



T.V.A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT WORK — Reading clockwise from far right: Jim Dodson, president, Fairbanks T.V.A.; Richard Frank, Director of Lands, Tanana Chiefs Conference; Greg Thies, Executive Director, F.T.V.A.;

Harrilyn Blankenship, Administrative Assistant, F.T.V.A.; Jack Wright, Mayor, North Pole; Jerry Smetzer, Program Coordinator, F.T.V.A.; Sam Kito, Executive Director, T.C.C.; and Tim Wallis, president, D.N.H. Development Corp.

— Photo by FRANK MURPHY

More Village Jobs Goal Of New TVA

People in the rural areas of the Tanana Chiefs Conference can expect to have some visitors during February and March of this year. The most likely visitor will be Jerry Smetzer of Fairbanks who is Project Coordinator for Fairbanks T.V.A. Development, Incorporated.

Fairbanks T.V.A. Development, Incorporated, is based in downtown Fairbanks. They are a non-profit corporation created under the authority of the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. and given financial support by both Federal and Local Government.

According to Greg Thies, Executive Director, the principal purpose of the organization is to assist people living in the urban and rural areas of the Tanana Chiefs region in developing more jobs and more income for themselves.

People living in the urban areas of the Tanana Chiefs region (basically the City of Fairbanks and the rest of Election District 17) prepared their OEDP in 1970.

Since the passage by the Congress of the United States of the Native Land Claims Settlement in December 1971, however, all of the Tanana Chiefs Conference area was included in an Economic Development District.

This District, as big as the State of Texas, and including 41 rural villages in addition to the Urban Fairbanks area, must have an Overall Economic Development Plan which includes all of the area within the new boundaries.

As Project Coordinator, it is

Jerry Smetzer's responsibility to assist people in the rural areas in the preparation of the OEDP.

"It is not my job to write the OEDP", Smetzer states. "My job is to travel to the villages, to set down and talk with the village council president and with many other people in the village.

"I hope we will be able to talk about jobs in the village, about income, and, of course, about the Native Land Claims Settlement, and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline."

Project Coordinator Smetzer will be bringing a tape recorder, a camera, and some information about the village with him. He hopes to return with pictures and recorded statements of people living and working in the village.

Smetzer was asked what would be done with all these pictures and statements.

"Our office staff here in Fairbanks will type the statements made by people in each village. We will be working very closely with Sam Kito, Tim Wallis, and Richard Frank of Doyon Limited, to return the statements to the villages for additional comments or changes.

"Later in March, around the time of the North American Dog Sled Championship Race, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference meeting in Fairbanks, the Board of Directors of Fairbanks T.V.A. Development, Incorporated, will hold a meeting to approve the OEDP."

Smetzer concluded by stating that anybody who will be in town will be encouraged to attend the Board meeting and make comments about the OEDP before it is approved.

Sam Kito, Executive Director of Doyon Limited, the Tanana Chiefs Conference Regional Corporation, is also a member of the Executive Committee of Fairbanks T.V.A. Development, Incorporated.

"The work that Jerry Smetzer will be doing in the rural areas of the Tanana Chiefs Conference will be very valuable to us in the difficult years ahead. I would like to urge people to talk with Jerry and tell him about village needs" stated Kito.

Other Native members of the Executive Committee are Tim Wallis, Richard Frank and Melvin Charlie.

If you are going to visit Fairbanks, the offices are located on the first floor of the Chena Building at 510 2nd Avenue next to the Lacey Street Theater. You are welcome to come in, have some coffee, and talk with either Mr. Thies or Mr. Smetzer.

You can also call them at 452-4767, Extension 53, in Fairbanks or write to Fairbanks T.V.A. Development, Incorporated, 510 2nd Avenue, P.O. Box 1267, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.