

**SELAWIK, ALASKA  
AGRICULTURE AND  
VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**PLANNING CONFERENCE SUMMARY STATEMENT**

**OCTOBER 1980**

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This publication summarizes the  
Selawik, Alaska Planning Conference  
arranged and facilitated by  
The Institute of Cultural Affairs  
October 10-12, 1980.

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and to the  
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ORIGIN

The origin of the Selawik Agriculture and Village Development Project dates back to July 15-17, 1980, when representatives from the Selawik I.R.A. Council, the NANA regional organization and Rural Ventures, Inc. met in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The meeting resulted in a proposed agreement for approval by the appropriate village, regional and state organizations for the establishment of joint programs. One of these programs was the planning and initiation of an arctic farm project. Other programs involved bringing technical assistance into the village in the areas of health care expansion, basic skills and vocational training, and chemical dependency information and treatment. To complement these programs, a planning method and decision-making skills were to be offered to village organizations along with an emphasis on programming to preserve the Eskimo heritage. Finally, a cooperative strategy was to be developed for additional long-range funding.

AGENT

Since 1971 The Institute of Cultural Affairs has been working in Alaska with people concerned about the revitalization of local communities. In 1973 full-time staff were located in Anchorage to conduct training and town meeting programs in Alaska and the Yukon Territories. The I.R.A. Council of Selawik, NANA Corporation and R.V.I. selected The Institute to conduct the village Planning Conference. On October 10-12, 1980, the Selawik Planning



Conference was held following two weeks of preparation in the village.

#### PARTICIPANTS

The Selawik residents who attended the Planning Conference represented a wide range of expertise. Teachers, councilpersons, health aides, shopkeepers, maintenance workers, craftsmen, cooks, laborers, elders and youth were present. Each day, teams spent many hours visiting and talking with residents in their homes, around the community and in places of business. Visiting consultants came from both private and public sectors. The expertise of these people covered a broad spectrum of skills and professions. Specific professions included school administration, medicine, chemical dependence, family counseling, nursing, emergency services, community development, teaching, accounting and business. One consultant represented the Standing Rock Sioux Corporation.

#### DESIGN

First, the Planning Conference focused upon eliciting the latent practical vision of the residents of Selawik. Secondly, the people of Selawik analyzed the underlying contradictions which were obstacles to realizing their vision of development. Lastly, the citizens wrote a set of creative proposals for strategically dealing with the contradictions in the village. The time in the Planning Conference was divided between work as small teams in field and basic research and plenary gatherings in which the accumulated data was formed into a working consensus for the village as a whole.

## THE PRACTICAL VISION

### VISION

The first task of the Conference consisted of objectifying the Practical Vision of the future shared by the people of Selawik. Such a vision for any people is never totally explicit. It is woven through their hopes and fears, their frustrations and yearnings. It is concealed in their stories and social structures and is suggested by their style, symbols and dreams. All these form who they are and what they hope to become. Although such a vision may be initially unconscious, it represents a community's attitude toward itself and its destiny. Only when the vision is made manifest and a community consciously stands present to that vision can local community development occur. The process of objectifying this vision in a formal model is lengthy. This is explained in part by the fact that no community by itself can grasp its own vision. It was only when the subjectivity of the residents of Selawik was impacted by the objectivity of the visiting consultants that the Practical Vision of the community emerged.

### PROCESS

In order to discern this local vision, the Planning Conference was divided into five teams and spent several days in the field becoming generally familiar with the community. In addition to this overall survey, each team was assigned to investigate closely a specific aspect of community life -- agriculture, business and education, basic services,

## PROCESS

health and community organization. The teams covered the whole geography of the community, talked informally with people they met, visited local gathering places, surveyed community facilities and were invited into the homes of residents. Through these activities, the Planning Conference directly contacted a significant percentage of the residents of Selawik. Workshop sessions were then conducted by each team to exchange reports on the hopes and desires of the community as discerned by the teams. The Practical Vision Chart gives rational, objective form to the vision that exists in the understanding of the people of Selawik. It was in relationship to this vision that the Underlying Contradictions could be discerned in the subsequent phase of the conference.



