



North Slope News

January/February 2016



Mayor's Message

When anyone loses a loved one in a close-knit community like the North Slope, there are tears and sadness and prayers that pour in from every village. When that loss is a young person, the pain seems to be that much harder to bear. Through the pain we understand the need to stand together and embrace those in despair while vowing to continue to do everything we can to stop the deaths of our young men and women.

It is hard to find the strength to go on after we experience these deaths so close together. We hardly stop reeling from one when another happens, but this is exactly why we cannot give up. We must work together as the community of the North Slope to find out what our young people need in order to have hope for their future. The loss of even one of our people is a loss to our entire Inupiat family, our community, and the future of the North Slope.

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Mayor Brower Pushes For Direct AK LNG PILT Payments To Local Communities

Although the proposed Alaska LNG pipeline is still a long way from reality, a state committee is working on a fiscal scheme that would compensate local governments for property taxes they would forfeit under the current agreement with gasline producers.



Local leaders from across the state gather to discuss the proposed LNG Pipeline.

Communities along the route of the pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to a liquefied natural gas export terminal at Nikiski have spent the summer and fall negotiating with the state and other communities about how to divide up the estimated \$15.7 billion in property tax revenues the project will produce over 25 years. The state has proposed a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes structure.

The idea behind a PILT is to remove uncertainty from the Alaska LNG project, so that communities know what kind of revenue to expect, and the companies that are considering a \$55 billion investment in the huge project know what it will cost them to build and operate, state officials say.

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EMPLOYEES

of the Month

Martha Hopson, Exhibit & Education Coordinator December 2015

Martha Hopson is our December 2015 Employee of the Month. Martha began working with the North Slope Borough Inupiat History, Language, and Culture (IHLC) Division of the Planning Department in 2003. She stayed with IHLC as it became a stand-alone Department and has been instrumental in the transition.

Through Martha's leadership, many community members have greatly benefited from the workshops she has coordinated for the IHLC Elders and Youth conferences. Martha has also coordinated the Artists in Residence program and the Community Outreach program under the ECHO grant for many years. She is an expert when it comes to showcasing our history, language and culture and has provided tours to many students, groups and dignitaries.

Her professionalism in the workplace makes her an ideal role model for new employees, and her untiring high standards of attendance and work ethic is a blessing to her supervisors. Martha is also known and appreciated for her direct communication skills and is highly respected by elders and youth across our region. Quyanaqpak Martha and enjoy your retirement!



Acting Mayor Teresa Bowen, Martha Hopson and IHLC Director Kathy Ahgeak.

Jeffery Leavitt, Plumber January 2016

Jeffery Leavitt of the Department of Public Works has been selected as Employee of the Month for January 2016. Jeffery has worked for the Borough since June 2001 as a plumber in the Facility Maintenance Division. Jeff has always shown outstanding commitment to his job and the North Slope.



His superiors describe Jeff as someone who is "skilled and very reliable," who "takes pride in his craft and is always willing to provide service when necessary," and as someone who "jumps on the next plane out to the villages to provide assistance." The most recent example of Jeff's commitment and dependability was on January 3rd when he was asked to respond to a no-heat call at the Senior Center. Jeff did not hesitate to work over the holidays and on a Sunday when most were enjoying the break with their loved ones. He was able to get the heat back in the building for our Elders a few hours after responding to the call. This is just one example of Jeff's skills as a plumber and his work ethic as a Borough employee. Quyanaqpak Jeff!

Irene Tukle, Deputy Assistant February 2016

Irene Tukle of the Mayor's Office has been selected as Employee of the Month for February 2016. Irene started with the North Slope Borough in December 2013 as a Temporary Office Specialist in the Mayor's Office.



Irene's willingness to learn and assume responsibilities during her time as a temporary employee was the primary reason for her being hired full time as an Office Specialist in April 2014. She has worked for the Mayor's Office since then.

Irene has always been willing to take on new tasks and her quiet dedication has made her an invaluable employee. Irene has been cross trained to cover other employee's duties in their absences and is the kind of well-rounded employee that any central division would be lucky to have.

Many residents are unaware of the volume of paperwork handled by the Mayor's Office. Without employees like Irene it would be difficult to provide the level of services our residents have come to expect. Quyanaqpak Irene!

AK LNG (continued from page 1)

Most of the infrastructure on which property tax would be paid is located in the North Slope Borough and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, with lesser amounts in other areas.

At a meeting of the Municipal Gasline Advisory Board last month in Anchorage, State Commissioner of Revenue Randy Hoffbeck suggested a 50-50 divide of the property tax revenue between the state and the municipalities.

