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This book is dedicated to the Eklutna Dena'ina people, upon whose traditional homelands this educational resource was created. This resource addresses the complex histories of all of Alaska's lands. In the creation of this booklet, we especially recognize all Alaska Natives for their past, present, and future stewardship of the lands within Alaska, while fighting for social justice and land rights.



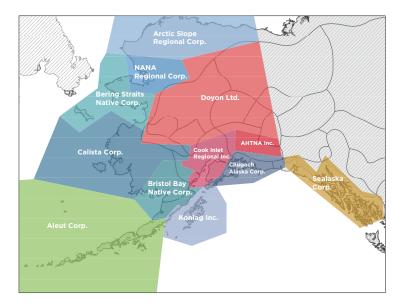
#### ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATIONS AND LANGUAGE MAPS

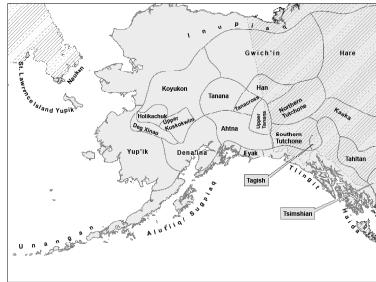
## Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

A deep, symbiotic relationship with the land is essential to the lifeways of Alaska Native peoples and has been for thousands of years. Colonization dramatically impacted the sustainable relationship Indigenous peoples have with the lands of Alaska. Outsiders came to Alaska, forcing change and devasting Alaska Native communities by removing children and sending them to boarding schools, bringing western diseases, settling areas, building infrastructure, and removing and processing resources like fur, fish, gold, coal, and oil.

With colonization also came western systems of power, including capitalism and individual property rights. These significant changes profoundly influenced the relationship of Alaska Native peoples to the lands they had inhabited for thousands of years as individuals, companies, and national powers sought to claim ownership to lands.

Alaska Native peoples made numerous attempts to reclaim their traditions lands and lifeways. In 1929, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes filed to sue the United States in the Federal Court of Claims for land claims in present day Tongass National Forest and Glacier Bay National Park. However, it was not until after Alaska's statehood in 1959 and the selection by the state of its lands and several large federal mega projects (e.g. the Rampart Dam and Project Chariot) that Alaskan Natives across the state started to galvanize and lobby for land claims. With the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay, Native land claims took center stage in state and national debates and news. All designation of state, public, and federal lands, and private leasing of land was suspended until Alaska Native land claims could be resolved.





Krauss, Michael, Gary Holton, Jim Kerr, and Colin T. West. 2011. Indigenous Peoples and Languages of Alaska. Fairbanks and Anchorage: Alaska Native Language Center and UAA Institute of Social and Economic Research. Online: https://www.uaf.edu/anla/map

What does land claims mean to you? Why is the land important to Alaska's inhabitants? Why is it important to explore other perspectives?

The passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) on December 18th, 1971 significantly impacted the past and present lives of all Alaskans. ANCSA was an experiment in social capitalism and created a corporation model rather than a reservation system. ANCSA uses regional and village corporations as a method for Alaska Natives to manage their land and resources without having to get permission from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Interior. Today, ANCSA and its corporations remain at the forefront of Alaska's political discourse.

HOW TO USE:

Slow down and look closely. Each object has a story to tell.

Ask questions. Be curious about details.

Make this journal yours. Use the pages to draw, write, and note in your own way.

Share. Tell a friend, a family member, or mentor about your experience.

Thank you to the Tuzzy Consoritum Library and Alaska State Library for their support and generosity in sharing several archival images for inclusion as primary sources in this booklet.

Notes

### **KEY TERMS**

Alaska Native Corporation	thirteen regional and over 180 village corporations established under the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; shares in these corporations are not publicly available on the stock market, instead Alaska Native shareholders are either enrolled at birth or inherit shares from an original shareholder depending on the corporation
Colonization	the process of one culture forcibly assimilating an Indigenous culture upon arrival to their lands; includes imposing language, clothing, social and legal structures, and other lifeways by means of settlement
Corporation	a business entity owned by its shareholders, who elect a board of directors to oversee the organization's activities; shareholders partake in the profits and losses generated through the corporation's operation
Harvest	use of wild, renewable resources from the land by individuals, families and communities for food, shelter, fuel and other essential needs that are fundamental to a way of life
Land Claims	legal declaration of the settlement and title of the land, water, and resources within a region determining who owns the title and how one can use it
Land Freeze	a time designated during which individuals and businesses are legally unable to sell or transfer the land; this includes ceasing the extraction of resources on the land until the land freeze is lifted
Protest	expressions of disagreement or disapproval toward an idea or action
Shareholder	a person who owns stock or 'shares' in a corporation; shareholders vote to elect a board of directors to oversee corporation activities and share in the profits and losses generated through operation

Write: Make a list of civic duties you can partake within your community.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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10.

