



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

AFN, Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 3, No. 10

Wednesday, July 31, 1974

Anchorage, Alaska

AFN, INC. HRC UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSES LIND

School Boards

As part of their activities towards the over-all goal of "local control" in the unorganized borough, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Human Resources Committee joined the coalition of Indian-controlled School Boards, Inc., located in Denver, Colo.

Gordon Jackson, vice president for Human Resources, stated: "In their brief history of two years, the coalition has established its effectiveness in establishing technical assistance and educational development throughout the country. The organization provides legal, technical and community development services to Indian groups which request assistance in establishing their own school boards, committees, and organizations."

"We've been extremely impressed with their organization and have been talking to the coalition about their possible activity here in the State of Alaska. It appears that we're coming pretty close."

The coalition of Indian-controlled school boards is a national non-profit educational organization for educational research, training and development of better education for Indian people.

Its purpose is to promote better education for Indian people by helping them gain control over their own education. Membership consists of local community school boards who actually control their own schools, parent advisory committees, who have organized to gain control, JOM committees, tribal education committees. In all, at the present time, there are 104 member organizations.

Jackson is scheduled to address the Coalition of Indian-controlled School Boards during their semi-annual meeting in Seattle, Wash. on Aug. 8-11, 1974, regarding higher education in the unorganized borough.

Educational Confab—

Notable Conference

A significant conference designated to have a long-range effect on the delivery of educational services in the unorganized borough was held on July 16-18, 1974 in Fairbanks.

The conference was sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Human Resources Committee in cooperation with the Center for Northern Education Research, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and Alaska Native Foundation.

The main purpose of the July conference was to develop strategies for implementing the recommendations of a report printed by the center for Northern Education Research entitled "Pre-higher Education in the Unorganized Borough" following a series of meetings and conferences.

The report was sent to all legislators and administration in January, 1974 with high hopes something would be done. However, AFN Human Resources analysis in April indicated no action and decided to sponsor an additional conference to develop strategies for implementing those recommendations in addition to further analysis of the current situation.

Specific strategies that evolved from the past conference included:

— A follow-up committee be established to assist in drafting legislation to implement the recommendations and follow-up.

— A meeting of the Human Resources Committee, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Department of Education, and Center for Northern Education Research be organized to revise and draft educational legislation. The legislation would then be brought before the AFN convention for ratification by the village dele-

gates.

Further recommendations evolved from the conference. They include:

— 100% state funding for Alaskan schools.

— Establishment of regional educational services areas to provide educational activities towards the over-all goal of local control.

— SOS board be expanded to 12 members appointed or elected by the people in respective regional corporations.

— To amend the revenue sharing act to allow a differential rate for regions so they may be allowed to assume local governmental responsibilities without suffering the loss of services because of size.

— The U.S. Department of the Interior become heavily involved in the case "Molly Hootch vs. Alaska State Operated Schools."

— The BIA educational system (only) be transferred to the administrative council of the Department of Education.

The subcommittee on education will incorporate the recommendations into proposed legislation during the next several weeks.

Gordon Jackson, vice president for Human Resources stated that, "Our strategy and recommendations is ambitious; however, we've talked about the problem too long and plan to do everything possible to implement them. I consider it a high priority and should be above other issues such as moving the capitol."

The Human Resources Committee will have status reports regarding the recommendations every meeting and plan to do a considerable amount of lobbying during the next Alaska legislature.

plicant or his designee to be present and accompany the BLM field examiner. If neither of them are available, the village council or corporation will be asked to designate a representative to accompany the field examiner.

2. In areas where allotment applicants may not completely understand English, a local interpreter will accompany the field investigator and the allotment applicant.

Whenever a language or communication problem exists, an interpreter will be utilized.

3. That BLM revise the job description for field investigators to require knowledge of traditional Native use and occupancy and that BLM replace present field investigators with Alaska Natives who are familiar with traditional Native use and occupancy.

