

Borough will be positive step for the people

Willie "Iggiagruk" Hensley

The past 15 years since the passage of the Land Claims Act has been a a great challenge for the people of the NANA region.

We have had to make difficult decisions but our people have worked with the leadership to meet these challenges.

Just like the rest of Alaska, changes have come about and we have had to adjust and make the most out of the situation.

Alaska has had the good fortune of having plenty of income to take care of its citizens. That is changing as the price of oil drops. Businesses are having to cut costs in order to survive. Some are not surviving.

NANA will have to meet these

difficult economic times by cutting costs, doing more with less and making some difficult decisions.

On the positive side, the NANA region has one of the few bright spots happening in Alaska with the agreement to proceed on the Red Dog Port this summer and the road construction to begin next year.

The formation of the Northwest Arctic Borough will bring new funds to the NANA region to help take care of the people's needs.

We urge our shareholders to vote favorably on the new borough. Otherwise, the Red Dog mine will remain in the North Slope Borough.



NANA President Willie Hensley (center), presented testimony on the 1991 legislation before the House Subcommittee on Interior and Insular Affairs in Washington, D.C. on April 17. photo by Jim Benedetto