

AFN Negotiates \$100,000 Loan From Tyonek

The Alaska Federation of Natives this week negotiated a loan of \$100,000 from the Native Village of Tyonek.

AFN President Emil Notti completed the details of the loan agreement on Wednesday at the Tyonek village.

The purpose of the loan is to pursue the Alaska native land claims issue.

The Tyonek village council

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in approving the loan expressed a desire to help all native people in Alaska by having spokesmen in Washington, D. C. for land deliberations and hearings.

Notti said that five to seven people will be employed full time between now and the Middle of June when land hearings begin in Washington.

The AFN president said that he would like to send somebody back to the nation's capitol right away. He said this was needed at the earliest possible time.

"I think it's a very good thing that the loan came through at this time," Notti said. "Without it, we would have a tough time of getting any witnesses back there. I think we need them full time to prepare their testimony."

The AFN is also negotiating for another \$100,000 loan from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Revolving Loan Fund.

In order to negotiate this loan, AFN will have to be recognized as a tribal organization. Necessary papers toward this are being prepared this week and Notti said that they would be done in a week.

Emil Notti talked on a long distance phone call to Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert L. Bennett.

"Bennett indicated he can see no problem in recognizing AFN as a tribal organization so we could become eligible for the \$100,000 loan from the revolving fund," Notti said.

The Tyonek loan is intended for interim financing while the Federation pursues the loan from BIA revolving fund.