Board Member North Slope Borough Mayor Charlotte Brower said each municipality should negotiate its own PILT with the oil companies, without the state.

"The allocation of PILT should be done through an agreement directly between the municipalities and the taxpayers, the taxpayers being the oil companies," she said.

"The North Slope Borough and other municipalities have the ability and authority to negotiate PILTs on their own," she said. The state could negotiate its own PILT for property taxes it wants to collect for areas not within boroughs."

The review board is expected to provide a final recommendation to the Legislature later this month, but

may delay till April. Hoffbeck said the delay should not hinder legislative activity because it is unlikely they'd have time to consider gas line property taxes during a session expected to be dominated by budget issues.

With the Boards delays, Mayor Brower chose to address the Legislature last week on this very important issue.

At a legislative hearing on Senate Bill 100, the mayor stated: "One of the primary concerns back then was how the state would address property taxes on the project. There were many questions then, and there are still many questions today. Throughout our history, the North Slope Borough has developed a good working relationship with the oil companies. We have a great deal of experience with these companies on both property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes.

Our own experience with working with industry has taught us that a direct payment system will provide better fiscal certainty to the project and for North Slope residents."

For more information on this important issue, please visit the North Slope Borough's website.



Mayor's Message (continued from page 1)

As mayor, I have made connecting our young people to healthier lifestyles one of my main priorities. I think we all are aware that to have healthy kids, we must first have healthy families and healthy communities. I have pledged to work towards that goal and hope you will all work with me to achieve it.

Most importantly, make sure you connect with your kids and family. Make sure you are part of their lives. No matter how firmly they shut the door on your efforts, you need to keep knocking. They may not know it, but they still need you. Our people and communities have survived and prospered for thousands of years because of this interdependence and network of support. Get involved in their lives, interests, hobbies and friends. Make sure you know what's important to them and what they are thinking. Your connection with your family members may be the ray of light they need in their darkest moment.

Once again, our hearts go out to all those on the North Slope who have lost loved ones. Through the support of those around you, may you once again know peace in your hearts.



Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) young leaders doing positive things



Simulations on foreign policy was one of the key evening events.



MYAC group meets on of the Pearl Harbor Veterans during their visit to the Arizona Memorial.



MYAC group photographed with motivational speaker Bill Mendoza.

Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) — The council's mission is to provide a voice for youth in decisions and policies of the North Slope Borough, thereby fostering our future leaders.

Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) hosted events in their community to promote positive well being.

Some of the events include:

- Hosted Movie Night
- Made Halloween Grams for all North Slope schools
- Held a clothing drive
- Held a food drive
- Delivered Valentine Grams to Elders

Some of the MYAC students were lucky enough to be chosen to attend Close Up - Hawaii and Close Up - Washington, DC. Youth were selected based on their community service, academics and leadership.

MYAC attend Close Up – Hawaii

Ten students from the North Slope villages participated in a program sponsored through the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council that enabled them to fly to Hawaii for the opportunity to learn about foreign policy and the history of Hawaii and the overthrow of the government. Students participating came from Pt. Hope, Pt. Lay, Wainwright and Barrow. For six of those students, it was their first time visiting Hawaii. According to Brian Houston, MYAC Coordinator, this program was geared towards helping prepare students for the ever changing political world and its policies. "This program allowed our students to get a foothold on the inner workings of how foreign policy affects our community, state and nation." He continued, "They each participated in a simulation where they played a variety of roles ranging from presidents and prime ministers to ambassadors and propaganda specialist for several Asian pacific countries." Another big topic of discussion was Global Warming. A topic that kids from the North Slope can totally relate to. They also participated in tours of various historical monuments in Hawaii.

Close Up – Washington D.C.

Another Close Up program brought four North Slope teens to Washington D.C. to observe the inner workings of their government. Students attending came from Barrow, Point Hope, Nuiqsut and Kaktovik. They not only saw the historical sites and monuments of America's capitol city but also got to meet with their legislators and see Congress in action. As with the trip to Hawaii, one of the great advantages of this trip was meeting and befriending other students from all over the US who were also learning about how government works first hand.

MYAC Trip Highlights

Hearing Bill Mendoza talk about not giving up and how long it took him to graduate from college. It was inspiring to hear how he never gave up. I liked seeing the Abraham Lincoln Memorial and doing the workshops and learning about how our government works.

— Phillip Woods

My highlight of Close Up — DC was when they chose me to do the speech because it showed me how much I improved in making my voice heard and how much I've been an impact representing our group.

— Edith Spear

What I liked most about this trip is meeting new people, increasing my leadership skills and learning how to voice my thoughts. A thing I will always remember is that you don't have to be smart to go to college, it just takes determination. I also learned about the three branches of government and know how they work. Now I know how to make my concerns heard.

