

Ft. Yukon Gwitcha Gwitchin Ginkhye

Yukon Flats people formalized their traditional regional group at a meeting of nine village representatives in Ft. Yukon May 11 and 12. They are to be called Gwitcha Gwitchin Ginkhye, "Yukon Flats People Speak", and they plan to participate in self-determination policies.

"We have been quiet long enough!" announced Jonathan Solomon of Ft. Yukon, newly elected president. "We are not being represented by the Fairbanks Agency Native Board or by the Tundra Chiefs Conference boards."

Some years back, Yukon villages banded together to push for native land claims and express reaction to the then controversial Rampart Dam project. In intervening years they have tended to work separately for social and economic development.

A recent upsurge in land

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GWITCHA GWITCHIN GINKHYE—"Yukon Flats People Speak." Shown are the officers of the reactivated upper Yukon native organization. Kneeling, left to right: Allen John, Stanley Jonas, Winston James, and Joe Druck. Standing: Jonathan Solomon, Rev. Titus Peter, Winthrop Silvers, Clifford Adams, and Paul Williams. Absent: Richard Martin and Robert Frank.

Gwitcha...

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claims activity and a deluge of federal and state housing and economic development programs caused the group to organize a sub-regional agency for better coordination.

As a step toward the new administration policy of self-determination, Gwitcha Gwitchin Ginkhye plans to work with other native groups and the government to improve communications and services.

Serving with president Solomon will be Rev. Titus Peter of Ft. Yukon, vice president; Paul Williams of Arctic Village, secretary-treasurer and Richard Martin of Canyon Village, Sergeant at arms.

The board of directors includes Allen John of Circle, chairman; Clifford Adams of Beaver, Joe Druck of Chalkyitsik, Winston James of Birch Creek, Stanley Jonas of Ft. Yukon, Winthrop Silvers of Stevens Village and Robert Frank from Venetie.