

Central Yukon Native Organization

Representatives from Anvik, Grayling, Holy Cross, and Shageluk met January 19 and 20 to discuss forming a Central Yukon Native organization for common action.

Exchanging ideas on municipal-government functions, land claims implementation, and other matters of mutual concern, the villages set about the task of organizing a program of unification and cooperation.

A spokesman for the group pointed out that "consistent reliance upon region, state, and federal agencies, etc., diminishes the need for independent village initiative."

"Now is the time to formulate our own plans which will promote our way of life."

The villagers discussed the following priorities — an area high school, Wien Airline's service, installation of airfield runway lights, Alaska Village Electric Co-op, village incorporations, native allotments, Tanana Chiefs' sub-regional office, application of grants, native arts and crafts, future village business, and competitive sports.

Attending the meeting were Thomas Woods and Ken Chase of Anvik; Wilbur Nicholas and Henry Deacon of Grayling; Pat Frank and John Peters of Holy Cross; and Harriet Wulf and Tommy Dutchman of Shageluk.

Wilbur Nicholas and Harriet Wulf were elected temporary chairman and secretary pending the drafting and adoption of articles and by-laws of the proposed Central Yukon Native Organization.

The next meeting will be held at Holy Cross on February 23. At that time, the four villages will seek to elect "one spokesman to represent the feelings of the villages in matters affecting the way of life of our people."