## THE PRACTICAL VISION

### A. TOWARD IMPROVED SURROUNDINGS

- I. Reliable Emergency Services
- II. Family Recreational Activities
- III. General Village Sanitation

### B. TOWARD SELF RELIANCE

- IV. Alternative Energy Sources
- V. Expanded Local Employment
- VI. Appropriate Agriculture Project

### C. TOWARD A HEALTHY LIFE-STYLE

- VII. Total Transportation System
- VIII. Preventive Health Programs
- IX. Subsistence Life-Style Support

A. TOWARD IMPROVED SURROUNDINGS			B. TOWARD SELF-RELIANCE			C. TOWARD HEALTHY LIFESTYLE		
Reliable Emergency Services    I	Family Recreational Activities   II	General Village Sanitation   III	Alternative Energy Sources    IV	Expanded Local Employment   V	Appropriate Agriculture Project    VI	Total Transportation System    VII	Preventive Health Programs   VIII	Subsistence Life-Style Support    IX
Co-operative Emergency Shelters	Year-Round Recreational Facilities	Water and Sewage Hauling	Solar and Wind Power	Local Occupational Training	Agriculture Farm Site	Permanent Trail Markers	Baby and Mother Care	School Subsistence Curriculum
				Native Crafts Marketing				
Fire Fighting Plan	Available Village Library	Expanded Running Water	Super- Insulated Homes	Child Care Center	Family Gardening Plots	Airport Taxi Service	Wellness Education Program	Local History Book
Erosion Control Program	Competitive Sports Events	Neat Village Appearance	Wood Fuel Industry	Commercial Fishing Operation	Farm Skills Training	Heated Airport Shelter	Drug Abuse Education	Subsistence- Related School Calendar
				Portable Saw Mill				
Public Safety Board	Senior Citizens Center	Grass- Cutting and Clean- Up	Inexpensive Wood Stoves	Check Cashing System	Inexpensive Milk Supply	Additional Airport Run-way	Tooth Decay Information	General Hardware Store
Education in Local Laws	Adult Games Program	Improved Garbage Dumping	Joint Oil Purchase	Sled- Making Business	Reindeer Herd Experiment	Village Trans- portation Options	Alcoholism Counseling and Treatment	Subsistence Equipment Availability
				Selawik Tourist Bureau				
	Youth Recreation Center		Energy Cost Research	Skin Tanning Industry	Efficient Food Storage		Parent Effective- ness Training	

#### A. TOWARD IMPROVED SURROUNDINGS

The citizens of Selawik described a general need for the village to move toward improved surroundings through developing reliable emergency services, supporting family recreational activities and improving village sanitation.

##### I. RELIABLE EMERGENCY SERVICES

During the Planning Conference, the village residents described their vision of reliable emergency services. The citizens of Selawik specifically discussed co-operative emergency shelters placed along the main village trails for storm protection. These would also serve as fallout shelters in case of a civil defence emergency. The citizens described their plan for fire fighting and an adequately equipped fire station. An information program on local ordinances and state laws was also mentioned. This program could be done by organizing a safety board who would be trained in accident prevention, such as oil spills. The citizens also talked about control for river bank erosion.

II.  
FAMILY  
RECREATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES

During the conference many citizens talked about family recreational activities. They described a year-round recreational facility for general community use and indicated that a village library would be supported. The scheduling of competitive sports events was suggested for the community. Many senior citizens mentioned a center for their activities. New interest was shown in a teen center and in a games program for adults.

III.  
GENERAL  
VILLAGE  
SANITATION

During the conference general village sanitation was widely discussed. The village residents indicated that the key to sanitation is the hauling of water to the houses and a pick-up of waste from the houses. One other way to accomplish this would be to extend the existing water pipes. The villagers discussed improving the village appearance; grass-cutting and general clean-up were mentioned most often. The people also intend to improve the garbage dumping.

## B. TOWARD SELF RELIANCE

The citizens of Selawik emphasized their determination to move toward self reliance through using alternative energy sources, expanding local employment opportunities and undertaking an appropriate agriculture project.

### IV. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

During the conference many discussions were held regarding alternative energy sources. There is sufficient interest expressed in solar and windmill energy to investigate their further utilization. Much of the discussion concerned insulation for homes which could be supplemented by placing two small wood-burning stoves in the houses. The residents confirmed the availability of firewood in the area. The residents suggested some energy cost research and mentioned a joint-purchase of oil and a transportation barge.

