

# Yup'ik Nation is Growing



*Elders at the Wangkutnek Auluklerkarput conference in Akiachak*

The Yup'ik Nation coalition is growing. The tribal councils of Atmautluak and Kasigluk joined the organization in late February.

At their January *Wangkutnek Auluklerkarput* (Self-Determination) conference held in Akiachak, approximately 100 leaders from 21 villages participated in discussions which led to the passage of resolutions by the Yup'ik Nation Board of Trustees.

As always, the elders present guided the group's actions.

The Board called for a regional economic conference this year to be jointly planned and conducted by Calista Corporation, AVCP, local tribal governments, state and federal agencies, and the University of Alaska—KuCC. The purpose would be to come up with a Regional Economic Development Plan for developing the area's renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

Citing the need to address the social and cultural disorders within the Native community which lead to family breakup and community unrest the Board passed a resolution urging the Alaska Conference of Churches to hold a regional multi—denominational religious conference to discuss social problems facing the Yup'ik community.

A resolution was passed calling for Administrative Unit meetings within the AVCP region to select people to sit on a committee which can review the options and present recom-

mendations to the AVCP Convention next fall on formation of a regional tribal government.

And, the Yup'ik Nation Board affirmed their intention of taking their concerns regarding ANCSA, 1991, and tribal governments directly to Congress, and called on AVCP, regional and village corporations, various Native organizations and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to assist them in raising funds for a lobbying effort in Washington D.C. on those matters.

Other activities at the Wangkutnek Auluklerkarput conference included reports on the funding outlook for Bureau of Indian Affairs programs, an update on Inuit Circumpolar Conference activities, a panel discussion with Alaska Federation of Natives and Calista Corporation representatives on ANCSA and 1991 issues, and an update from attorneys with the Native American Rights Fund on efforts to gain state acceptance of Akiachak's desire to dissolve its municipal government.

The Yup'ik Nation was strengthened by the presence at the conference of outside observers and supporters. David Nanalook of the tribal government in Togiak, Ada Deer of the Minominee tribe of Wisconsin, and Dalee Sambo with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference all gave strong words of encouragement and support for the efforts and goals of the Yup'ik Nation.