

Anchorage Bound

The Tundra Times, which was founded in and maintained its offices at Fairbanks for sixteen years, will fully relocate to Anchorage by early September. This mandate was given to the staff of the newspaper by the board of directors of the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company in a formal resolution adopted earlier this year, and affirmed by subsequent board actions in recent months.

We are proud of our long association with the Fairbanks community and deeply grateful for the support provided to the newspaper by Interior citizens over the years.

The decision to relocate was not an easy one. The issue has surfaced a number of times during recent years. The direction provided by the board is clear, however, and the move must be accomplished.

The Tundra Times has never been a profitable operation. It has barely survived crisis upon crisis and was again nearly forced to cease publication. The Native community which the Tundra Times serves has increasingly insisted upon the relocation. Fairbanks serves as the headquarters for one regional Native profit and one non-profit corporation. Anchorage is the headquarters for five profit regional Native corporations, three non-profit regional Native corporations, and several statewide Native organizations serving Native people.

Income from advertising, circulation, donations and other financial assistance to the newspaper has largely been from Anchorage-based groups. The southcentral city now has more than twice the urban Native population of Fairbanks.

Each time the move proposal has been forwarded, argument has been made that the Tundra Times is a Fairbanks newspaper, has its place in the Fairbanks community, and should remain in Fairbanks. Our board of directors is of the opinion that the newspaper belongs to no single community, except that statewide community of Alaska Native people. It also considers that a statewide newspaper may be published in any Alaskan community.

We are proud of our Fairbanks roots. We are also proud, to a greater degree, of our roots in the Native community. The decision to move was motivated by a quality deeply rooted among Alaska Native peoples — the will to survive. Our founder once stated, "The will to survive — what a great story that is, and has been, under the circumstances." The oldest game in Alaska is survival. Our directors have determined that relocation is necessary for survival. We must respect that decision.

Thank you, Fairbanks, for your kindness. You will remain in our thoughts as part of our statewide community, along with Atka and Angoon, Kwethluk and Kaktovik, and even along with Anchorage.



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