ANCSA Regional Corporations strive "to promote and foster the continued growth and economic strength of the Alaska Native Regional Corporations on behalf of their shareholders." Whether or not ANCSA achieves these aims is a matter of debate. What is clear is that it has provided educational benefits and social services to shareholders and descendants not available before the creation of the Act.

Write or sketch: How do you envision the future of land use in Alaska?

Sketch or write: What does land mean to you?

#### LAND OWNERSHIP

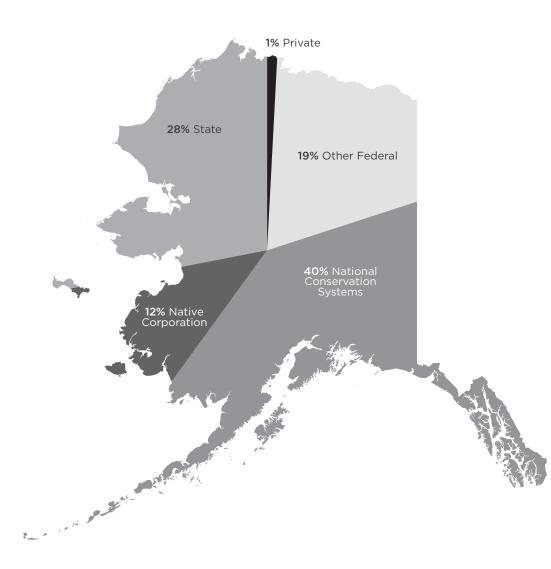
#### ALASKA'S LAND

The unique beauty of Alaska's landscapes fueled settlers and nationstates to explore the land for natural resources. Exploration efforts aimed at finding marine-rich waters, lush forests, minerals, and oil traversed the entirety of the state and its surroundings, disregarding Alaska Native peoples' relationship to the lands in the process.

In 1867, the United States purchased Russia's interest in Alaska with the Treaty of Cession for \$7.2 million dollars without Alaska Native peoples' consent or acknowledgement. As Alaska became a territory of the United States, new laws and acts did not settle land claims. The First Organic Act, which made Alaska a civil and judicial district of the United States, mandated that Alaska Natives' use and occupation of the land should not be disturbed. However, it reserved the right for Congress to set the terms to grant title to the land with future legislation. The Second Organic Act made Alaska a territory of the United States in 1912, and excluded new language regarding Alaska Native land claims, once again land claims for Congress to settle in the future.

These continuing issues of land ownership had taken center stage by the time Alaska was admitted as the 49th state on January 3, 1959. With statehood, the question of who controlled what land quickly grew more complex. Under the Statehood Act, the State of Alaska was granted the right to select 103 million acres of land "vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved." In addition, the federal government was due to select lands for their usage and control. The same lands the state and federal governments were attempting to claim were lands which Alaska Native peoples had utilized for thousands of years as part of their cultures and lifeways. Without regard for or consultation with Alaska Native communities, the state began selecting lands and justifying their actions using this definition.

Alaska Native leaders and communities disagreed with the State of Alaska's claims that the lands they had occupied for thousands of years were "vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved" and therefore eligible to be claimed. These growing threats to Alaska Native land claims galvanized Alaska Native communities into contesting both the State of Alaska and the federal government's land selections. Alaska Native peoples actively sought to claim legal title to lands being claimed by the state and federal governments through land claims filed in the United States court system.



*Write or sketch:* How do you see yourself becoming involved in your community? What issues do you hope to address?

Some of these claims predated the Statehood Act, while others were filed as a response to State of Alaska and federal government land selection. By 1967, Alaska Native communities had filed land claims covering 290 million of Alaska's 375 million acres of land, hoping to claim control of the lands their ancestors had hunted, harvested, and stewarded for thousands of years.

