

AFN is awarded contract for Kodiak Job Corps Center

The Alaska Federation of Natives has been awarded a contract by the U.S. Department of Labor to establish the first Job Corps Center in Alaska. Region X Administrator, Jess Ramaker, signed the 5.8 million dollar contract on the effective date of December 11, 1978. The scheduled opening date for the facility, which will be located at Chiniak, on Kodiak Island, is March 28, 1979.

Clifford Black, Executive Vice President and Chief Negotiator for the AFN, stated, "This contract brings into Alaska a much needed program, which will enable us to meet many of the responsibilities we have to our youth; it will give us an opportunity to help those who have given up on the system and dropped out."

The Project Officer, Jack Krois, of Region X, said, "the Chiniak Center will provide opportunities to receive vocational and educational training on a local basis; training consistent with the needs and desires of the people of Alaska." Mr. Krois has worked closely with Black and Frank Peterson during the past eight months attempting to secure the project for Alaska.

Dave McGuigan has been hired as the Center Director and will be visiting the site with the

AFN staff during the next few days. Mr. McGuigan will begin immediate plans for renovation and capital improvements of the facility. McGuigan is presently with the Kicking Horse Job Corps Center in Ronan, Montana, which he has directed since 1973.

The Chiniak Job Corps Center will house and train 225

Corpsmembers at capacity. The Center will be attempting innovative programs designed to meet needs that have been expressed by various organizations across the state. Some of the programs being considered are Seamanship, Aquaculture, Ecological logging and others as identified by the regional organizations.