

ANCSA Corporations

We have frequently listened to ANCSA cynics complain that the land claims act corporations are not democratic and do not provide for a voice in corporate affairs from individual shareholders. Whatever other drawbacks the corporate system has when contrasted to traditional Native political systems, individual achievement is not prohibited.

This was evident over the weekend when the Doyon, Ltd. regional corporation achieved a degree of smooth, orderly transition on its board on the first ballot of shareholder votes. Management votes were never cast. Roger Huntington, Ken Chase, and Jules Wright won seats on the board through an effort which can be attributed solely to individual achievement. Board members Sam Demientieff, Mike Harper and Al Ketzler were re-elected to their directorships.

We begin to suspect that criticism of the ANCSA corporations being "non-democratic" may perhaps be often attributed to sour grapes.