

AFN Executive Director Harry Carter Sends Special Message

SPECIAL MESSAGE
BY
HARRY E. CARTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFN

As the sixth annual convention of AFN draws to a close it seems proper that we pause for a minute and give thanks to all the people who have worked so hard to save and preserve the rights of Alaskan Native people. The official records bear witness to the injustices imposed upon us and the resulting misery and deprivation experienced by so many.

Through unity of effort and common basic purposes, we have

begun our journey into a new future. We have joined hands in partnership and proudly accept the responsibility of trying to provide our future generations a more meaningful place in life. Our pathway has been narrow and filled with stones, yet we have continued on and have overcome obstacles and begun arterials. We wish to preserve our languages, our customs and our cultural heritage and be proudly recognized as people who care about our environment and our future generations.

The settlement of our Land Claims is simply the granting of

a paper 'title' to that which we already own and a payment of 'money' to that which is taken from us. Before us lies many other problems in the protection of our human rights. The right of land ownership must be preserved for our children's children throughout the future and the money belongs to all our people for all time. Let us continue to join hands and wisely protect the small token we have gained! History tells us that greedy people try to take our belongings from us. The disguises of friendship, assistance, cooperation, and political commitments must be unveiled and our own people educated to

assume the responsible functions of management and trust.

Each village and each Region is faced with the awesome problem of planning and formulating capabilities without duplicating efforts and unnecessarily wasting money through competition. There will be continuing attempts to divide us and thereby conjure us by elimination of our funds and forcing the sale of our remaining lands and removal of human rights. I sincerely hope that our Alaska Native people will not be caught in this greed and the fight for personal gain at the expense of future generations.

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. is your organization and controlled entirely by each and every Alaskan Native through your elected representatives on a village and Regional basis. Communications and good public relations has been poor because we have not had adequate money or staff, however, every effort is being made to solve this problem. We ask for your continued patience and understanding as we continue to serve you.

The AFN is currently operating ten programs through grants and contracts from State or Federal agencies. These monies pay for the administrative costs of AFN only as relates to the staff and offices in Alaska. The

money used for fighting the Native land rights has been borrowed and used for the expenses of the AFN Board of Directors and the lobbying efforts in Juneau and Washington, D.C. Our staff and the special committees of the AFN Board of Directors have worked diligently to carry out functional programs for the benefit of Alaskan Natives. We have met with advisory firms in business and finance and developed working relationships with State and Federal agencies and have helped to gain responsible positions for our people.

In addition to the many organizational and management problems facing us is the real threat of discontinued services provided now by public funds. If we are suddenly expected to provide for our own health, education or other social and economic needs, our funds would be exhausted and we would be forced to sell our lands and end up in greater misery and poverty than now exists. It is therefore mandatory that we protect our interests in current programs by becoming politically influential and carrying out a strong lobbying effort in our State and National Capitols. I am certain that all our people will understand the necessity of remaining united and jointly carrying out Statewide functions.

Accounting System

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. (AFN) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to develop and implement a uniform accounting system to be used by AFN and the various regional and village associations of Alaskan Natives.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

AFN and the regional and local native organizations are attempting to coordinate efforts in the development of the various self-help programs for the benefit of Native Alaskans. In the interest of effective coordination, it is highly desirable that the control and management of financial and other resources be conducted in a systematic fashion which would provide for compatibility among village, regional, AFN and other native organizations.

AFN is seeking the assistance of an outside firm which is qualified in the design of accounting systems to study the accounting requirements of village and regional Native associations and of AFN Incorporated and to design a uniform system to meet these needs. The system should be thoroughly documented and such documentation should be included in a final report to be delivered at the conclusion of the design phase of the project.

Subsequent to completion of the design and documentation of a uniform accounting system, the system must be implemented. The implementation phase will include the development and delivery of user manuals and the training of accounting personnel in the performance of their duties. For the purposes of this request for proposal the implementation phase will be limited to AFN, Inc. only.

Letters to Editor

Eielson, Alaska
December 14, 1971

Dear Editor:

October 7, 1962, that's the day I went to Murphy Dome. Just about that time I met Charlie Purvis a White man lived at Nenana. This is the man that started to preach to me about the Land Claims. Although I started buying the TUNDRA TIMES first issue, he use to come to me and explain every article in there what it was for. The Natives. Two years he wanted to pay my transportation to Tanana Chief Conference, but I didn't want to go, because my people from Nulato didn't send me.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

artscanada
129 Adelaide Street West
Toronto 1, Ontario
1 December 1971

Dear Sir:

THE ESKIMO WORLD will be the theme of the December special double issue of "artscanada" (the national review of the arts, which is gaining an international reputation for its thematic treatment of the arts and indigenous cultures of Canada).

Included are contributions from Ronald Bloore, noted Canadian artist and art historian who deals with Eskimo art from prehistoric times to the present; an article by Dr. William Taylor, Director of the Museum of Man in Ottawa, looks at recent startling archaeological finds in the Eastern Arctic; and a remarkable article by the French art historian Jacqueline Delange Fry examines some parallels between contemporary Eskimo art and African art.

