



☐ Re-Elect

NELSON AHVAKANA

North Slope Borough Assembly

Nelson Ahvakana is running for his third term on the North Slope Borough Assembly. Those of us who know Nelson's career and life through our most rapid years of change support Nelson's re-election.

Nelson was born in Barrow in 1939, the youngest son of Laura and Floyd Ahvakana. Nelson attended school in Barrow during the last years of WWII and the Cold War years following. He did well in school and became active in the life of his church, and it became clear to his family and community he had a vocation to serve the church. He was sent to Sheldon Jackson school in Sitka to develop his spiritual vocation. He began high school in 1955 and planned to go on to college and the seminary. But that was not to be.

Nelson returned to Barrow after graduating from high school in 1959, the year before John Kennedy was elected president. Two decades of rapid growth and change were beginning, and Nelson decided to work for a year to earn money for college. He began as a construction worker at Icy Cape and went on to become a warehouse operator at NARL.

Nelson stayed on at NARL until 1963 to work in BIA's water purification plant, where he became plant foreman. He helped lead in the organization of the Barrow Utilities Co-op the following year, where he joined the new utility's board of directors. He served as secretary of the board and went on to serve as chairman of the board from 1967 until 1979.

Nelson served as a national guardsman in the Eskimo Scout Battalion, where he learned valuable leadership skills under his commander, Captain Eben Hopson. Nelson was Hopson's company clerk, and they were close until Hopson's death in 1980.

In 1964, Nelson married Elizabeth Sakenak, and today they have three children, Ronald, Erna Marie, and Edith Laura.

In 1965, Nelson Ahvakana was elected to the Barrow City Council, where he served as council treasurer and personally lead a successful delinquent tax collection effort which restored the city's financial health.

Nelson left the council after a single term

to devote his attention to the Arctic Slope Native Association and the Inupiat land claims movement. Nelson was elected ASNA secretary in 1967. Nelson began travelling to Washington, D.C., in behalf of our land claims and Bartow utilities business, and over the years he has established many valuable friends and contacts in our nation's capital.

In 1971, Nelson was elected to the board of directors of the new Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and was elected secretary, a post he held until 1979.

Nelson Ahvakana began exercising his ministry in 1971 when he became a lay worker. He was quickly commissioned as a lay preacher for the Ahmoagak regional parish.

When the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) was activated in 1975, Nelson served as treasurer until 1979. In 1974, Nelson was elected to the North Slope Borough Assembly. He immediately set to work to negotiate a tri-party agreement between the North Slope Borough, Barrow Utilities, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs through which the borough and BUECI assumed fully responsibility for Barrow utility systems, thus assuring the sound growth of the city's electric, water, and gas utilities.

In 1979, Nelson resigned from both BUECI and ASRC boards of directors to move to Barter Island to serve the Kaktovik Presbyterian congregation as a lay pastor. He devoted the next two years to his Kaktovik ministry and to his work on the NSB Assembly.

When the late Mayor Eben Hopson died in June, 1980, Nelson helped forge the political coalition which enabled the borough to meet the difficult period of transition. Nelson Ahvakana provided leadership in the campaign which led to the election of Eugene Brower as North Slope Borough Mayor last year.

It is clear to us that Nelson Ahvakana has a true vocation to serve his people, and he serves us well on the North Slope Borough Assembly.

We urge you to return Nelson Ahvakana to the North Slope Borough Assembly.

VOTE ON OCT. 5

Nelson Ahvakana for North Slope Borough Assembly

Paid for by: Nelson Ahvakana Campaign, Nuiqsut, Alaska 99723.