

## LETTERS to EDITOR

Alaska Indian Arts, Inc.

October 3, 1967

Dear Howard:

I note with great, great interest Betzi Woodman's article of the formation of the Eskimo Art Council in Canada. We have advocated this type of organization for many, many times and will still pursue it.

On the 23rd to the 28th of Oct. we will have an Art Workshop here at Port Chilkoot and will have several outstanding panelist attend. We hope these people can evaluate the need for the same type of Art Council. A recent trip to Los Angeles enabled me to meet with some top art people who are most complimentary of the Northwest Coast art of the native people.

I hope that you might be able to attend the Art Workshop on all or part of the session. The last three days will be the summation and would be the most interesting. We will have the sessions in our new Chilkat Center for the Arts which is our Centennial project.

Sincerely,  
Carl W. Heinmiller  
President

The Editor,  
The DRUM  
Inuvik, N.W.T.

I would like to say something about geese. Eskimo people like geese. The geese are the Eskimos' best food. It is like the Whiteman's vegetable salad.

I remember when I was a young boy. I was brought up on Banks Island where the geese nest. The Eskimos used to pick all the geese eggs they wanted for the Spring and also kill a lot of geese every Spring.

The geese makes the Eskimo happy because they are tired of other meats like caribou, seal meat and polar bear meat. So geese is like a dessert. This is one food that would never be thrown away, never wasted.

I remember when the R.C.M.P. came that they couldn't allow us to pick up eggs anymore or to shoot geese in the Spring. That was the saddest news I've ever heard, that all Eskimos have ever heard from a white man.

So the Eskimos stopped killing geese and stopped picking eggs. They may kill a few geese now and then, you know, but it is never a good feeling.

I remember after seven years I went back to Banks Island and the geese been flooding the island where they used to nest. They were even nesting in places where they never nested before.

So I believe if the eggs are not picked by the people the geese will continue to increase. There should be some geese taken by Eskimo families in the Spring, at least up to 20 to a family, but not the eggs. I don't think this will hurt the geese at all.

Now the law only lets us kill geese in the Fall. The geese in the Fall is hard to get. They fly very high and they don't stay around very long. By the time the geese season is open most of them have gone South already.

Could not the Eskimos be allowed to kill a few geese in the Spring?

I would like an answer about this from the government.

Yours truly,  
Sam Raddi, Inuvik