



VISITING CANADIANS learn of University of Alaska's Eskimo Language Workshop from language specialist Martha Teeluk, at right, during one-day tour of the College campus last Tuesday. Part of a group exploring the possibility of establishing a University of Canada North to

serve the Yukon and Northwest Territories, they wanted to see how the Alaskan university is serving the state. In rear, with pipe, is Dr. Don Dafoe, the university's vice president for public service who had conferred with the Canadians earlier at Inuvik, NWT. (UA photo)

Canada Natives, Educators Visit UA

COLLEGE—A delegation of Canadians—Eskimos, Indians, educators, government officials and churchmen—interested in promoting higher education in their far north visited the campus here Tuesday to learn what they could in a day about the University of Alaska.

They flew to Fairbanks in a chartered aircraft from Inuvik, NWT where they had taken part in an historic three-day conference to explore the possibility of establishing a University of Canada North to serve the Northwest and Yukon territories.

On hand to welcome the Canadians to the campus were members of the University of Alaska groups which had returned the day before from the Inuvik conference. The Alaskans took part in panel discussions, answered questions, and generally described the Alaskan experience in providing educational opportunity in the North.

The Alaska group included Dr. Don Dafoe, university vice president for public service; Victor Fischer, director of the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research; Robert Egan, director of the Student Orientation Service (S.O.S.), which assists students from rural areas, primarily natives, to make the transition to campus life; Dr. Walter Soboleff, coordinator of native studies; and Knute Hansen from Aklavik in the Northwest Territories, a sophomore at the University of Alaska majoring in sociology.

Among the 26 Canadians visiting here were Terry Forth, territorial supervisor of continuing and special education from Inuvik; Father LeMour of the Roman Catholic Mission at Tuktoyaktuk in the Northwest Territories; Fred North, principal of the government-operated Six Alexander Mackenzie School at Inuvik; and Professor Robert G. Williamson, an anthropologist from Rankin Inlet, NWT.

At an informal meeting, the visitors heard from and asked questions of Associate Professor of Design Ronald Senungetuk; university president William R. Wood; Martha Teeluk of the Eskimo Language Workshop; Martha Jack and Helen Atkinson of S.O.S.

at the university "makes them very proud of what they are—they're no longer introverts,"

said Senungetuk.

Miss Atkinson told how the

(Continued on Page 8)

Canada Natives, Educators at UA

(Continued from page 2)

S.O.S. program has helped native students and sharply reduced the number of dropouts. Mrs. Jack described the new native studies program at the university, established at the request of the students.

The goal of Alaska's statewide system of higher education, said Wood, "is to respond to the interests and needs of individuals wherever they might be."

During their brief tour of the campus, the Canadian visitors observed students at work in Senungetuk's studio and stopped off at the Eskimo Language Workshop.

The University of Canada

North was incorporated in January of this year with a 31-member board of directors made up of an equal number of citizens from the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The objective is to pioneer a new form of educational institution appropriate to northern needs where purpose is all-important and the northern people, especially the original residents, are fully involved.

"It is only an idea at this point—the University of Canada North is something in the future," said one of the visitors to the campus here.

Speaking of the Inuvik conference, Dafoe said; "What we found is that they're very much interested in our statewide type of university, particularly our community colleges. They wanted to know what our experience has been, what our advice might be."

"They're going to have to start with something like our statewide services programs, they're going to have to pull together, coordinate what they have."

The conference, in Fischer's view, "was one more demonstration of how Alaska is ahead of northern Canada." The lack of unity and cultural identity work against social and educational advancement in the Northwest Territories, he observed.

Something akin to a community college system responding to public demand "might be a workable concept," he said. "Maybe they have to start with skin sewing and courses in English rather than brick and mortar."

At Inuvik he found "a tremendous respect for the University of Alaska and Alaska generally," Fischer said.