

Venture to feature Native hire

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.'s (CIRI) partnership in Cook Inlet Cablecom would result in significant employment and training opportunities for Alaska Natives and stockholders of the regional native corporation, according to CIRI President Roy Huhndorf.

Huhndorf said that Cook Inlet Cablecom's proposal for an Anchorage cable-TV system includes provisions for Native and local hire. "Cook Inlet Cablecom would attempt to employ as many Alaskans as possible, and make special efforts to recruit Natives, particularly Cook Inlet Region, Inc., shareholders."

Native hire will be facilitated through a system of training courses held both in Anchorage and Outside. "Overall," Huhndorf said, "Cablecom-General operates about 40 cable systems in nine states. We've discussed with Cablecom the possibility of assigning Alaskans — both Natives and non-Natives — to some of these locations so that they can be taught the skills necessary to operate a sophisticated cable system in Anchorage. Cablecom-General's attitude on this type of training has been very positive and was a major reason in CIRI's decision to participate in the venture."

The training and hiring of Alaskans in significant numbers will help to promote the advancement of minorities in communications, a field we have largely been excluded from, Huhndorf said.



ANNOUNCING THE NEW Cook Inlet Region venture last week were, left to right, John N. Colberg, Chairman of the CIRI Board of Directors; Dr. Gerald A. Cahill, Cablecom-General, Inc.; and Roy M. Huhndorf, President of Cook Inlet Region, Inc.