Alaska Native peoples, leaders, and organizations protested the State's land selection and sale of oil leases to land that was already claimed by Alaska Natives. The growing pressure from the Alaska Native communities, the upcoming federal election, at which time a new Secretary of Interior would be appointed, and the State's land selection — 5.2 million acres already approved and 17.8 million acres pending approval from the Bureau of Land Management—led Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall to take action in 1966.

Hoping to promote a quick and just land settlement between the state of Alaska, federal government, and Alaska Native peoples, Stewart Udall declared a land freeze. Udall's land freeze effectively barred the state from further selecting lands they wished to manage until the outstanding Alaska Native land claims were resolved. However, despite this additional motivation, Alaska Native land claims were not settled until the discovery of oil increased the pressure upon land usage.

"And I put a freeze on; I deliberately picked a head-on fight with the state of Alaska and said we weren't going to let them select further lands until the natives got their lands," said Udall. "We said we weren't going to allow the State of Alaska to preempt land and property that the natives of Alaska were entitled to. What I was doing essentially was saying 'Well, we've made all these mistakes in the past.' The one area where we still have an opportunity to come up with the right policies initially was in Alaska, and at least we were going to try and achieve that." - Stewart Udall in 1969



Stewart Udall speaks at the Tundra Times Banquet; Photograph by Jimmy Bedford; TT.00523; Courtesy of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska.

While the freeze halted the transfer of lands by the state and new leases of oil and gas, existing oil and gas leases and commercial oil exploration continued across the state of Alaska. The federal government had previously given leases to 12 million acres of land for the purpose of oil exploration, including Prudhoe Bay. Much attention and effort was directed into oil exploration on the North Slope; however, oil companies were faced with years of fruitless production. As Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) and Humble Oil and Refining Company were on the verge of leaving the North Slope, they struck oil and natural gas. Keeping the discovery quiet for several months, ARCO and Humble Oil needed to be certain large quantities of oil could be extracted. If massive oil deposits existed, this find would forever change the Alaskan economy and landscape.

In March of the 1968, ARCO and Humble Oil officially announce the discovery of oil on the North Slope of Alaska at Prudhoe Bay, making it the largest oil field in North America. The state and the oil companies found it in their best interest to pursue this prosperous economic opportunity. The construction of the pipeline and subsequent oil production at Prudhoe Bay would create thousands of jobs for Alaskans and lay the foundation of Alaska's economy. Immediately, oil companies turned their efforts into creating a Trans-Alaska Pipeline for oil transportation. As you walk through the Alaska exhibition or research independently fill out the timeline below with moments that occurred before and after the passing of ANCSA.

> ANCSA PASSED: December 18th, 1971

In 1967, oil was discovered at Prudhoe Bay

#### ANCSA QUICK FACTS

- Land Freeze in 1966, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall imposed a freeze on the transfer or sell of the land until Alaska Native land claims were resolved, preventing the state of Alaska from choosing which lands they would control
- December 18, 1971 the date President Richard Nixon signed ANCSA into law; Alaska Natives born after this date were not initially eligible for enrollment as shareholders

Size of Settlement 44 million acres of land and 926.5 million dollars

Initial Shareholder approximately 80,000 Alaska Natives Enrollment

Regional13 private regional corporations were created under theCorporationspassage of ANCSA; 12 Regional Corporations own and<br/>control subsurface rights to their designated land, while<br/>the 13th does not own land and is no longer active

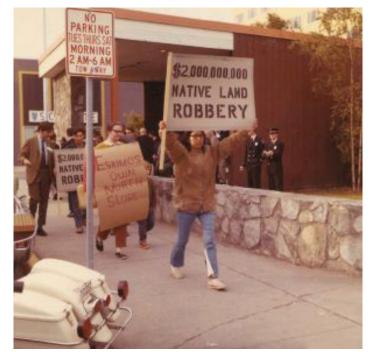
Villageover 220 village corporations were created underCorporationsthe passage of ANCSA; Village Corporations were<br/>established as profit or nonprofit corporations to hold,<br/>invest, manage and/or distribute lands, property, funds,<br/>and other rights and assets for and on behalf of a Native<br/>Village

Life Estate Stock stocks which a shareholder gains upon enrollment and hols for the duration of their lifetime; these stocks cannot be inherited or gifted

1991amendments made to ANCSA in the late 1980's allowingAmendmentsregional corporations to vote on policy changes for<br/>continuing enrollment of shareholders born after<br/>December 18, 1971; these amendments also prohibited<br/>the sale of shares in Alaska Native Corporations on the<br/>stock market

This pipeline would not only need to cross multiple physical barriers mountain ranges, rivers, trees—without thawing permafrost, but also navigate political barriers such as the competing unsettled land claims belonging to Alaska Native peoples, the State of Alaska, and the federal government. Driven by monetary values, the state and federal governments began turning their attention towards addressing the outstanding Alaska Native land claims.

