

# Human Resources Committee

In 1973, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. recognized the importance of expanding efforts in health, education, social services, and other human resource problems.

For the past several years, the priority had been seeking a fair and just settlement of our Native Land Claims.

This was accomplished on December 18, 1971, and the priority turned to the implementation phase and the many, many problems that came with it. To become more responsive to the many other problems of Alaska Natives throughout the state, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. created a Human Resources Committee.

The Human Resources Committee would be composed of a member from each of the non-profit regional corporations and would be charged with the responsibility of seeking solutions to statewide health, education, social services and other human resource problems.

The AFN, Inc. Board of Directors would then be responsive to the problems of the profit-making corporations and the many, many problems implementing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

During the first few months of its existence, the Human Resources Committee carried out its charge. It was evident, however, that the committee needed its own staff and budget to follow-up completely on the policies of the committee.

The Human Resources Committee, recognizing this came to the 1973 Annual Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Convention armed with a resolution calling for the creation of a vice-president for Human Resources charged with all responsibilities of health, education, and social services in addition to other responsibilities that may be ordered from time to time by the AFN, Inc. Human Resources Committee, his or her direction-giving body.

The 1973 Convention unanimously passed the resolution in addition to giving the Human Resources Committee and newly-established vice-president for Human Resources a vote of confidence.

In March, 1974, the Human Resources Committee recommended Gordon Jackson to be hired as their new vice-president. Jackson had a considerable amount of experience in administration and organization, program development, traveled extensively throughout the state, and reputation of getting things done.

His job experience includes being a program development specialist for RURAL CAP; Executive director, Southeast Alaska Community Action Program; Deputy director, Division of Rural Development Assistance, Department of Community and

Regional Affairs; and, Director, AFN Johnson-O'Malley Program.

He was a 1970 graduate of the University of Alaska and belongs to many statewide boards and committees.

Jackson was hired in mid-March by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. as vice-president to provide staff support to the Human Resources Committee and head the new Human Resources Department of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Since the 1973 Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Convention, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Human Resources Committee has been involved in or advocated a number of issues. Some of the major items include:

- Advocating the passage of United States Senate Bill 1017, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The intent of the bill and contracting procedures in Title I are progressive and would offer the promise of a new dimension in tribal self-government. Title II, however, was a controversial provision we were instrumental in seeking amendments to make it more responsive. United States Senate Bill 1017 has passed the United States Senate and the decision is now pending in the United States House of Representatives.

- Filed and supported an Amicus Brief, "friend of the court" in support of Molly Hootch Vs. the State-Operated Schools. This case is a civil action brought by certain Alaska Native school-age children to secure educational opportunity. Specifically, the case seeks to enforce their right to attend a public secondary school in their community of residence. We are expecting a decision soon on this important case.

- Supported and approved the affiliation of Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse with the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Human Resources Department. We are now joined in a concerted effort, attacking the problems of alcohol and drug abuse throughout the state.

- Advocated the United States Department of Labor use Alaska Native Enrollment figures in lieu of the 1970 Census for Allocation Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, Title II dollars in Alaska. The vast differences in figures would mean the loss of millions of manpower dollars for Alaska Native prime sponsors. The committee and staff also assisted in coordinating training and briefing sessions for the United States Department of Labor to assist Alaska Native prime sponsors.

- Supported the extension of the Office of Economic Opportunity Act for an additional three years and the Public Works and Economic Development.

- Held a Conference on Education in the Unorganized Bor-

ough. Purpose of the Conference was to draft strategy to seek change in the existing "tripartite" educational delivery system in the unorganized borough. The Human Resources and staff is now implementing the strategy that will, hopefully, result in one responsible and effective educational delivery system with eventual "local control."

- Advocated the establishment of a Human Resources Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife. The Subcommittee of Human Resources would receive and comment on Fish and Wildlife regulations promulgated by the State and Federal governments, seek firsthand information regarding Fish and Wildlife activities and recommend appropriate statewide action to the Human Resources Committee, advocate for fisheries rehabilitation, continuing of subsistence hunting activity for Alaska Natives, and many other activity determined to be beneficial to Alaska Natives. The staff is presently seeking funds to organize this important subcommittee and provide staff support.

(To be continued in two weeks)