

HERE AND THERE - Cont'd.....

ments later.

Grants to municipalities in lieu of taxes would be 100 per cent the first year and reduced by 20 per cent each year.

REGULATIONS COMPLICATE LIFE OF ESKIMOS

Mecka Wilson is a 24-year-old Eskimo woman who is concerned that Canada's Eskimos are losing their freedom and is trying to do something about it.

A native of Pangnirtung, Baffin Island, Mrs. Wilson now lives in Frobisher Bay where she is executive Secretary of the Baffin region office of the Inuit Tapirisat (Eskimo Brotherhood).

Mrs. Wilson, who is also on the brotherhood's board of Directors, is responsible for working with the groups' Baffin region field worker and Frobisher's 1,700 Inuit.

Her first year with the brotherhood has involved establishing communications with Inuit, trying to discover their problems and helping them to understand the community problems of other settlements.

At Pangnirtung, an adult education department video tape of a local weaving project was exchanged with other communities. A public health project is now under way.

A bad housing problem is one reason why a group is needed to represent the Inuit, explained Mrs. Wilson.

Settlement councils in the various communities completely approve of the brotherhood's work in trying to identify settlement problems and seek government solutions, Mrs. Wilson reported.

While the brotherhood's Frobisher Bay representative

wants the Inuit to know more about the Canadian society to which they belong, she also hopes southerners will become more knowledgeable about Eskimos.

INDIAN AFFAIRS AGREES TO START SCHOOL THIS YEAR

Winnipeg - The Federal Indian Affairs Dept. has agreed to meet one of the main demands of Indian parents in a school boycott, but it may be some weeks before the children return to classes.

The parents and the band council of the Fort Alexander Indian reserve, have charged that facilities have been improvised in the North Shore School to the point where they are a health hazard for children.

William Thomas, regional director of Indian Affairs in Manitoba, said the Dept. has agreed to undertake preliminary work this year on a new school which will be completed for classes in September, 1975.

Chief Philip Fontaine of Fort Alexander blamed inadequate buildings and a contaminated water supply for a series of illnesses on the reserve last winter.

His criticism of the health conditions was backed up by a doctor in nearby Pine Falls who said that the school appeared to be spreading disease throughout the community through the students.

Mr. Thomas said that until the new school is completed, portable classrooms will be brought in to end overcrowding and the use of basement classrooms.

In building the new school, he said, the Dept. will try to circumvent government regulations in order to allow the Indians to use their own architect and to participate in the construction.