

Lost VISTA Volunteer And an Old Eskimo

Strange Encounter Leads Into Extensive Analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

Land's End Village
State of Alaska
July 15, 1973

Dear Howard,

Recently we have been having a real argument here in the village about just what the Regional Corporation can do with the money they have received so far from the government. Our corporation received \$500,000 as far as we know and we have been hearing talk that they want to invest it in real estate and in a building in the city, with loans and mortgages from the banks. Now this may only be a rumor, but sometimes this is the only way people in the villages can find out what is going on.

Now my friend Wally Morton has been trying to explain to me what a corporation is and how it works. He has told me about the stockholders, the board of directors, and the managers. This all fits perfectly well with the description of the Regional Corporations that my wife's cousin's son, Joe Ayagtug, was giving us during his visit here a couple of months ago. It seems to me that if the stockholders elect a Board of Directors who hire a Manager, then until you know who the stockholders are the corporation can't do much of anything at all.

Also in AN ACT there are several sections telling how the money from the government is going to be divided up between the Village Corporations and the Regional Corporations according to the Native Enrollment in each region (Sec. 7, Sec. 8). If this is true then how can the Regional Corporation make commitments to spend money when they don't even know yet who the enrolled Natives are in the region because this means that they don't know who the stockholders are and they don't know how much money they are going to receive.

I hope that some of your readers can explain these confusing things to an old man in a village who can only spend his own money when he has it in his own pocket.

Your friend,
Naugga Ciunerput