

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

# Tundra Times



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## Letters from Here and There

### Conference Delayed

October 1, 1976

Ms. Sue Gamache, Editor  
Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Ms. Gamache,

The response to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference has been so great that, after consultation with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Northern Quebec Inuit Association, the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement and Carl Christian Olsen from Greenland, we have decided to let some line out: the extra time will better enable us to prepare for it.

The Conference is being regarded as far more important than was anticipated when our original planning began, and we are now scheduling it for the week of June 13, 1977 when the Barrow Nalukatak (whaling feast) will be taking place.

A copy of our brochure "Inupiat Under Four Flags" will be sent to you under separate cover.

We look forward to seeing you in Barrow next June.

Sincerely,  
Eben Hopson

### Students Speak Out

October 3, 1976

Dear Editor,

The whole State of Alaska is undoubtedly swept into a "wave of change." Whether or not it is realized, the Alaska Natives are all involved in a political worldwide interest. This world already looks up to Alaska for our rich natural resources. It has used many of them for their own benefits, and will continue to do so. Why is it, the resources in the land we live on are owned by people other than the Native people? Who is the main attraction and who gets the money from Tourism? All around us there are many rich resources being used without our knowledge and consent, yet our Native villages remain poverty stricken. Why?

Today one of the main reasons is a lack of well-educated Natives to uphold our local and statewide governments. Another reason is a lack of involvement in becoming politically active to get what we need.

JRR

In the concern of Native Youth, the AFN Youth Council members recognize the continuing problems in education as a result of "Cultural Shock." "Cultural Shock" contributes to the high dropout rate among the Alaska Natives coming from rural Alaska.

The need for people who can understand the Native Youth in Alaska is enormous. The lack of interest among many young Natives is partly caused by a lack of interest in them. This lack of interest causes Alaska to have an increasing mortality rate due to drug abuse, alcohol, and suicides among Native young people. The word "Youth" means "possessing youth, being youthful, one with vigor." To revive our Native Youth there must be an awakening to meet their need with support and encouragement.

Some of our Youth are destined through their own makeup to become recognized leaders of tomorrow, yet there are others that can excel in becoming leaders in their own way ... The Native Way. They want to carry on our heritage, they want to remain in their villages and learn the customs and life-styles of being Native. Is there any shame in wanting to be a true Native? There must be a way we can keep our heritage and customs alive and be educated to run our land, our communities.

We the Youth all hold the future for the State of Alaska. Now is the time to educate ourselves, to come out of "Cultural Shock" and strive for our life-long goal to accomplish great and many achievements through education in the State of Alaska. We must build self determination among ourselves, we must act together, stick together in one direction, forming unity and forming power. Our land Claims started because we wanted ownership of our traditional hunting grounds. Doesn't that mean all our corporations combined have the same fundamental interest?

All our Native people, young and old, are involved in the Land Claims. That's why we the Youth say, "It's gotta be now!" There are so many problems that need to be solved, and the best step is to educate ourselves. To prepare ourselves for better governing to suit our Native needs. What can we do to save our Youth, to better educate ourselves, now and for the future? How can we create leaders for our people? Perhaps the answer lies here at the AFN Youth Council.

We, the AFN Youth Council members, represent our Statewide Native Corporations. We are the offspring of our Native heritage. It will not help to blame others and wait around for someone to solve our problems. We the Youth must strive to reach our goals. Our goal is now aiming to create unity and self determination among our Native Youth. In order to

reach this we must be recognized by our local and regional corporations. We were formed for the reason that there is a great need for Youth involvement in Native affairs within the growing State of Alaska.

In the Tundra Times editorial of September 1, 1976, the AFN Youth Council stated the biggest obstacle that the council is facing is the lack of formal recognition from each of the regional corporations and to be formally substantiated by a letter from each of the regions to designate a representative on Youth Council. It is imperative that this procedure be followed prior to the AFN Inc. convention as it is the goal of the Youth Council to be formally recognized by the Convention.

Our next obstacle related to achieving the above goals is the lack of funding. According to the BY-LAWS of the ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES YOUTH COUNCIL, Article VI: Section 2A (Meetings) states: A meeting will be held at least 48 hours prior to the AFN Convention. This year the AFN Annual Convention will be held October 21st to the 23rd. We will sincerely appreciate your support in any manner possible, preferably by providing travel support for your Youth representative and his/her alternate.

If you have any questions please contact your Youth Representative or contact Mary Jane Brower, President, AFN Youth Council, 550 W. 8th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; phone number 274-3611 ext. 38.

Sincerely,  
AFN YOUTH COUNCIL  
Mary Jane Brower, ASRC  
Evelyn Panigeo, ASRC alternate  
Anishia Angasan, BBNA  
Kathy Charley, AHTNA  
Doris A. Buck, AHTNA alternate  
Sandra Tungwenuk, BSRC  
John Campbell, CRC  
Steve Eleshansky, CRC alternate  
Dood Lincoln, NANA  
Nick Laktonen, Jr., KONIAG  
Larry Chichenoff, KONIAG alternate  
Steve Johnson, Sealaska RC  
Jan Burgess, Sealaska RC alternate  
Mark John, CALISTA  
Arthur Heckman, CALISTA alternate  
Janie Popp, DOYON

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**A.F.N.  
Oct. 21-23**

**The  
Board  
Says  
Thanks**

In the midst of a difficult period of transition, the Tundra Times would like to recognize the extraordinary efforts of friends who put out recent editions.

The board of directors of this newspaper expresses its special thanks to Lee and Don Alder, for the enormous amount of time and effort they donated to the Tundra Times. Also Agnes Pete Griffith, Mary Beth Smetzer, Jeff Richardson, Geoff Kennedy, Mary Moses and Lucy Carlo.

A special note of thanks also goes to Sue Gamache, who served from the death of Howard Rock until recently as editor of the Tundra Times, and also to Virginia Sweet-sir and Tom Richards Jr.