(More in two weeks)

State Commissioner Of Educ. Gets Nod for Continuation as Head

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., Human Resources Committee unanimously endorsed the continuation of Dr. Marshall Lind as State Commissioner of Education during a recent committee meeting.

Gordon Jackson, vice president for Human Resources stated, "The action came following the recent Human Resources-sponsored conference on education in the unorganized borough. The committee understood that his contract was up for renewal during the next state Board of Education meeting. Commissioner Lind was extremely helpful and cooperative during the entire conference. The committee was extremely impressed with his input and commitment. We certainly look forward to working with Commissioner Lind when implementing the strategy drafted during the recent conference."

Jackson is scheduled to address the State Board of Education in Juneau on Aug. 15 to report on the recent action and conference recommendations.

The Human Resource Committee is composed of a member from each of the non-profit re-

gional corporations and have been delegated the responsibilities of non-profit activities by the AFN, Inc. board of directors. The AFN, Inc. board now deals chiefly with problems regarding the implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and profit-making corporations.

The Human Resources Committee deals with problems regarding the non-profit corporations in the priority areas of human resource development, manpower, education, health, social services, justice in the bush, and others.

The recent delegation of authority within AFN, Inc. has made the statewide organization more responsive and effective to the many priority needs such as changing the existing educational delivery system which was recently addressed during the conference on education in the unorganized borough.

Second Phase—

Health Conference

Last Dec. 12, 13 and 14, 1973, the First Annual Statewide Seminar on Rural Health was sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., Health Affairs Division.

The main objective of the seminar was to identify and prioritize the health needs of the Alaska Natives.

An annual goal developed as a result of the seminar was for the regions to be able to effectively participate in the planning and budgetary process for the health services rendered to Alaska Native people.

On Oct. 20, 21 and 22, 1974, the AFN, Inc., Health Affairs Division will sponsor the Second Phase of the Rural Health Conference.

This seminar will evolve around a special project the AFN, Inc., Health Affairs Division has undertaken.

The project is developing a statewide policy statement "to identify the long-range objectives of the Alaska Natives in terms of scope, organization, and management of the health resources which serve them. This would allow evaluation of various alternative ways of changing the present methods of defining health needs and responding to them; including roles to be played by the federal and state governments, by AFN, Inc., by the non-profit regional corporations, and by the health corporations."

23 Recommendations Answered by Secretary

At the June Native Allotment meeting in Anchorage, 23 recommendations, regarding the processing of Native land allotments, were drawn up for the Secretary of the Interior.

This past week Assistant Secretary Royston C. Hughes responded to these positions. During the next several weeks we will be publishing the Department of Interior's responses for the information of Alaska Natives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to write AFN, Inc.

United States Department
 of the Interior
 Office of the Secretary
 Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Lang:

At your recent meeting in Anchorage with Secretary Morton you presented a list of recommendations regarding the pro-

cessing of Native land allotments and requested that we respond to each of the 23 recommendations.

As you are aware the Secretary at that meeting announced certain actions which the department had been ordered to take which respond substantially to the recommendations you have made. This letter will reconfirm those commitments and deal with those other issues not covered at that time. Each of your numbered recommendations is repeated followed by our response.

1. The allotment applicant or his designated representative must be present during the field investigation.

The applicant, the appropriate village council, and the appropriate regional corporation will be notified 30 days in advance of planned field examinations. This notification will request the ap-

with the responsibility of innovating a medical care system applicable to the specific health and social services problems of the target population in each of their perspective areas.

Also, Ron Mallott, Health Planning Specialist with AFN, Inc., Health Affairs Division, has been detailed for three months as acting executive director to the newly-formed Tlingit-Haida Health Corporation.

Signs 3 Contracts—

HAD Contracts

Alaska Federation of Natives, Health Affairs Division has recently signed three contracts to develop three additional Health Corporations in the state. The contracts were with Copper River Native Association, Cook Inlet Native Association, and Tlingit-Haida Central Council.

The Health Corporation concept that they will be modeling is a consumer-oriented health delivery system and will be charged