

# Thirteenth Regional Corporation Seeks Land Base in Alaska

*Editor's Note: The following article by Mr. Billy B. Johnson of the 13th Regional Corporation appeared June 18 in the DRUM of Inuvik, N.W.T. The story indicates the 13th Region is seeking a land base in Alaska.*

**By BILLY B. JOHNSON**

I am Bill B. Johnson and have recently been appointed as chairman of the Land Commit-

tee. The position of the 13th Regional Corporation in its investments programs is tremendous, with its directors working many fields to help upgrade the value of our stock. As Land Committee chairman, however, I shall seek to increase the value of our stock through land legislation. We seek a land base for shareholders of the 13th

Regional Corporation that would not take or include the land that is and will be selected and owned by the 12 Alaska-based corporations and their village corporations. I repeat, we are not seeking and will not seek any land selected or in the process of being selected by the other 12 regions and their villages.

Most of you know that during the Opt-In/ Opt-Out program I told many of you why the 13th was the right place for a non-resident shareholder. Today, I am more convinced than

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ever that this is so. The 13th can become better for all of us, if we can secure legislation to give the 13th a land base in Alaska.

This is a long-term project, and will not be easy. It will take a lot of work by the 13th. But there are reasons why we will succeed. We believe that it is fair and equitable that the 13th get land, and believe we can convince the United States Congress that this is so.

The board has demonstrated that we act responsibly with our assets and our goals. I am not going to promise you miracles, but I promise you I will work as hard as humanly possible for this goal.

We are going to need friends in this struggle. We are going to ask our brothers and sisters in Alaska to help us. There have

been disputes with them, but now is the time to work together. We will help them as we can, and will ask for help in our goals; we will also be asking for help from our friends in Washington, Oregon, California and wherever else we have shareholders. With a wellplanned and thoughtful land program, we will succeed in making the 13th all you want it to be and all it can be.

It's been an honor and a privilege to work as a board member to help achieve our goals.