

Native Unity

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Howard Rock Editor

Those who participated in the recent Conference of Native Organizations held in Fairbanks, left the meeting with a feeling that a definite beginning of unity among Native people of Alaska had been accomplished. The conference was the first concerted effort ever attempted by Natives to work toward cooperation with one another—a cooperation of the Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts.

One could not help but sense that a historic beginning had been made. The spontaneity of the participants in expressing themselves for the continuance of the conference as an annual affair was satisfying. But above all, its historic implications were clearly evident as the final report of conference stated:

“The Conference will be remembered, and perhaps honored, in commemoration, by future generations of Natives, as the beginning of self improvement for our Native population.”

The importance of the conference was unmistakable. It proved that there was, and is, a strong feeling and desire to work together, and by working together things can be accomplished for the benefit of the Natives everywhere.

It was felt by those who planned the conference that unity among the Native organizations, and the people they represent, was a needed entity that would gain for our Native people a respect they should enjoy from the rest of the population of the State of Alaska. And having gained this respect, we could then cooperate with members of the white population working for a better Alaska of the future.