In 1969, Alaska Native peoples rallied outside the Sidndey Laurence Auditorium in Anchorage to protest "the sale of oil leases to the Prudhoe Bay region by the State of Alaska before Alaska Native land claims were resolved."

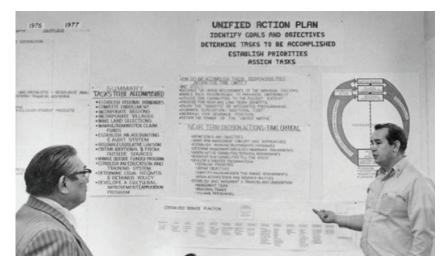


Protesters at the oil lease sale in 1969s; TT.00526; Courtesy of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska.

Name resources found in Alaska.

Since the passage of ANCSA, revisions and amendments continue. Alaska Natives started to question the future of their corporations. If only Alaska Natives born on or before December 18, 1971 could be enrolled as shareholders, then what stake did future generations of Alaska Native peoples have in helping the corporations to prosper? If the corporation shares would enter the open market in 1991, then were they truly guarding Alaska Native lands and interests? To address growing concerns, Native leaders lobbied Congress to pass amendments known as the 1991 Amendments, which allow for regional and village corporations to vote to enroll new shareholders born after December 18th, 1971. The 1991 Amendments also barred the sale of shares in Alaska Native Corporations on the open stock market, without a vote of a supermajority of the outstanding shares, requiring the approval of two thirds of shareholders.

Today, about half of regional corporations and some of the village corporations have voted to continue the enrollment of shareholders, though the new shareholders are subjected to different terms than the original 1971 shareholders. The terms, benefits, and enrollment process for new shareholders varies for each corporation.



Howard Rock (left) looks on while Harry Carter, executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, talks about the tasks and challenges after the passage of ANCSA; TT.00891; Photograph by Jimmy Bedford; Courtesy of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska.

What are your experiences with the oil pipeline?

Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

Gov. Hickel meeting with native leaders; In the Fall of 1970, then Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel met with Prominent figures in the Alaska Land Claims dispute in his Washington office. Clockwise from far left: Wally Hickel; Tim Wallis, President Fairbanks Native Association; Charles (Etok) Edwardson, Executive Director Arctic Slope Native Association; Eben Hopson, Barrow; Emil Notti; Attorney Barry Jackson (standing); State Senator William Hensley; Alfred Ketzler, Nenana; Barbara Trigg, Nome unknown; Delois Ketzler; Harvey Samuelson, Dillingham; George Miller, Kenai; unknown; State Senator Ray C. Christiansen (far right); Frank Degnan, Unalakleet; Moses Paukan; Morris Thompson; John Borbridge (back to camera). Alaska Start Library Portait File, Alaska State Library, ASL -P01-4686

Alaska Native corporations differ greatly from other corporations in the United States. ANCSA corporations are private, for-profit businesses established to protect traditional Alaska Native lands on behalf of the people. Alaska Native values and beliefs are foundational to Alaska Native regional and village corporations. Alaska Native corporations strive to balance economic prosperity and preservation of their lands while working to uplift their communities. In effort to combat economic challenges such as the uncertainty of oil flow or fish market in a particular year, a revenue-sharing provision, section 7(i), was instated in 1982. Section 7(i) states that 70% of all regional corporations' resource profits—mineral, oil, logging, etc.—must be divided proportionately among all 12 regional corporations based off the number of shareholders in each regional corporation. This provision was implemented with the intent to help sustain corporations and shareholders.

