electricity, water, sewage and garbage services are supplied to tenants, owners must assume full cost of providing these services, and they can be very expensive.

Water delivery in the North, as well as sewage and garbage disposal, is carried out mainly by road

transportation. In some communities, Inuit co-operatives are responsible for the provision of these utilities; elsewhere they are provided by the Northwest Territories government or by private companies who have successfully tendered for the job. In communities with hamlet or village status, utilities, road maintenance and snow removal have been moved over to councils who, in most cases, have Inuit majorities. In larger, more developed communities, utilidor* systems provide both water supply and sewage disposal. As settlements grow and become better planned, utilidors are replacing truck delivery and pick-up. New sewage and garbage systems are being planned, not only to ensure the delicate environmental balance is not disturbed but to improve health.

Communications

In November 1972, a new era in communications began with the launching of *Anik*, the telecommunications satellite. *Anik* provides instant and reliable news and information to the Inuit and has allowed extensive use of telephones for inter-settlement communications, replacing unreliable radiotelephones. It has not only brought the south into better focus for the Inuit, but has facilitated communications on an

*Pipes, cables, etc., raised and insulated to provide utilities to communities built on permafrost.