

# Company provides Slope jobs for villagers

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**Wally Carlo** flies to the North Slope once a month to check on the people he has hired and see how they are doing. He is president of River Villages Incorporated, a company owned by three village corporations. River Villages, merged with another company, has a two-year housekeeping, catering, laundry and janitorial contract with four camps at Prudhoe Bay. The \$3 million operation employs 56 people. As president, Carlo makes sure the company keeps the jobs in the land of opportunity.

"I don't want to lose any positions. Money goes back into the economy for the village...that's lots of money."

To make sure his employees have someone to talk to about basic concerns or need any help he checks on them every month. "Let them chew on me for awhile," he says. A lot of it can be worked out before they become bigger problems.

Carlo says he tries to hire shareholders from the Doyan region first, but looks first for well qualified people.

To ensure job capability, Carlo calls Tanana Chiefs and arranges for a training session. After notification is sent out to different villages, all applications are sent back to TCC. The initial weeding takes place and possible ap-

plicants are notified for interviews. TCC pays their way to Fairbanks where they go through an intense interview and are scored by points from their answers. The people selected are sent to three months of training at Kotzebue Technical Center where they learn food service and housekeeping. This environment will be much like the jobs they will be doing at the North Slope.

Some students can get GED diplomas while in training also, he said. They can study at night after courses.

He feels the training is successful and students benefit from it.

Once up at the North Slope, employees work 11.5 hours a day, every day for four weeks, then get one week off. This double life has its disadvantages.

Mariane Isaac from Tanacross has worked as housekeeper for two years. Her girls, ages 14 and 2, stay with her mother.

"It's alright but I hate to leave them," she says. Others speak of the benefits of the job.

As a day janitor, Terry Demon-ski from Galena talks of what money can buy.

"I bought two trucks, a three-wheeler, a freezer, lots of clothes for my daughter and wife," he says. He has been working for two years since River Villages contracted and hopes they get their contract renewed.