

Upper Yukon Development Corporation Holds Meeting

By VINCE SLY

The Upper Yukon Development Corporation held its quarterly meeting on May 2, 3, 4, 1972 here in Fort Yukon.

Eight of the ten villages were in attendance as were guest speakers Tim Wallis of Tanana

Chiefs Conference, Roger Huntington of Local Affairs Agency, William Pfisterer of the Fort Yukon Teacher Corps project, Andre Schalk of the State Fire Marshall's Office and Larry Irving of the Rural Development Agency.

Also present were students from the villages who were permitted time off from school to attend the meeting and witness how priorities are worked on and decisions are made that will affect their villages.

Jonathon Solomon, as Chairman, presided over the three day gathering as villages gave reports on conditions and upcoming projects in their areas and various state agencies gave descriptions and information on their services.

Roger Huntington described the process for villages to incorporate as 4th Class Cities and outlined advantages, such as Revenue Sharing, that can be derived from such status.

This summer's Neighborhood Youth Corps programs and the availability of funding for village projects was discussed by Larry Irving of the Rural Development Agency office in Fairbanks.

Educational projects were of great concern as two programs were discussed. The Teacher Corps program which emphasizes equipping people to teach in bush Alaska, was explained by Fort Yukon team leader Bill Pfisterer.

Also, the bilingual education program, scheduled for Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon this fall was discussed by Dick Mueller of the Wycliff Bible Society, who has been very instrumental in bringing this program to the area.

Tim Wallis, Vice President of the Tanana Chiefs Conference discussed the Land Claims Act and other areas, such as education and health services that Tanana Chiefs is involved with now that the regional corporations are to be formed.