

# Canada Builds Pre-fab Houses For Its Natives

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By BETZI WOODMAN

Canada's Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has awarded a contract for \$1,197,000 for 234 pre-fabricated houses.

Part of an Eskimo Rental Housing program which calls for a total of 1,600 rental houses, these 234 are the second of a series of shipments to northern communities.

The first 194 homes built under the program were completed in 1966 to provide adequate housing for about half the Eskimo population of Baffin Island.

Of the 234 houses, 214 will be rental units destined for a total of 18 different communities in the Baffin and Keewatin regions of the Arctic District of the Northwest Territories.

The remaining 20 will serve as welfare houses in areas which will not immediately be served by the rental program.

Speaking of the rental housing program, Northern Development Minister Arthur Laing said:

"A rental house will not tie down the head of a family. Whether they earn a living in wage employment, as independent hunters or a combination of both, people of the North should be free to move to where the work is."

The houses will come in two different three-bedroom designs, both providing for an equal amount of living space—700 square feet. Delivery was to have been completed by mid-July so that assembly could be accomplished by cold weather.

They were shipped to points north from Montreal in the form of pre-assembled panels which could be easily erected by local workers.