### V. EXPANDED LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

The central component of the residents' vision was expanded employment opportunities. The discussions focused on the need for specific job training in law enforcement, accounting and bookkeeping, and G.E.D. A Native crafts business which produces immediate income was the subject of much interest. Citizens suggested that a tourist office and a small hotel could provide space for visitors such as

V.

EXPANDED

LOCAL

EMPLOYMENT

hunters and fishermen. A child care center would grant freedom for parents to work. People felt that fishing and fish-drying could have commercial possibilities. Since many people are switching to wood for fuel and need wood for housing repairs, they emphasized a need for a portable saw mill. The citizens also pointed out that they could purchase services and goods more efficiently with a check cashing system. Two suggestions of businesses were in skin tanning and sled making.

VI.

APPROPRIATE

AGRICULTURE

PROJECT

Great interest was demonstrated in the agriculture project. The people of the village saw a suitably cleared farm site and a road providing access to it as very important. They was farming and family gardening as a source of more fresh produce to support the subsistence life style. They also saw it as a means of providing alternatives to the growing dependence on expensive imports of produce. The participants in the conference saw school greenhouse experiments as valuable in teaching farm skills and discussed the need for additional farming skills training. In this manner a greater part of the village could take an active part in a growing agricultural system. Villagers are looking for an inexpensive source of milk, perhaps goats. They re-emphasized the value of reindeer herding as well. In this arena, the interest projected toward grains and grasses being grown on the farm as a means of supplemental livestock feeding.

VI.

APPROPRIATE

AGRICULTURE

PROJECT

The people indicated a need to learn ways of preparing and storing the food which is produced through the agriculture project, and the desire for information and coordination with regional experiments now under way in order to bring the farm project to its most viable potential in the shortest period of time.



### C. TOWARD A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

The citizens of Selawik indicated a strong commitment to move toward a healthy life-style through constructing an efficient transportation system, implementing preventive health programs and supporting their subsistence heritage.

VII.  
TOTAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
SYSTEM

During the planning conference the discussion emphasized air taxi transportation and accessible personal travel. The residents are interested in constructing permanent trail markers for travel between villages. A follow-through plan is to be designed for a heated airport shelter for waiting passengers. Serious discussion also focused on improving and extending the existing runway. A village bridge is to be constructed and consideration for permanent docking was a topic of considerable interest.

VIII.  
PREVENTIVE  
HEALTH  
PROGRAMS

The village residents are very much aware of a need for preventive health programs. They suggested that the present health care would be improved through more frequent access to a doctor in the village, and the addition of Home Health Aides who could work with families in the homes where there are disabled children and adults. They also want general programs emphasizing the wellness of the

VIII.  
PREVENTIVE  
HEALTH  
PROGRAMS

community in such areas as elementary health, general nutrition, prevention of tooth decay and factors in drug-abuse. The people underlined the major problem of alcoholism among most of the adults and young adults. They suggested a program of counseling and treatment with a resident counselor trained in alcoholism and able to work well with youth. Selawik residents felt that healthy families would be helped by a strong mothers' organization and both parents developing skills through training events. Another important factor in health was reflected in the support for increased community activities.

IX.  
SUBSISTENCE  
LIFE-STYLE  
SUPPORT

The people of Selawik indicated a strong priority for acknowledging and supporting the subsistence life-style. They indicated the need for the school to include subsistence skills training in the curriculum and to allow time for experience in subsistence activities. Involving the older residents in teaching these skills was considered important. They emphasized a desire to document their heritage in a locally-written history book. They pointed out that a principal support needed for subsistence living would be a general hardware store making subsistence equipment and tools available.

## THE UNDERLYING CONTRADICTIONS

### CONTRADICTIONS

The second task of the Planning Conference was to locate the basic social contradictions in Selawik. The term "contradiction", as it is used here, does not refer to obvious problems, but to coagulations of blocks to the Practical Vision. Contradictions are closely related to relatively invisible, deep currents of history and, therefore, are difficult to discern. They cannot be located directly, but must be approached indirectly through identification of the deterrents and blocks to the Practical Vision of the people. It is by looking through the blocks or obstacles in relation to the objective historical trends that the Underlying Contradictions can be located.

