



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

W.C.M.
Release

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

*ORIG kept by Mrs Dept-
15/10/53*

Set-up and Camera
Alan Grayston

Prod. No. 53-302-3
600' fine grain pos.

Cable Code - Eskimo
Cable Address:
STARK, CANADAFILM, OTTAWA

CANADA'S ESKIMOS VOTE FOR FIRST TIME
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BALLOT BOXES DELIVERED BY HELICOPTER IN CANADIAN NORTHLAND
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NEWEST CANADIAN ICEBREAKING SUPPLY SHIP D'IBERVILLE PLIES HER WAY
AMONG ICEBERGS CARRYING BALLOT BOXES TO NORTHERN
RESIDENTS
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Labrador, August, 1953.

An interesting highlight of the recent Dominion election in Canada, was the manner in which ballot boxes were distributed in Canada's hinterland. Voting for the first time, the Eskimos were astounded when Inspector Jack Charleson of the Canadian Government and Magistrate Harry Noseworthy, special representative of the returning officer for this district, dropped from the air in a helicopter with the election documents and ballot boxes to complete arrangements for voting.

Operating from the Canadian supply ship, D'Iberville, which loaded the boxes at Cornerbrook, Newfoundland, these two government officials carried out a different type of assignment in getting the boxes ashore. A few of the settlements along the Labrador coast could be reached by the D'Iberville when the water was deep and calm enough for the vessel to move inshore. Then a barge was lowered from the ship and the mission completed. Other times a row-boat was used. But when the going was really too rough to take the big ship into the rocky bays the "egg-beater" was the means of transportation. Often finding a landing spot for the copter was a real chore and a clear spot on a rock served as a landing field. The people in the North have often seen the trans-Atlantic planes flying overhead and the occasional seaplane, but the helicopter was a wonder and they watched with amazement as the machine slowly landed on the chosen spot.

Magistrate Noseworthy's job involved picking a deputy returning officer at each of the 45 Labrador and Northern Quebec communities he had to visit, leaving with him the election documents and ballot boxes and completing arrangements for the voting.

Most of the Eskimos will be ranging the wide expanses of the Arctic and sub-Arctic country for game during the short summer season. However, at the main concentrations of Eskimo population - Fort Chino, Port Harrison, Ivuyivik and Sagluk in Northernmost Quebec and Labrador - some were within easy distance of polling stations and able to exercise that precious right to vote for the government of their choice.