Eskimo Art Council Formed in Canada

By BETZI WOODMAN

The rapid expansion of interest in art of Canadian Eskimos in recent years has created need for a formal Eskimo Art Council.

Nine distinguished representatives of the arts in Canada accepted invitations from Northern Development Minister Arthur Laing to form such a council. The group will assist Eskimo art—producing Co—operatives "to maintain their high standards of quality," said Laing. "Members will appraise new art forms and advise on selection and pricing of the annual graphic art collections. Eskimo art and fine crafts approved by the Council will bear its stamp, or a registered tag, as a guarantee of authenticity to the buying public."

The first advisory group on Eskimo art in Canada was formed in 1959 at the request of the West Baffin Eskimo Co—operative; its members were available to advise the artists on standards, price and policy. Two years later, a Canadian Eskimo Art Committee was formed.

"Through the early critical years the members of these committees worked tirelessly to present the creative talents of the Eskimo people to the world," said Laing. "It is a tribute to them and to the artists that Canadian Eskimo art enjoys the world—wide reputation for quality that it does today. We are grateful that several of the original members of these committees have agreed to serve on the Eskimo Art Council."

Members of the new council are: Mrs. Doris Shadbolt, acting Director of Vancouver Art Gallery; George Swinton, Head, Fine Arts Dept., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; Mrs. Alma Houston, Fine Arts Division, Canadian Arctic Producers, Ottawa; M. F. Feheley, Head of TDF Artists, Toronto; George Elliott, vice president, Maclaren Advertising Co., Toronto; Jacques Folch—Ribas, architect, town planner, Montreal; Jean—Noel Poliquin, president of Sculptors Association of Quebec, Montreal; Alex Colville, noted Canadian artist, New Brunswick; James Houston, design consultant, Steuben Glass, New York.

All members serve without fee.