

Fullenwider brings new direction to Eklutna Corporation

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The president of Eklutna, Inc. Corporation, A. Debbie Fullenwider, brings with her a new direction. This new direction is to have open communication and more importantly, to make the Eklutna stocks so valuable to the shareholders that they won't want to sell when 1991 comes.

In speaking of open communication, Fullenwider hopes to have an open door policy for her shareholders. She tries to meet with the shareholders on a regular basis. A good percent of the 127 shareholders live in the Chugiak, Eagle River, and Peters Creek area.

Presently, Eklutna's corporate offices are located in the Hunt Building in Anchorage but Fullenwider plans to move the corporate offices even closer to the corporation's lands and shareholders.

In addition to developing an open communication policy with shareholders, Fullenwider plans to extend the policy to the Mat-Su Borough, Municipality of Anchorage, Cook Inlet Region Inc., State of Alaska, and Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). Fullenwider will be leaving for Juneau for a five day familiarization trip. She will meet with Governor Bill Sheffield, the legislators and many others. The

trip is one step towards achieving the open communication policy with the State of Alaska.

Although Fullenwider just became the president of Eklutna last August, she has been involved with the Eklutna Corporation since 1972. In 1972 and 1973 she was involved in the organizing and enrolling efforts to acquire village corporation status. In 1974 they had their first annual meeting with the shareholders to vote in the board of directors.

But in 1981 and 1982, Fullenwider took some time off from the corporation business. "I needed to get more involved in

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the community...to look at everything and to avoid getting tunnel vision," said Fullenwider.

In responding to comments about Native leaders experiencing burn-out, she said that she looks at everything as a challenge. "I enjoy everything," Fullenwider added.

Fullenwider has also been involved in other organizations such as Cook Inlet Native Association (CINA) and Anchorage Community College (ACC). She was on the CINA board of directors for three years and the ACC board for three and a half years.

Fullenwider believes that a college education is very important. "People are an asset of the corporation," said Fullenwider. She said that they have three shareholders studying business administration. The Eklutna corporation has a scholarship program for shareholders.

With 1991 just around the corner, Fullenwider believes very strongly that if the village corporation makes the stock so valuable, "by valuable I mean--the corporation has jobs available, dividends, and scholarships--they won't want to sell their shares and that's what

Eklutna is going for," said Fullenwider.

Some of the business ventures that Eklutna is involved in or plan to get involved in are the Eagle River Greenbelt, the Eklutna Water Project, a homesite program, and manufacturing. The Greenbelt plan involves 3,700 acres surrounding Eagle River and will probably be used mainly as a recreational site. The Eklutna Water Project would involve a pipeline from Eklutna Lake to Anchorage. The pipeline would carry 70 million gallons of water a day to Anchorage. Eklutna is presently in negotiations with the Municipality of Anchorage on this proposed project.

Fullenwider said the past administration had some business ventures that lost from \$11,000 to \$13,000 a month. The former president of Eklutna, Dan Alex along with several other people recently tried to hold a special meeting of shareholders which was blocked by Judge Brian Shortell's decision to grant Eklutna, Inc. a preliminary injunction prohibiting Dan Alex and several others from holding the special shareholders meeting because of statements made in a proxy solicitation may have been "false and misleading." Fullenwider said, "I'm hoping to put the past



Photo by Danny Daniels, courtesy of Bean Public Relations
Eklutna corporation president A. Debbie Fullenwider with Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles.

behind us because of 1991. We want to go forward. Interfighting only divides us and does not unite us."

With the Eagle River area being one of the fastest growing areas in the state, Fullenwider stated that the growth is looked at as an opportunity for profit, rather than a threat to the shareholders. She added that shareholder employment is a top priority for them. "If they want to work with Eklutna, they have got to look at employment for our shareholders. When it comes to Eklutna land--we want some benefits for our shareholders," said Fullenwider.