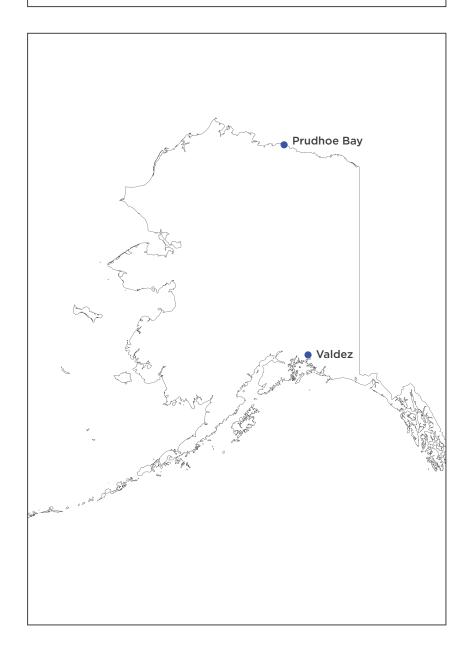
#### **PIPELINE QUICK FACTS**



Pipe work. Chugach M[oun]t[ain]s near crossing of the Tsana [sic] River; McCutcheon Collection, Ancorage Museum; b90.14.3.1358

Constructed	March 27th, 1975-May 31st, 1977	
Number of workers	28,000	
Cost	\$7.7 billion	
Length	800.302 miles	
Endpoints	Prudhoe Bay, Alaska — Valdez, Alaska	
Daily Oil Flow	2018 - 509,315 barrels of oil 1980 - 2.1 million barrels of oil (peak flow)	
Oil Travel Time	12.9 days in 2008	
Crosses	3 mountain ranges (Brooks Range, Alaska Range, and Chugach Range), and 30 major rivers and streams.	

*Sketch:* The route of the Alyeska Pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. Include geographical features, resources, and locations on the map below.



# ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS PASSES!

After several frustrating attempts to secure land claims, Alaska Native peoples negotiated with Congress the largest land settlement in United States history. On December 18th, 1971, President Richard Nixon signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement (ANCSA) into law.

With the passage of ANCSA, individual Alaska Natives did not receive any land titles. Instead, lands—where a village was located, within regional boundaries, and not already claimed by the state and federal government—were allocated to 12 regional corporations and over 200 village corporations to be selected by each.

Under ANCSA, the 12 regional and over 200 village corporation were legally entitled to receive 44 million acres of land and \$962.5 million dollars in compensation in exchange for legally extinguishing all other claims in Alaska—with the exception of the Tsimshian community of Metlakatla, who opted to keep their reservation rather than enroll in ANCSA. By 1973, the 12 regional corporations had to select which lands of the 44 million acres of public lands they would manage and control on behalf of their shareholders. Regional corporations own and control subsurface rights to 22 million acres of land. Village corporations own and control surface rights to 22 million acres where the village resides.

Shareholders in other corporations typically purchase stocks in order to become a shareholder. However, becoming a shareholder in Alaska Native Corporations is a different process. With ANCSA, Alaska Natives with at least one-quarter Alaska Native blood, citizenship of the United States, and who were born on or before December 18th, 1971 were allowed to enroll and receive 100 shares to their regional corporation. Alaska Natives residing in villages received an additional 100 shares into their village corporation. Initially, 80,000 Alaska Natives were enrolled as shareholders. However, Alaska Native peoples born after ANCSA was signed on December 18, 1971 were not eligible to enroll in regional or village corporations.

By December of 1975, a 13th regional corporation was incorporated to represent Alaska Natives living outside the state. The 13th regional corporation only received monetary compensation and did not hold any land titles. Today, 12 of the 13 regional corporations are still operational, the 13th corporation ceased operations. Excerpt from Tundra Times: "The 104-year-old Alaska Native land claims issue is apparently on the way to being settled by the government of our nation. Not everyone is pleased with the measure as it came out of the conference committee. Not all the Alaska Natives are happy. And great many of the general population of the state are not happy.

At any rate, significant history is being made, and it is in the process of being made. The important ingredients of this historic event is going to be the exemplary efforts of the Alaska Native leaders under the co-leadership of the Alaska Native Federation of Natives' Presidents Emil Notti and Donald R. Wright."



Tundra Times Volume IX, Number 15 (December 22, 1971); Courtesy of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Utgiagvik (Barrow), Alaska

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A famous Howard Rock photograph. How is dressed in traditional caribou skin parka, Seattle 1934; TT.01155; Courtesy of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska.