Other aspects treated in this special issue relate to contemporary Eskimo sculpture, graphics, poetry and language. Specially commissioned colour and black and white photographs will include coverage of contemporary works of art, landscapes from three seasons in various parts of the Canadian Arctic, as well as a center fold section which will contain color photographs in actual size of rare, seldom seen pieces of prehistoric Eskimo art.

We see the future use of this issue as necessary in any discussion or research of Eskimo culture and its environment.

This will be a book length, limited edition of "artscanada" containing material that has never been assembled before. It will have 140 letterpress pages and 12 offset pages in full color. The price will be \$3.00.

I urge you to place your order for copies now.

Yours truly,
/s/ Tony Williams
Advertising and Publicity Director

Position Specification

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. (AFN) is a state chartered non-profit corporation formed in 1966 to coordinate efforts to achieve a land claims settlement with the United States Government. Since that time AFN has established programs on a statewide basis to meet the needs of Alaskan Natives in the areas of housing, education, economic development, health affairs, supplemental services, and on-the-job training. The AFN Charitable Trust obtains grants from public and private sources to plan and develop new programs for the Native peoples.

Upon passage of the Alaskan Native Land Claims Settlement Bill in Congress, AFN will act as the coordinating body for the statewide, regional and village level organizations established to manage the lands and monetary funds granted by the Bill.

THE POSITION: The basic functions of the Controller are to maintain all accounting records for the Corporation (and affiliated organizations, as required), to develop and maintain an effective system of internal controls, to develop and interpret financial and statistical information to measure results of operations and to advise and consult with the Executive Director on all matters affecting the financial well being of the organization and its affiliates.

Specific duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinates with the Executive Director in establishing, maintaining and executing Corporate financial goals, policies and plans.
- Develops controls, procedures and reports to assess progress in achieving Corporate financial goals.
- Maintains all accounting records of the Corporation and plans directly and coordinates the operation of the accounting department.
- Ensures that department or program managers have the necessary financial information to plan, evaluate, and control their department's activities.
- Investigates and develops new methods for processing accounting or other financial information which would result in increased control, greater efficiencies, and lower costs.

-Under the direction of the Executive Director, prepares budgets, conducts financial analyses or cost studies, and conducts other special studies as required.

-Acts as a functional coordinator for and liaison to financial and/or accounting personnel in affiliated organizations.

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS: The successful candidate will have a minimum of eight years of experience in the accounting function with at least three years in a high level supervisory role, preferably as a controller. He must have demonstrated abilities by a record of success in progressively more responsible positions within the accounting function. Knowledge and experience should include the areas of accounting systems, financial controls, budgeting, cost accounting, and cash planning. Candidates with CPA audit experience and fund accounting experience are preferred.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: Bachelors Degree in accounting or related field required. A CPA certificate is highly desirable but not essential.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: The position requires an individual who can relate well to persons of a variety of cultural and educational backgrounds and who displays sensitivity and tact in dealing with people. He must be able to communicate effectively both orally and written, and must possess a creative and innovative mind. The successful candidate must be able to take direction from above, but also be able to work in a relatively unstructured and possibly rapidly changing organizational environment.

COMPENSATION: NEGOTIABLE.

SACKETT'S SUMMARY

Rural Natives Need to Understand Claims

By JOHN SACKETT

As the claims settlement draws to a final settlement, it becomes necessary for all natives, and especially for the natives living in rural Alaska, to understand how the claims will affect them in their daily lives.

In the past due to the great problem of poor communication, poor educational backgrounds, and great distances to cover, it has been difficult to transfer the affects of what is occurring in the cities to the villages. To further complicate this in the past we have always talked about land claims and its rewards in terms of something distant in the future that hopefully we would solve someday.

That someday is today. Today we have something solid and concrete in our hands and it has been less than miraculous that this has occurred.

I have had the fortunate opportunity to having lived in both the urban and rural parts of Alaska, and everytime I moved back to either Galena or Huslia, the activity of Fairbanks and Anchorage and Washington D.C. seemed a million miles away. Out in rural Alaska the hundreds of meetings and thousands of hours of talking and fighting land claims goes unnoticed as people continue scraping a living, hunting, fishing and playing an occasional game of pan. Land claims, in the village, is something that generally is not fully understood; however, there has been the knowledge that the native leaders are fighting for land rights and this has created a general unity behind them.

While the most important aspect of the claims bill will be the land, this to the villager will not be as shocking or as important to him in the near future as the monetary payments for land taken.

The native has always had his land and from that land he has made his living. Except in areas adjacent to major urban centers, at least for the next 5-10 years, he will probably remain undisturbed in the use of the land.

While the leaders in the Alaska Federation of Natives have made the preliminary attempts at planning the use of funds from the claims settlement, the basic understanding and decisions will and must come from all the native people. Questions must be asked of ourselves such as now do we want to do with our money? Do we want to use it all now or save a part for the future? Do we want to invest it in education or in building and various projects, or all of these? These are very basic questions that we as native people must ask ourselves and one another, and we must do it now. One of the great dangers is that a settlement will come and we will still not know what to do with it. The reality of a settlement has materialized, and based upon this reality confronting us, we must act positively and decisively.