### PROCESS

In order to generate local data relating to the contradictions, the Conference participants continued to work as teams in the field. Each team concerned itself first with discerning the blocks to the total Practical Vision and then focused in depth on its particular assigned arena of the Vision. In this way, the values of both comprehensiveness and depth were held in the teams' overall analysis. Keeping in mind the current trends, the teams discerned the subjective irritants as revealed by the field visits and discussions in order to identify the objective deterrents to the Practical Vision. Upon returning from the field, each team listed its data. The data was then organized into a comprehensive

## PROCESS

set of thirteen Underlying Contradictions facing the people of Selawik. As the accompanying chart indicates, thirteen foundational contradictions were seen. Under these are listed all of the specific blocks identified by the Conference. The contradictions are prioritized by the number of blocks listed under each. This listing indicates the amount of attention each arena received from the group. This form of prioritizing is not the only criterion for identifying the major contradictions to the Practical Vision, but it is an informative and therefore important step in holding the entire matrix of contradictions present in a situation.

## THE UNDERLYING CONTRADICTIONS

- I. Inexperienced Local Leadership
- II. Neglected Community Organization
- III. Untrained Maintenance Personnel
- IV. Unresponsive Educational Structures
- V. Incomplete Subsistence Curriculum
- VI. Conflicting Farm-Site Preparation Plans
- VII. Unactivated Alcohol and Drug Care
- VIII. Unresolved Land Restrictions
- IX. Abbreviated Exkimo Heritage
- X. Uncoordinated Transportation Plans
- XI. Individualistic Small Business Ventures
- XII. Limited Health Care
- XIII. Impractical Personal Money Management



## I. THE FIRST CONTRADICTION

### INEXPERIENCED LOCAL LEADERSHIP

A major contradiction which surfaced during the Selawik Planning Conference was in the arena of inexperienced leadership. The major aspect of this contradiction concerns rapid change, unfamiliar external regulations and irregular communication lines. The leadership of the community has infrequent communication with regional and state officials regarding construction and safety ordinance compliance. The community has the possibility of obtaining grants but needs guidelines and training in grant writing and monitoring of grant approvals.

## II. THE SECOND CONTRADICTION

### NEGLECTED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

The people of the village described one of their major obstacles as neglected community organization. In former days, the subsistence life-style created the community decision-making structures. Today the focus on subsistence has become more of an individual concern, leaving the community organization as a separate function. Difficulty in maintaining continuous program leadership and the infrequency of community-wide planning or information sessions are two of the results of this obstacle, as well as an uninvolved citizenry.



### III. THE THIRD CONTRADICTION

UNTRAINED  
MAINTENANCE  
PERSONNEL

The village residents indicated that a major obstacle to development is the low level of general maintenance skills available locally. This is primarily manifest in mismanaged and poorly monitored city equipment such as fire and construction tools. In addition, most people are untrained in basic home maintenance and repair; this is illustrated by minimal insulation efforts.

### IV. THE FOURTH CONTRADICTION

UNRESPONSIVE  
EDUCATIONAL  
STRUCTURES

The residents of Selawik mentioned that the village school is prevented from modifying programs upon local request because of the Department of Education's guidelines regarding attendance, state and federal funding, and fiscal year deadlines. The current teachers' contract restricts the teachers' time in making them available for practical math and vocational training. An obstacle for many youth is the excessive reliance upon television for entertainment.

### V. THE FIFTH CONTRADICTION

INCOMPLETE  
SUBSISTENCE  
CURRICULUM

The people of the village of Selawik see that maintaining subsistence as a part of the Eskimo way of life is blocked by the school's minimal incorporation of traditional Eskimo skills. Until more local craftsmen are available, processes of food preparation are passed on and newer skills

INCOMPLETE  
SUBSISTENCE  
CURRICULUM

such as reindeer herd management and automated tanning are studied, the subsistence life-style is in jeopardy. School recognition is focused on academic excellence which overshadows subsistence skills. The local school's advisory board involvement is felt to be insufficient to deal with this issue.

## VI. THE SIXTH CONTRADICTION

CONFLICTING  
FARM-SITE  
PREPARATION  
PLANS

The residents of the village of Selawik perceive a conflict in the agricultural preparation plan as being chiefly caused by the limited alternatives for local agriculture, the unknown conditions of the farm site and the undetermined scale of the project. Minor obstacles also exist such as the lack of experience in farming and the inaccessibility of the farm site and equipment for gardening.

