

# Eklutna president takes futuristic outlook

Anchorage, AK -- When Debbie Fullenwider was first elected president of Eklutna, Inc., in August 1984, her first task was to establish open communications with the corporation's 127 shareholders and to find profitable and productive uses for the 118,000 acres that Eklutna has title to under the Alaska Native Claims Act. These acres include holdings in the Chugiak, Birchwood, Eagle River, South Fork and Peters Creek areas.

Over the past seven months, Fullenwider has worked vigorously to strengthen the economic foundation of the Native village corporation. Fullenwider's involvement with the corporation stretches back to 1972 when she served on the board of directors. She has since held the positions of secretary, vice president and president.

Under Fullenwider's direction, the corporation is currently proposing the development of its largest single tract of land, some 2,500 acres located in the Chugiak-Birchwood area. The plan calls for the construction of about 10,000 dwelling units, housing about 34,000 people. Long-range objectives include developing accompanying business and industrial development at the site.

"With the Anchorage bowl nearing saturation and land values accelerating, people are looking north and wondering how it will develop," said Fullenwider. "Population shifts like those we perceive for the new North Anchorage, require planning for new services and facilities. Amenities like roads, water supplies, refuse disposal, hospitals, stores and gas stations have to be considered now to make the area attractive to future residential and business entities."

Creating the new North Anchorage is not a task that can be accomplished quickly by any single group. Eklutna feels an enormous responsibility to make sure that growth in the new North Anchorage is well-conceived, well-planned and well-implemented, Fullenwider said. "To insist on anything else would jeopardize the future of the area, which, among other things, is the home of many of Eklutna's shareholders," she said.

While striving to secure and maximize the corporation's economic benefits for its shareholders, Fullenwider is determined that the corporation will retain its land base for future generations. To accomplish this, Fullenwider has set a futuristic outlook for the corporation.

Fullenwider sees Eklutna as being increasingly managed by shareholders. Eklutna is in the process of developing a talent bank to maximize shareholder employment in the corporation and its subsidiaries. The corporation also has initiated a scholarship program for shareholders to educate and train them to run the village corporation.

"What does the president of a major corporation do, but work in the best interests of shareholders," she said. "I am convinced that it is in Eklutna's best interests to have its shareholders intimately involved in the decision-making processes. The bottom line is to protect village lands, while using them in the most effective business applications that are available to us."

In addition to the North Anchorage proposal, Eklutna's other ventures include the joint-formation of a corporation with E-G Enterprises, called  
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Knakanen Corporation. Formed in 1980, Knakanen is currently involved in the construction of the Northgate Business Park located near Eagle River. Previous projects include two subdivision developments, Eagle Ridge and Parkview. Knakanen is currently working on the construction of Parkview Terrace East, a subdivision which will result in a total of 700 building lots. In conjunction with this development, Eklutna has leased the Gruening Junior

High School site to the Anchorage municipality to provide an education facility for the growing community.

Eklutna is also working with the municipality on a Greenbelt plan involving several thousand acres surrounding Eagle River. The Municipality is seeking to acquire the acreage for use as a recreational site. The Eklutna Water Project is another major venture the corporation is working on with the municipality. The water project would involve a pipeline from Eklutna to Anchorage. The pipeline would carry 70 million gallons of water a day to Anchorage.

All of the various projects, proposed ventures, developments

and subdivisions are part of Debbie Fullenwider's futuristic outlook toward building a strong economic base for Eklutna, Inc. These projects should enable Eklutna to prosper as a corporation even in the face of changes that may be brought about in 1991. Fullenwider is a strong believer that if Eklutna's stock is valuable and its economic base is strong, shareholders will retain their shares regardless of developments in 1991. Fullenwider has set Eklutna's path as being one which operates on the premise that carefully thought-out, well-designed projects increase stock value and create jobs, dividends and other opportunities.