

Fort Providence Women's Institute members and friends. Mrs. Hough is at the extreme left.



## *With the Northern Canada Institutes*

**F**OLLOWING Mrs. Wm. Hough's work in the Northwest Territories this summer, the F.W.I.C. secretary, Mrs. H. G. Taylor reports:

"There are now eight active branches in the Mackenzie District, four of them organized at the time of Mrs. Hough's first trip in 1960 (one temporarily disbanded but re-organized) and four new ones. These are Discovery, Inuvik, Fort Providence and Fort McPherson in the older group; new ones — Fort Smith (name to be chosen), Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson and Delta, this a second group at Inuvik composed of native women. Reports are still to come in from other centres in the N.W.T. as to what action was taken after further discussion at a later meeting. No returns are in yet from the Yukon Territory, the latter place visited by Mrs. Hough.

"A crest has been adopted by the N.C.W.I., a brochure is being compiled for their use and a newsletter, "The Northern Lights Bulletin" is issued regularly in the interest of these groups in the North. This is edited by Mrs. George Wilson, St. Marys, Ontario, and Mrs. Hough. A monthly broadcast is also recorded by the co-editors, which is heard throughout Northern Canada through the courtesy of the C.B.C. Northern Service and the local radio stations."

At a meeting of the Northern Canada Women's Institutes committee of F.W.I.C. at which Mrs. Hough reported her work and observations, plans were discussed for setting up a Unesco Gift Coupon Plan for extension work in Northern Canada. This is to be a national plan and has now been so recognized by the Canadian National Commission for Unesco and at the Unesco Headquarters in Paris. A number has been assigned, #367, and following the policy of this international

agency, plans call for adult education for the women resident in Northern Canada with training programs to promote crafts, leadership training and better methods of homemaking under existing conditions, with materials supplied for this purpose.

Mr. B. G. Sivertz of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and Father André Renaud of the Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada attended the meeting and agreed that a great need of the North is to raise the standards of homemaking and that the Women's Institute is the organization to do this, as well as to generate a community spirit.

Mrs. Hough said that the great challenge is to help the women to help themselves. To raise the standard of homemaking she suggested that one of the first needs in a Northern community is a supply water and a wash house. And she recommended having a home economics extension worker to work with the Institutes already formed and to extend the work into the Eastern Arctic. Another suggestion was to take the older school children on visits to the outside world to see how farming is carried on. And when the young people go out to work in cities or towns they need placement centres and living accommodations where they can board until they learn how to live and take care of themselves in their new environment.

Mrs. Hough noted that the Yukon women are not as responsive to a Women's Institute program as the women in the Territories. As the Yukon has developed the native population have withdrawn to themselves and seem unwilling to adapt to modern ways of life — which makes it important that we get the interest of the native women as early as possible and "bring them along with us as the country develops."