## VII. THE SEVENTH CONTRADICTION

UNACTIVATED  
ALCOHOL/DRUG  
CARE

The citizens of Selawik identified a major obstacle to community life as the high percent of chemical dependency on alcohol and drugs. Although there are programs and structures for care and treatment of alcoholism available, the people indicated that an on-going residential treatment program including innovative education, alternatives to the 8-hour lock-up, and support for families of alcoholics would support current activity. Follow-up care was also mentioned as a need.

## VIII. THE EIGHTH CONTRADICTION

UNRESOLVED  
LAND  
RESTRICTIONS

The village residents discussed the major obstacle to starting such projects as a child care center, a log-cutting shelter and a winter food storage facility is the out-of-date land use plan which the city presently has. Also the management of the lands to which the village has title is not explicit in the job descriptions of city officials.

## IX. THE NINTH CONTRADICTION

ABBREVIATED  
ESKIMO  
HERITAGE

The citizens of Selawik mentioned that the recovering of Eskimo heritage is difficult because of the many dialects of the Eskimo language. The elders of Selawik come from an oral tradition; consequently there is no local written history and writers have only begun recording oral history and the guidelines for Eskimo books. These conditions have been intensified by the influence of the missionaries who minimized the study of Eskimo ways and history.

## X. THE TENTH CONTRADICTION

UNCOORDINATED  
TRANSPORTATION  
PLANS

The citizens of Selawik talked about one of their major blocks as the undeveloped and uncoordinated transportation plans. This is primarily seen in limited transportation methods to emergency shelters and to haul wood to the village. The Department of Transportation offices being located at a great distance from the village complicates

communication of the type needed to complete work on the airport runway, the heated airport shelter or the village bridge.

#### XI. THE ELEVENTH CONTRADICTION

INDIVIDUALISTIC  
SMALL  
BUSINESS  
VENTURES

New small business ideas are obstructed by poor business and marketing planning. Loans are hard to procure without land ownership for collateral and a working relationship with a bank. A small number of local buyers and the irregular demand for crafts limits the possibility of a reasonable profit from individual businesses. The press of caring for children limits the time women have to invest in initiating and staying with business ventures.

#### XII. THE TWELFTH CONTRADICTION

LIMITED  
HEALTH  
CARE

Selawik residents pointed out that the major obstacle to a healthy community is the limited distribution of health information, especially in the areas of tooth decay, venereal disease, alcoholism and parenting skills. Limited capability of the local clinic service prohibits follow-up care for child well-being and home care for the housebound. Another general condition causing concern is the unsanitary condition of the river which results from improper sewage disposal.

### XIII. THE THIRTEENTH CONTRADICTION

#### IMPRACTICAL PERSONAL MONEY MANAGEMENT

The residents of Selawik realize that they are unfamiliar with the banking system and this prevents people from feeling that the use of personal bank accounts presents a feasible way to handle their money. Lack of information and the difficulty of procuring identification discourages people from making effective use of services which are available. Within the village, it is extremely difficult to cash checks, but the villagers endure the situation because they do not see a way to set up a viable check-cashing system.

## THE CREATIVE PROPOSALS

### PROPOSALS

The third task of the Planning Conference consisted of building the creative proposals. The term "proposal" refers to a strategic plan of action formulated in direct response to the Underlying Contradictions. Therefore, from the outset, proposals are grounded in the actual social situation, rather than being abstracted or superimposed as goals. While the Practical Vision reveals the conscious and unconscious images out of which the community operates, the Creative Proposals represent a clear image of the direction in which the community needs to move relative to the contradictions. In this sense, proposals represent judgment or decision about the future.

### PROCESS

In order to create the proposals the conference participants continued to work as teams organized according to broad arenas of expertise and interest. Following further opportunities for site visits and research in the field, each team forged a series of detailed proposals which stated the major actions needed to deal with the contradictions to the Practical Vision. The proposals represent strategic formulations of practical, yet creative possibilities for the Selawik community. Finally, the entire conference, working as one group in the plenary session, organized the

mass of data from the related proposals. The resulting chart becomes the basis for developing the programs required to shape the destiny of the Selawik community.



## THE CREATIVE PROPOSALS

- A. SOCIO-ECONOMIC HEALTH
  - I. Cash Flow Facilitation
  - II. Reduced Alcoholism
- B. BLENDING THE NEW WITH THE OLD LIFE-STYLE
  - III. Management Assistance
  - IV. Heritage Preservation
- C. PUBLIC COMMITMENT FOR AGRICULTURE PROJECT
  - V. