



CIRCUMPOLAR EDUCATION—The University of Alaska and Arctic Institute of North America will co-sponsor the first international conference on cross-cultural education next August at McGill University in Montreal. Discussing cultural materials for the meeting are UA faculty members Victor Fischer, left, director of the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research;

Frank Darnell, center, head of the Department of Education and director of the Alaska Rural School Project; and Dr. Wendell Wolfe, dean of the College of Behavioral Sciences and Education. Darnell is chairman of the conference and its steering committee. Fischer also serves on the steering committee.

—UA PHOTO

Circumpolar Education Conference

COLLEGE—The first international conference on cross-cultural education in the north will be held in Montreal next August, co-sponsored by the University of Alaska and the Arctic Institute of North America.

Purpose of the conference will be to review the common problems of educational programs for Eskimos, Indians, and other natives in nations that border the polar regions.

More than 100 government administrators, educators, and social scientists are expected to attend the meeting Aug. 18 to 21 at McGill University.

Delegates from Canada, Greenland (Denmark), and the United States will participate. Because they have similar northern region problems, educators from the Scandinavian countries and the Soviet Union also will be invited.

The University of Alaska has been granted \$56,500 by the Ford Foundation to support the conference. An earlier \$5,000 grant from the foundation was used for advance planning.

Three UA faculty members are serving on the conference steering committee. They are Frank Darnell, head of the Department of Education and director of the Alaska Rural School project; Victor Fischer, director of the Institute of Social, Economic, and Government Research and Dr. William Loyens, assistant professor of anthropology.

Darnell, chairman of the steering committee and conference, spearheaded organization of the meeting and was principal investigator of the planning study that led to Ford Foundation support.

The Arctic Institute of North America, co-sponsor of the conference, is a private, non-profit organization that fosters research in all scientific disciplines. Its Board of Governors includes members from Canada, Denmark and the U.S.

The Montreal conference will be the third major meeting in which UA and the Arctic Institute have shared sponsorship and the first international meeting to ever consider educational problems of all circumpolar nations.

Darnell reported that about

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20 Alaskans will be invited to the conference. These will include educators and representatives of various native associations, such as the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN).

The AFN, an organization established last year to coordinate efforts of widely dispersed tribes, was recently awarded a support grant of \$100,000 by the Ford Foundation.