

Tabios new head of North Pacific Rim

Derenty Tabios of Port Graham is the new executive director of The North Pacific Rim.

The North Pacific Rim—the non-profit regional corporation serving Prince William Sound, has experienced some other changes in recent months. A new Board of Directors has been elected and is now functioning. The present Board, elected in November, is made up of one representative from each community in the region. The newly elected members include: Kathy Anderson (Eyak), chairperson; Nick Kompkoff (Chenega), vice chairperson; Lydia Robert (Port Graham), secretary; Esther Ronne (Seward), treasurer; Myra Allen (Tatitlek); and Seraphim Ukatisch (English Bay). At this time Valdez does not have a representative to fill the vacancy on the seven person Board.

Among the first tasks of the new Board was the selection of a new executive director for TNPR. That position had been vacant since the former director, Cliff Black, resigned to become executive vice-president for Human Resources at AFN. Following the interviewing of several applicants for the position, the Board selected Tabios as the new director of the Rim. Tabios will begin his work at TNPR January 1.

TNPR Programs Growing

During the past year The North Pacific Rim has experienced a tremendous growth and expansion of programs as a result of increased involvement of community members serving on advisory boards and attending community meetings. TNPR now employs a total of 35 people, working to meet the needs of the region. Following is a brief description of the work in which staff and regional members are involved:

TNPR operates a number of

programs which provide jobs and services to local communities within the region with funding provided through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). These jobs include a plant operator and village secretary at Tatitlek, village secretaries in Port Graham and English Bay, a bookkeeper and two secretaries at the Anchorage office, a youth counselor in Seward, as well as three Artifact Reproduction Specialists and four Forestry Management Trainees in Cordova.

Special programs of the Employment and Training Services Department include the ARTIFACT REPRODUCTION PROJECT (a pilot project) designed to train Alaskan artists and craftsmen in the reproduction of Native cultural artifacts. The FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PROJECT located in Cordova provides classroom and on-the-job training in the management and preservation of forest lands in the Chugach Region.

A new program which will begin in January is the PARALEGAL TRAINING PROGRAM which will train seven village residents as paralegals in areas such as basic legal skills, legal systems, family and juvenile law, consumer education, etc.

A Social, Economic and Government Planning Project has recently been established through TNPR. The project will involve both staff and village residents in developing community profiles and community planning techniques. The project is funded to provide training in those areas of planning which village residents would find useful.

Attention has been given during the past year to the planning of the restoration and relocation of Chenega. Needs assessments and housing applications have been accomplished with the

hope that the construction of homes could start by the summer of 1978.

Health Department

The staff of the health department has grown from four people last year to twelve people serving the region this year. The staff includes three health aides, four Outreach Workers, one secretary, one Health Planner, one Community Health Coordinator, one administrative manager and a health director. This past year, the Health Department has accomplished (1) transfer of the Health Aide Program from Cook Inlet Native Association, (2) support to village and Anchorage staff in training programs, (3) the first comprehensive study of Alaska Native health care in the Chugach Region, (4) providing assistance to Prince William Sound villages in negotiating their local health contracts, (5) financial support to the ANS contracts in each village, (6) encouraged the placement of Chugach people on two statewide Boards of Directors of health programs, and (7) provided a one-time dental care program in two villages.

Education Department

A variety of services are provided through the TNPR Education Department. A youth center has been established in Seward to provide services such as basketball, baseball, exercise classes, chess, babysitting classes, gymnastics and similar programs. A pre-school in English Bay has had seven students during this year and Port Graham's pre-school has had six enrolled. Tatitlek students have received instruction in welding and ski binding installation and 24 students participated in a field trip to Cordova.