

# Native Benefits from The Land Claims Act

By JAMES HUNTINGTON

For your information, I am enclosing a breakdown of Federal monies from the Land Claims Act as you will receive it.

Many government agencies, our congressmen, and our state legislators, keep bringing up the amount of money the Indians are getting and how they should take over the money, schools, and welfare programs. I want to take this opportunity to give you the facts and figures of why we will still need to use the D-2 lands for subsistence living for the next many years to come.

The agencies that plan on dropping Indian programs will have to take a very close look at actually what did the Indians get. We know the State of Alaska owes the Indians \$500 million but how do you pay that with a big "if" being that the Government agencies and the State of Alaska have to work the facts. As of now, we can't count on the money the State owes the Indians if the planning of the lands in Alaska is based on facts.

We must at this time have facts of what the Indian had really gotten in cash. All the actual cash any Indian will receive in the first five years, which is the 10 per cent of the top, is \$366.09 total per head. You have already gotten \$181.53 in the first payment which was the payment for the past three years. You will get two more payments off the top which is \$92.28 each for two years and that will be the end of the cash payments as required in the Land Claims Act. You can see the Regional Corporations and Village Corporations receiving the balance of the money. Village and Regional Corporations will each receive 45% of the money for the next two years of 1975 and 1976.

Those enrolled into the Village Corporation will have interest in the stock of that Village Corporation. The value of what the stock will not be known until 1991, plus, you will have interest in the Regional Corporation. Your interest will be in stock. The value of the Doyon stock will be undetermined until 1991.

Those not enrolled into the Village Corporation but enrolled-at-large will receive in cash these payments:

1975	\$415.27
1976	415.27
1977	263.66
1978	197.75
1979	197.75
1980	197.75
1981	197.75
1982	197.75

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Total	\$2,082.20
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The Regional Corporation Board is charged with the responsibility and protection of the Village Corporation and its stockholders to see that the best possible use of their monies is made with minimum risk.

The Village Corporation will all become a business corporation who are suppose to have a lot of money. No one stop to figure that 85% of that money is still owed to the Indian and some of that money will not be paid for 20 years. After 1976, the Village and Regional Corporation will each receive 50/50 on the balance of the money except for those who live in the urban areas. The region will receive 50 per cent of the total as shown in the breakdown.

It is not mandatory that the Federal Government make the appropriations for the Land Claims money, so any year the Government might not appropriate the money for some reason. Our payments will then suddenly become a deficit.

If every Indian got his money in cash from the Federal Government and there was no Village or Regional Corporation, he would get \$518.83 a year for the next nine years. Then comes the big "if" the State of Alaska pays off which is a long way off. We would double that as you know the State is not going to start paying anything until 1980 to amount to anything. So, there is no way we can plan on any State money. You can see now that the cash picture is not so hot because the people now know that you know \$399.98 is all the cash anyone get, although, the Indian will receive in stock a value of approximately \$518.88 a year for nine more years or more. There is no way for him to use that money for buying power. He cannot turn it into cash for 20 years, so now it has no cash value to the Indian.

The Board of Directors of the Regional Corporation is

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charged with the protection of the Village Corporation and its stockholders. So, the board must use a cautious approachment to any proposed investment by the Village Corporation and must be of the highest standards at least a 75% chance of proven success.

We must as a board not invest the stockholders' money of Village or Regional Corporations like the State of Alaska did where they invested \$18 million and lost \$6 million, plus, a million in interest.

The picture should be clear to all Federal and State Agencies that the Indian did not get a hell of a lot of money per person after all. They should also take a clear look at the proposed cuts in the Indian programs. There is no way we can, at this time, take over even the modest part of any welfare, social, or educational programs from the State of Alaska or the Federal Government. Now that we know where we stand, we more than ever before, will need the continued use of the D-2, D-1, and State lands and streams for our subsistence life. Any monies that the Indians is going to get is a long way off. However, in our plans, we will use the Land Claims Act to start building a future for our Indian developments of programs, businesses, industrial developments, and the utilization and preservations of our lands.

I ask again all of you to take a good look at the Land Claims Act before making your decisions final. You must give the Indian an equal chance. The same chance you want if you were in his shoes.