

*"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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## Exercise your right to vote

*(Reprinted from "Council," the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. newsletter.)*

It is not news that the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 will bring to the Alaska native a power-base with which to bring to a resolution many of the deficiencies that we find in a way of life that is both highly established and, yet, very delicate. The economics and prestige that has been a result of successful management of the regional and village corporations by the native leadership has already proven to be a factor that has contributed significantly to this resolution.

It is also not news to find that the resolution of many of the issues that have previously faced us would not have been in our favor without everyone's support and ideas. Whether it be the lobbying efforts that were needed toward the passage of the ANCSA or the effort that was needed toward the implementation of the legislation, it could not have been done without input from many individuals. The same holds true for issues that are facing us today, and in the future, our native leadership is still highly dependent upon your support.

How can we support them?

We can do this very simply by utilizing a system that is the same when we, as stockholders of both village and regional corporations, as members of Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc., or a member of a village or city, elect people to sit on village councils, city councils, corporate boards of directors, and other committees—the democratic form of government that gives everyone the opportunity to vote. Not only is this an opportunity, but it is also an inherited privilege. We must use this privilege.

In the near future all residents of the state of Alaska will have their opportunity to cast their vote for candidates of their choice to represent them in Juneau. This opportunity is one of many ways that you could support people of your choice to carry your opinions and ideas to a level that could, hopefully, resolve the pressing issues you are now faced with. Registering to become a qualified voter within this state and using your privilege and right to vote in the next election is a positive way in which to help your people get things done.

Now that it appears that the Alaska natives have their foot in the door, it is now up to each and every one to start up a "get out and vote" campaign, so that the door is wide open and free to pass through.

Chris Anderson  
Executive Director

## Letters from Here and There

### Establishment of responsive state government proposed

August 5, 1976

Editor:

Let us establish responsive state government in Alaska by preparing a proper state constitution.

Theoretically Americans govern themselves, predominantly through citizen state legislatures meeting briefly, subject to call for special tasks. Our legislature quickly became professional, high-salaried, vacillating, time-killing, unresponsive.

State department heads, better elected, are appointed by the governor, under the erroneous impression that concentration of power promotes efficiency. Almost no officials in Alaska are elected; almost none give real attention to wishes or interests or individuals. They have filled the land with hordes of personal and political followers. Alaska

reportedly has three times as many office-holders as the national average and pays four times as much for them.

Judges, non-elective, usurp legislative functions, making some of our laws. Prosecuting attorneys, all appointed, "recommend," "postpone," and "confer," until it is common knowledge that citizens despair of getting near-obvious criminals prosecuted. Judges, cloistered in high salaried positions, are "dependent" on recommendations of prosecuting attorneys. Why? When and why have judges partially abandoned exercising judgment.

A middle aged man sends a girl, nearing four years of age to surgery on her sex organs; a nether-netherland "psychiatrist" adjudges him safe; two attorneys and a judge release him on trifling bail; at least two judges, Attorney General, and court administrator

"explain." The prosecuting attorney is now trying to have the child's mother "interview" the attorney defending the accused.

An escaped criminal murders a policeman checking on suspected burglary. Culpit "guards" must be retained at dictation of an employee "arbitrator."

Oh my God!

Diluted responsibility diminishes meager voter strength. District Eight elects four state representatives—at large. Why not a representative from a district?

Amendment is insufficient. Let us convene and establish efficient government. Popular election is not perfect but is the best method devised.

Leon Stout  
543½ North Flower Street  
Mountain View  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

### Students protest school closing

August 9, 1976

Commissioner of BIA  
Morris Thompson  
1951 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20245

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a petition from the Madera Employment Training Center students who will be the last graduates of the school unless a reverse decision is made in regards to the closing of the school. These students are American Indians from many areas of the United States. They are concerned that this opportunity is being taken away from them and their children. The school offers them a job commitment upon graduation and this is the only school that we know of that offers such a commitment. We feel if enough concern from people like yourself is shown in regards to this matter, this opportunity will not be taken away from the American Indian.

★ ★ ★

August 6, 1976

Commissioner of BIA  
1951 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20245

Attention Morris Thompson

Gentlemen:

We the student body of Madera Employment Training

Center were informed on August 4 of the decision to phase out this school which was a shock to all of us. This training center is for the American Indian, and it is one that has had only success for its records.

Listed below are a few reasons why it should remain as a school:

1. The success rate of students who have graduated is approximately 80 per cent.

2. The students are trained in depth in electronics, mechanics, and electricity. This assures them of alternate career paths. They have job commitment opportunities from recognized firms and organizations such as Xerox, NCR, FAA, and PT&T.

3. This is the only school that we know of that has a commitment to employment opportunity upon graduation.

4. This is the only chance for many American Indians to enter this type of career.

5. VA accreditation.

Many American Indians who would have been students will be affected by your decision; therefore, this deserves careful consideration.

The following students ask for a firm commitment from your office that every effort be made to insure the continuation of this program:

1. Melvin Graika, Xerox 6, Sious, Alaska.  
2. Russel Jim, Xerox 6, Schurz, Nevada  
3. John Grass, Xerox 6, Cherokee, Oklahoma

4. Nick J. Mensen, FAA, Aleut, Alaska

5. Namie Bailey, Xerox VI, Ionawanda Seneca, New York

6. John Logan, Xerox VI, Ionawanda Seneca, New York

7. Paley Dean, Xerox IV, Ionawanda Seneca, New York

8. Jerome George, Xerox IV, Ionawanda Seneca, New York

9. Fidelia George, Xerox IV, Ionawanda Seneca, New York

10. Charlie Kist, Xerox IV, Oklahoma

11. Amas Day, Potowatomi/Ottawa, Michigan, NCR III

12. Fay Arneecher, Xerox IV, Cherokee, Oklahoma

13. Frankline Gabe, NCR III, Sioux, North Dakota

14. Charles Herman

15. Donald M. Wilhelm, FAA, Montana

16. Arlene Holly Englane, Xerox V, Fairbanks, Alaska

17. Geraldine Seepie, NCR III, Sacramento, CA

18. Richard Mankiller, Xerox VI, Oakland, CA

19. Paul Tarbell, NCR III, Mohawk, New York

20. Al Sahiestewa, NCR III, Hopi, Arizona

21. Ronald D. Fleming, FAA, Marin Country, Colorado

22. Dennis G. Weryarah, FAA, Walters, Oklahoma

23. Donald E. Bonga, FAA, Chippewa, Minnesota

24. Bob Babbins, Xerox, Navajo, Coconino County, Flagstaff, Arizona

25. Jessie M. Conly, Xerox, Arizona

26. Joanne L. Hinchman, Xerox V, Tlingit, Hoonah, Alaska

27. Nancy George, Xerox V, Oneida, New York

28. William G. Lomahoftewa, Hope, Arizona

29. Michael P. Chancy, Xerox V, Kiowa/Miwok, California

30. Charlie C. Coker, Seminole, Oklahoma

31. Geofffrey L. Hinman, Ottawa, Michigan

32. Dan Darting, Maidu and Winter, California

33. Loretta Kalk, NCR, Chippewa, Minnesota

34. Valerie K. Logan, Ionawanda Seneca, New York

35. James R. Mankiller, NCR, Cherokee, Oklahoma

36. Kathy Hinman, NCR IV, Wife, Michigan

37. Vivian Martinez, NCR IV, California

In the battle that goes on through life  
I ask but a field that is fair  
A chance that is equal with all in strife  
And to dare

And if I should win  
Let this be my code

With my faith and my honor held high  
And if I should lose  
Let me stand by the road  
And cheer as the winners go by  
—author unknown