— Melanie Tikluk

One of my favorite parts of the trip was touring Pearl Harbor. We learned a lot about World War II and this tied in with the issue of foreign policy we had been learning about in the workshops. We were able to see the USS Arizona and one of the submarines a part of the Pearl Harbor attack. I met one of the veterans that survived the attack and took a photo with him. It was a great experience! For sure something you don't get to see everyday. The program itself was pretty fun. We learned about foreign policy and how we can play a big role in government. It also taught me how hard and hectic running a government can be. We met students from around the U.S. We all had different views and were able to learn and grow with each other.

NSB Mayor Announces Major TAPS Settlement

The settlement agreement on the valuation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) amongst the State of Alaska, various municipalities, and the TAPS owners will bring an end to litigation that has been hard fought over the last decade. In addition, this settlement agreement will fix the pipeline tax value at \$8 Billion through 2020 and all pending litigations at various levels of the Alaska Court System will be dismissed.

"Today's agreement to settle litigation on the valuation of TAPS marks another historic milestone for the North Slope Borough," proclaimed Mayor Charlotte E. Brower. "By fixing the value of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System for the next five years, this agreement will provide a more stable and predictable budget environment and help to ensure the financial security of the Borough moving forward. It also brings an end to the need for continuous litigation in which the Borough and other municipalities have spent a decade and millions of dollars to obtain a fair valuation of TAPS."

The settlement agreement between the municipalities, State of Alaska, and TAPS owners was approved by the North Slope Borough and Fairbanks North Star Borough Assemblies as well as the Valdez City Council.

"Today's agreement to settle litigation on the valuation of TAPS marks another historic milestone for the North Slope Borough," proclaimed Mayor Charlotte E. Brower. "By fixing the value of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System for the next five years, this agreement will provide a more stable and predictable budget environment and help to ensure the financial security of the Borough moving forward."

"I would like to thank Governor Walker, Attorney General Richards, and Commissioner Randy Hoffbeck for their support in seeing this settlement move forward," said Mayor Brower.

"I would also like to thank Director Reed O'Hair and the dedicated Deputy Directors of the Department of Administration and Finance for the years of hard work contributing to advancing the interests of the people of the North Slope. This agreement will improve the services we provide to our residents and that is something to feel good about."



Above photo: Diana Martin shows a student how to make an atuti at Kali School. Left photo: Sarah Skin teaches Katignisi at Kali School.

Inupiat History Language and Culture (IHLC) Brings Kalimiut Together Promoting the Use of the Inupiaq Language

Using the Inupiaq language as the language of instruction, the IHLC Outreach Team (Fredrika Leavitt, Marilyn Decker, Tammy Hopson, Sarah Skin and Diana Martin) held workshops for two days last week. The event began with a community gathering where maktak and quaq were shared, and archival films and photographs were shown to the community to share what the IHLC Commission has collected over the past forty years. The objective of the outreach program is to raise the level of awareness of the status of the Inupiaq language, which is now one of the endangered languages of the world. The outreach team conducted workshops on making hunting parka covers and fur socks in preparation of the upcoming whaling season. Community members Julius Rexford and Thomas Nukapigak led sessions

on Mentoring Young Whalers, showing young whalers how to work on floats and began weaving a new net for the mapkuq, or blanket made from ugruk skins during the whaling celebrations. Nora Itta is Point Lay's representative on the IHLC Commission and helped the outreach team every step of the way.

The IHLC Department was created last year under Mayor Brower's direction, and the IHLC Commission completed a Strategic Plan identifying and prioritizing Inupiaq language revitalization efforts. The commission was invited to meet with the NSBSD board of education, Iļisagvik College Board of Trustees, and the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope to discuss issues of common concern and how we can more effectively use our resources to further our goals.

NSB Decries Ninth Circuit Court Decision

Ruling on designation of critical habitat for polar bears will have major impacts on the lives of local residents.

"Three unelected judges have single-handedly sealed the fate for thousands of indigenous people in America's Arctic," lamented North Slope Borough Mayor Charlotte Brower. "We can only hope that someday the Inupiat people may be privileged enough to be listed as a threatened or endangered species so that we too can have 187,000 square miles of critical habitat for our own survival."

Mayor Brower's remarks came after she was informed of the Ninth Circuit's decision to reverse a U.S. District Court's ruling that limited the area that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could designate as critical habitat for polar bears.

"While environmental groups and their government accomplices are patting themselves on the back, we now face a prospect where we struggle to build critical infrastructure that actually better the lives of people because a polar bear may decide once in a blue moon to den there," said Brower. "This ruling stands as yet another example of modern-day environmental imperialism, and just like the past, it's the indigenous people that are left to suffer with the consequences."