After serving in World War II, Iñupiaq artist Howard Rock returned home to Point Hope, Alaska. Rock's homecoming coincided with Project Chariot, a plan by the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to construct a harbor near Cape Thompson. The AEC proposed to detonate a series of atomic blasts in order to create the harbor 30 miles from Rock's village of Tikiġaq (Point Hope). The detonation of these atomic bombs would greatly impact the lands and waters that the people of Point Hope and surrounding communities depended on for survival.

Howard Rock relentlessly wrote informational letters of protest, uniting his people and others throughout Alaska and the United States against Project Chariot. Due to the strong opposition by Alaska Native communities, the AEC placed Project Chariot on hold, though the project has never formally been cancelled. Rock's strong activism and instrumental role in the opposition caught the attention of many Alaska Natives. The Arctic Slope Native Association and Rock's community encouraged Rock to create a newspaper to help streamline communication between all levels of government and Alaska Natives. In October of 1962, with the help of Fairbanks Daily News-Miner journalist Tom Snapp, Howard Rock founded the Tundra Times. **TUNDRA TIMES** 

The Tundra Times was a bi-weekly, non-partisan newspaper with the goal to establish consistent communication and serve as a source of information focusing on issues relating to Alaska and Alaska Natives until it folded in 1997. Howard Rock went back and forth on a name for the newspaper until he decided on Tundra—the basic ground covering all of Alaska. Within the Tundra Times, Rock strived to include letters, writings, poems, artwork, and questions by Alaska Native people, making it inclusive for all Alaska Native Cultures. Rock's journalistic approach sought to bring attention to all Alaskans.

With the Tundra Times, Rock was able to report on Alaska Native land claims and the emergence of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). AFN formed in 1966—with funding from the Native village of Tyonek, who had recently discovered oil on their reservation—to collectively bring Alaska Native communities together to rally for social and economic justice for Alaska Natives and land claims. AFN firmly believed there is great strength and power in numbers and that gathering to voice the concerns of Alaska Natives would force the state and federal government to acknowledge and address outstanding land claims. The Tundra Times thoroughly followed and transcribed the first-ever AFN meeting and the development of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Ultimately, the Tundra Times provided a medium through which Alaska Native thoughts and concerns were voiced on state and nationwide platforms. Create your own newspaper using the template below addressing current political issues relevant to you or Alaska. Think about font, design, image, and purpose as you build the front page of your newspaper.



#### WHY TUNDRA TIMES?

Excerpted from the Tundra Times, October 1, 1962 By Howard Rock First Editorial

There are two main reasons for the appearance of the Tundra Times.

**First:** It will be the medium to air the views of the Native organizations. It will reflect their policies and purposes as they work for the betterment of the Native peoples of Alaska. It will also reflect their aims... their hopes. It will strive to aid them in their struggles for just determination and settlement of their enormous problems.

**Second:** It will strive to keep informed on matters of interest all Natives of Alaska, whether they be Eskimos of the Arctic, the Athabascans of the Interior, and other Indians and Aleuts of the Aleutian Islands.<sup>1</sup>

We have also realized that an unbiased presentation of issues that directly concern the Natives is needed. In presenting those things that most affect Natives, we will make every effort to be truthful and objective .



Howard Rock takes one last at Dec 3, 1975 issue; Photograph by Sue Gamache; TT.01167; Courtesy of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska.

<sup>1</sup>The Anchorage Museum refrains from using the terms Eskimo, Indian and Aleut and instead uses language identified by the Alaska Native language groups. Due to these words' complicated history, the Anchorage Museum does not use these terms. However, it is important to note that Indigenous communities and individuals may have different relationships to these terms in their own processes of healing and self-identification. "Right from the beginning, in fact in the first issue, we mentioned land claims and historic rights of the Alaska's Native people. A couple of days before we came out with the first issue, the then Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall came to Fairbanks. He told Thomas A. Snapp, my assistant editor, and myself that he would work for the rights and claims of the native people. He said they were far too long delayed in being solved and that it was time to look the problem squarely in the face." - Howard Rock in October 1969



Howard Rock typing on a old fashion typewriter, TT.01189; Courtesy of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska.

*Write:* Draft a letter to someone advocating for something that is important to you.