

# *Land Claims Evidence*

NUNAM KITLUTSISTI

Protector of the Land

Box 267

June 3, 1974

Curtis McVee

Area Director

Bureau of Land Management

555 Cordova Street

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. McVee:

At the May meeting of the Association of Village Council Presidents, Louis Lively, Director of the Land Planning Dept., Calista, informed us that a Bureau of Land Management agent would investigate each Native Land Allotment for physical evidence of use and occupancy. It is understood that if evidence is lacking on lands claimed for Native Land Allotments then BLM will reject the applications.

Nunam Kitlutsisti knows that the BLM agent will not find physical evidence of use in many allotments. The majority of land allotments are used for hunting, berry-picking, and trapping, all activities in which physical evidence would not ordinarily appear. Native hunters do not like to leave anything behind since the scent of man discourages game from coming around these areas. Other allotments are berry-picking sites and are close to home so that it is not necessary to leave camp equipment behind.

This leads to several questions:

1. Who decides whether or not to accept Native Land Allotment applications?

2. Will BLM interview each applicant about use and occupancy of the land allotment?

3. Why does the applicant have only 30 days to appeal their case after the letter of rejection reaches the post office? Who made this policy?

4. Nunam Kitlutsisti understands that BLM intends to reject 1,900 Native Land Allotment applications in the Calista region even before examining allotments. Why?

5. What are BLM intentions regarding Native Land Allotments?

You are invited to attend a meeting in Bethel on June 17 with the board of Nunam Kitlutsisti to discuss these matters.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth C. Newton, Bethel

David Friday, Chevak


Charlie Kairaiuak, Chefornak

cc: Harold Napoleon, Yupiktak

Bista

Louis Lively, Calista

Rogers Morton, Sec. of the Interior



**Robert Sorenson, McGrath  
Manager, BLM  
Tundra Drums  
Tundra Times**