

# ASNA Installs Charles Edwardson as Director

A 28-year-old Barrow man who has been described as "the grandfather of the Arctic Slope Native Association" has become the organization's new executive director.

Charlie Edwardson, Jr. succeeded Sam Talaak, who held the position several months following the resignation of Eben Hopson, who assumed the duties of executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage.

Edwardson was unavailable for comment because he is in Washington, D.C. with the AFN delegation working for the passage of a land claims bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

According to Joe Upicksoun, president of the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA), Edwardson has made several trips

before to Washington and worked on the sidelines for the ASNA land claims position.

Currently in Washington with Edwardson is Wesley Aiken, also of the organization.

"He's just wonderful," explained Upicksoun, in describing the new executive director. "We are real glad we were able to harness his energies."

Upicksoun added that Edwardson was the originator of ASNA when it was founded in 1966. Now representing about 4,000 Eskimos, the organization includes Barrow, Anaktuvuk Pass, Barter Island, Point Hope, and Wainwright.

Talaak, the former director, was notified at a board meeting the first part of August, Upicksoun said, that the organization

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# Charles Edwardson . . .

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could not retain an executive director because it was running low on funds. He was told his term would expire Aug. 31.

The board also decided that in the event an executive director could later be hired, the position would be advertised, Upicksoun added.

The Barrow ASNA chairman

and his committee, Upicksoun continued, were able to raise some funds and hence advertised the position. Edwardson, the only one to apply, filled that position Sept. 1.

The board and the ASNA attorneys are very delighted that he made himself available for the job, Upicksoun said.