

**Think spring - - -**

**Think break-up !**

**Group hopes to start first rural program in state:**

## ***Interdependent living in Kotzebue***

**By Roger Wright, Jr.**  
Special to the *Tundra Times*

**KOTZEBUE** - - On Tuesday, March 30, people with disabilities, and others got together at the Kotzebue Technical Center to work on and develop our own locally operated Independent Living (IL) program.

We were introduced to the concepts of what a non-profit corporation is. We viewed videos of other people with disabilities who are involved in IL programs in Anchorage and other cities and got some ideas on the first steps needed to

start our own corporation.

We talked about the problems in rural Alaska, such as housing and transportation needs for people who want to start living more independently.

Roger Wright, Jr., and Tim Richards, Jr., committed to being founding members of the Board of Directors. Others present, C.J. Winkel, Brett Connor, Pete Johnson, Corey Knight, Ken Ipalook, William Hutchinson and Audrey Aanes expressed interest in helping with the development of the program.

We decided to meet again in April to begin the application process for

starting the new corporation.

We would like to thank the Technical Center for the use of the Library as an accessible meeting place, Pete Johnson and Maniilaq for transportation, and also thanks to Maniilaq for making the snow removal possible for the meeting.

And thank you Audrey Aanes for coming to Kotzebue and helping us with the process!

*Editor's note: The writer is a former Tundra Times contributor of stories, photographs and other art work. We hope to hear more on the progress of the new organization.*