

# Canadian Athabaskan Firth Elected to Canada Parliament

By LOIS KEATING

Wally Firth, an Athabaskan (Loucheux) Indian from Fort McPherson in the Mackenzie Delta, has recently been elected as Member of Parliament (M.P.) for Canada's Northwest Territories.

Firth is the first native to represent this area in Ottawa. His constituency covers 1,300,000 square miles (almost

twice the size of Alaska, and has a predominantly native population. He ran on the N.D.P. (New Democratic Party) ticket, and won by a large margin over two well-known non-native northerners.

Short and chubby, with sparkling eyes and keen sense of humor, Wally Firth is a sensitive and perceptive man who cares enough about people to listen to what they have to say.

He fights for what he feels is right and isn't afraid to say what he thinks. He based his campaign on helping northerners to control their own destiny, and won the election by "being the best humanist rather than the best bureaucrat."

He feels the greatest threat to native people is the "massive intrusion" of non-natives onto land originally belonging to Indians and Eskimos. He asks, "Is

development worth the destruction of a people?"

He feels that one of the most important things he will be working for is helping the native organizations settle their aboriginal land claims. He believes that a land settlement has to be made before further development takes place.

He would like to see "an end to the colonial status of the N.W.T." and will advocate a

fully elected territorial council, with an elected chairman to replace the Ottawa-appointed Commissioner.

"We must have the opportunity to make our own mistakes. This at least will be better than having to live with problems caused by a government that doesn't understand our problems," he said.

His background contains a wealth of varied experience — largely self-educated, he is an avid reader, with broad interests in numerous fields. He has worked as a trapper, store clerk, laborer, cat-skinner, Hudson Bay Store manager, CBC announcer, and holds a commercial pilot's license.

He was recently employed by the Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada, and piloted their Cessna 185 (donated by Oxfam of Canada). In this capacity, he travelled extensively for the Yukon Native Brotherhood and the Northwest Territories Indian Brotherhood.

While in the Yukon Territory, he helped with the formation of the Yukon Association of Non-Status Indians (YANSI), and also had a weekly native interview program over CBC in Whitehorse.

There is no doubt that Wally Firth will be a controversial Member of Parliament. He will certainly not be silent if his beliefs are being challenged.

It will be interesting to see what happens over the next few months — but it seems quite certain that his voice WILL be heard — and the views of Canadian northerners will at least be presented in a manner which may force Ottawa to look at the North with new eyes and listen with new ears.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Everett Charles Drashner, Cantwell, Alaska, together with his witnesses Richard A. Smith of Cantwell, Alaska, and Walt L. Cunningham of Hope, Alaska, has submitted Final Proof on his Additional Homestead Entry, Serial No. F-032068, for a tract of land described as:

U.S. Survey No. 5593, Alaska, situated on the Denali Highway, four miles southeast of Cantwell, Alaska, containing 39.99 acres.

During the period of publication or within 30 days thereafter any person, corporation, or association having or asserting any adverse interest in or claim to the tract of land or any part thereof may file in the proper Land Office, under oath, an adverse claim setting forth the nature and extent thereof; and such adverse claimant shall within 60 days after the filing of such adverse claim, begin action to quiet title in a court of competent jurisdiction in Alaska, and thereafter patent shall be issued in conformity with the final decree of the court.

Ronald A. Garzini

Acting Manager, Fairbanks District and Land Office

Publish November 8, 15, 22, 29, December 6, 13, 20, 27, 1972, January 3, 1973.

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Virginia Hill Wood, Camp Denali, Mt. McKinley Park, Alaska, together with her witnesses Celia M. Hunter and William D. Berry, both of Fairbanks, Alaska, has submitted Application to Purchase on her Headquarters Site, Serial No. F-034613, for a tract of land described as:

Lot 1 of U.S. Survey No. 5564, Alaska, located 15 miles north of Cantwell, Alaska, on the Denali Highway, containing 4.97 acres.

During the period of publication or within 30 days thereafter any person, corporation, or association having or asserting any adverse interest in or claim to the tract of land or any part thereof may file in the proper Land Office, under oath, an adverse claim setting forth the nature and extent thereof; and such adverse claimant shall within 60 days after the filing of such adverse claim, begin action to quiet title in a court of competent jurisdiction in Alaska, and thereafter patent shall be issued in conformity with the final decree of the court.

Ronald A. Garzini

Acting Manager, Fairbanks District and Land Office

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