IHLC Commission Elects New Leadership

By unanimous consent, the IHLC Commission elected James Mumigana Nageak of Anaktuvuk Pass as Chair and Terry Tagarook of Wainwright as Vice-Chair of the Commission in its last meeting held in January. The Commission thanked Fannie Akpik and Jana Harcharek from Barrow, who had held the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship for the past three years.

Newly appointed member Lydia Sovalik of Nuiqsut was sworn in and warmly welcomed to the commission. Virginia Kasak was appointed as alternate to this seat. Lydia is the daughter of the late Nannie Woods, who was among the first of the IHLC Commissioners in the late '70's and early '80's. A long time supporter of IHLC, Lydia opened her camp at the historic site of Nigliq to the Nuiqsut Elders/Youth conference held in 2009.

As defined in the NSB's municipal code, the duties of the Commission are to:

- A. Develop a common writing system for the Iñupiat language;
- B. Develop a complete historical record of the land, people and villages of the North Slope;
- C. Translate into the Iñupiat language all important documents within the North Slope Borough government;
- D. Assist in the development of facilities that will make records and collections available to the citizens of the North Slope Borough;
- E. Assist in the development and coordination of production of publication of work in the form of books, dictionaries, exhibits, films, video and audio tapes, and other media utilizing the Iñupiat language, culture and history of the Iñupiat of the North Slope region;
- F. Evaluate on-going programs and current developments as to their cultural and linguistic context and impact;
- G. Evaluate the existing historical, cultural and linguistic knowledge of the region, and on the basis of such evaluation identify areas and priorities for future studies and programs;
- H. Cooperate with Federal, State and Local government, agencies, organizations in programs relating to history, language and culture;
- I. Undertake at it's discretion and subject to the approval of the Assembly, a research and exchange program including other Iñupiat-speaking people at an international level;



Lydia Sovalik is sworn in by Sheila Burke, Borough Clerk.

- J. Present to the Mayor, Assembly and School Board findings and recommendations in areas of the Commission's concern;
- K. Seek funding for studies and programs according to priorities established by the Commission;
- L. Review all research planned or under progress relating to or bearing upon the history, language and cultural of the North Slope Region. This review shall apply to research sponsored both from within and outside the North Slope region;
 - a. Acting in this capacity, the Commission may request changes/modifications of project, subjects, or procedures;
 - b. On the basis of the Commission's review and evaluation it may recommend that a project be funded.

A joint meeting was held on March 4 to discuss issues of common concern. In 2015, the IHLC Commission revised its strategic plan to focus efforts and help provide leadership to address the issue of language loss. The Inupiaq language is on the endangered languages list among languages around the world. The commission is also requesting more dialogue and discussion of the term "Qargi" to respond to numerous requests from north slope communities to engage language revitalization efforts around the concept of the qargi system of education, long advocated by Dr. Edna MacLean who is also a member of the IHLC Commission.

The Rural Justice & Law Enforcement Commission Takes Off

Borough mayor's office staff assisting the Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission began traveling to North Slope villages in February to collect testimony from community members on issues facing North Slope villages. Travel will continue in April to the remaining villages that have not yet had a meeting with staff on this topic.

The biggest issues to be addressed include illegal alcohol and drug importation; substance abuse; domestic violence; suicide; child abuse, neglect and sexual assault; and law enforcement.

The borough is sensitive to the fact that each village might prioritize these issues differently and is intent on working with each village to work on what they view as the priorities for their village. In order to do that, staff working with the Commission must

determine what a village's concerns are and how that village would like to see them addressed. Once this has been done, the Commission will provide Mayor Brower and the Assembly with a report containing recommendations on how to proceed in achieving the goals defined by the villages.

The first quarterly commission meeting will be held on March 30th. Future dates will be announced as they are decided and details will be available through public notices on the meetings.

If you have concerns you would like to address to the Commission prior to the meeting in your village, or if you simply would prefer a more private setting to air your concerns, feel free to contact Kristine Hilderbrand, Dennis Tiepelman, or David Leavitt at the North Slope



L to r: Dennis Tiepelman, David Maasak Leavitt and Kristine Hilderbrand

Borough Mayor's Office. Anonymous testimony will be accepted and, if you have concerns about your discussions with staff, you may request anonymity. Residents are encouraged to come forward with their concerns so that this Commission may have the best possible information at hand when formulating recommendations for future action.

North Slope Borough

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BOXHOLDER



One of the MYAC groups highlights was visiting Alaska's congressional delegates. L to R: Ayla Hopson, Edith Spear, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Phillip Woods and Melanie Tikluk.