

Business Briefs...

CEDC creates new vision

As it celebrates 25 years of service to rural Alaska, the Community Enterprise Development Corp. has created a new vision for its future which will focus on a more holistic approach to development of entire communities, rather than single enterprises within communities.

Ann Campbell, vice president of operations for CEDC, said the company had been hoping to rethink its future and that the sale of Alaska Rural Investments – including the Alaska Commercial Co. – to

The Northwest Co. of Winnipeg, Canada, created an opportunity for such an undertaking.

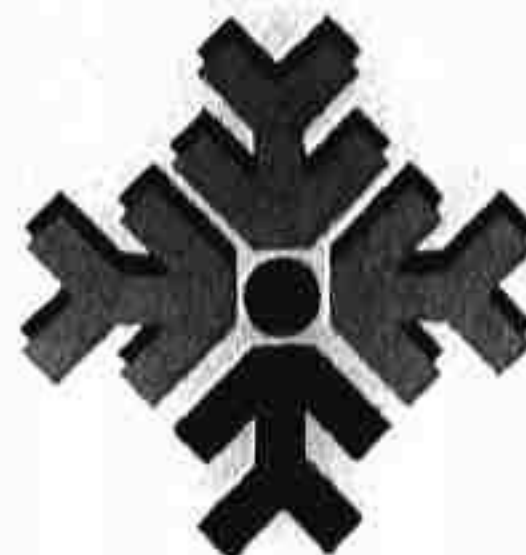
The sale was finalized in late 1992, and in January a majority of the 24-member CEDC board participated in a four-day retreat to chart the company's future direction.

"The idea was to develop a broad picture of what the company should look like in the future," Campbell said.

The board's vision was summarized as:

Embracing Culture, Strengthening Economies. . . through the wisdom of the elders, the inspiration of the parents and the dreams of the youth.

Now that the vision has been determined, the board and staff have been working to develop a new strategic plan. Working closely with the staff is the CEDC budget and planning committee. The target date for completion of the strategic plan is the next annual CEDC meeting in February 1994.



"What we're coming to in general terms is that the company will begin to focus on training, technical assistance and other community development activities," Campbell said.

A briefing session is being planned to coincide with the Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention on October 15 at 3:00 PM, downstairs at the Egan Convention Center. CEDC members, rural organizations, communities and individuals are invited to attend and offer their comments, particularly on needs assessment and how CEDC can be a catalyst.

CEDC was formed in 1968 and has 175 members, including village corporations and organizations, regional profit and non-profit corporations, co-ops and village IRA and traditional councils. Current major programs include various loan funds, the Alaska Native Tourism Council, the Howard Rock Foundation, consulting, training and enterprise programs. ■