

KIC enters

construction j.v.

By Stan Jones
Kotzebue Correspondent

The directors of Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation (the Kotzebue village corporation) have voted to enter into a joint venture with Gittins Construction Company to bid on a number of jobs expected to go to bid this summer in Kotzebue. KIC would own 51% of the joint venture, while Gittins would hold 49%.

"The board and staff realize the need to assist the local economy in employment in our area. One of the projects we are looking at doing this year is a 28-unit apartment complex to house teachers and administrators. This project had a stipulation that we receive a long-term, low-interest loan, which I am working on with the Department of Revenue at this point," said KIC president Al Adams.

Other projects listed by Adams as potential bids for the joint venture company include renovation of a 14-unit apartment building owned by the Northwest Arctic School District, construction of a \$2 million human services complex for Maunehuk Association, and work on a hangar for the Kotzebue Civil Air Patrol.

The state of Kotzebue economy was also responsible for a loss of some \$129,000 by the Kotzebue Alaska Commercial during its second year of operation, according to Adams. "It was due to no jobs, and no fish," Adams said. "Really, that's our problem here in Kotzebue, I think. It stands with all the business here in Kotzebue."