

## Problems Of Eskimos Unsettled

By ALEXANDER FARRELL  
QUEBEC (CP)—The humble Eskimo fishing and hunting in the Land of the White Whale—known in his own language as Inuvay—has been added to the list of unsettled issues between Quebec and Ottawa.

The Quebec government, reversing its attitude of more than 30 years' standing, wants to bring him under provincial administration. As long as this aim remains unaccomplished, Quebec's jurisdiction is incomplete in the land of the White Whale, a territory of 283,000 square miles known officially as New Quebec and making up almost half the total of Canada's largest province.

The 2,600 Eskimos who account for a majority of New Quebec's population are administered by the federal government through the northern affairs department. They are a nomadic people living mainly along the shores of Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay. The federal government has not publicly indicated its attitude toward Quebec's request for a transfer of administrative authority but a federal-provincial cabinet committee has begun examining the question.

### PLANS FOR ECONOMY

Quebec has already set up a separate office within its natural resources department to handle the responsibility for economic planning in the territory. The provincial government says, however, that the Eskimo inhabitants are the key to this planning.

The director of the office, Eric Gourdeau, said in a paper presented at the 1962 national Conference of Learned Societies, held at Laval University, that Quebec wants to develop the territory in accordance with "the cultural values" of its Eskimo population.

This would mean, to a considerable extent, an Eskimo-run economy based on hunting and fishing, crafts and coastal trade.

The Eskimos themselves, he said, "must be in charge of their developing community and it is among them that we must wish to find the future builders and administrators of New Quebec's economic life."

Paramount among their cultural values was the Eskimo language. It was "a complete illusion" to think that an effective Eskimo collaboration in economic development could be assured without encouraging the regular and normal use of the Eskimo language.

### WOULD LEARN FRENCH

He said "the federal government is committing a fundamental error at the present time by prohibiting for all practical purposes, the use of the Eskimo language in its schools in New Quebec."

The Quebec government would "a practical way" recognize the Eskimo language as a tool of learning in the primary grades.

It was evident, however, that the Eskimos must also be taught a second language "to enable them as quickly as possible to play an active part within the economy of our society." This language would be French.

"As New Quebec is part of Quebec, where the language most frequently spoken is French, the school system must provide for the teaching of French starting in Grade 4."

The Eskimo pupils would also continue to use their own language and, on the secondary level, would get thorough instruction in its grammar and composition.

Another cultural value was the Eskimos' aptitude for hunting and fishing, "perhaps their main transport."

### TEACH NEW TRADES

"It seems certain," said Mr. Gourdeau, "that in this domain of hunting and fishing we shall rapidly be able to entrust to the Eskimos themselves the initiatives that we intend to push and that will be part of our general plan for developing New Quebec."

"Obviously it will be necessary to lend our technical services to the Eskimos so that the hunting and fishing operations will be economically sound, but we must at the same time profit from hunting and fishing to inculcate the Eskimos—by letting them have the real responsibility of administration and management—in the techniques and methods that must be used for the rational development of New Quebec."

A third cultural value was the Eskimos' sharp sense of observation and manual skill. He said the federal government already has "interesting accomplishments" to its credit in the technical training of Eskimos.

"As for us, we intend to set up school for Eskimos in New Quebec and we have already sent two Eskimos to Inuvay-Quebec's dam-building project on the Manicouagan River for on-the-job training, one as a mechanic, the other as a carpenter."

**FIRST ESKIMO TEACHER**  
As for intellectual occupations, the first task to be pursued was that of equipping Eskimo teachers for the primary grades.

"I don't know of a single Eskimo in New Quebec at the moment who is a regular school teacher," he said.

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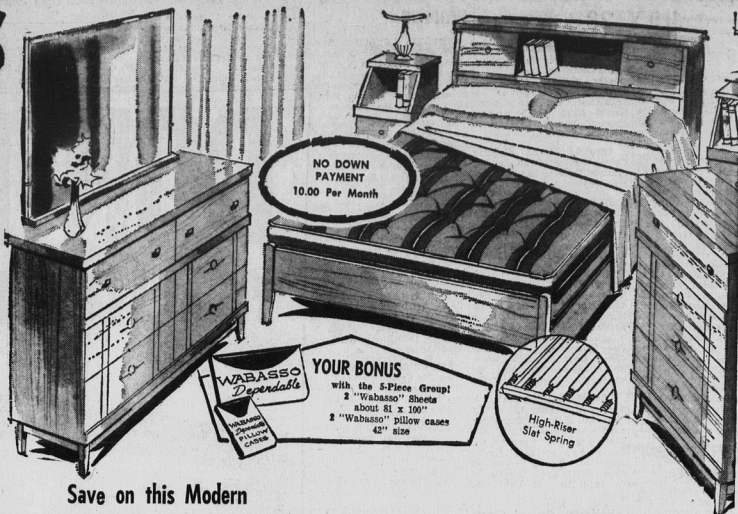
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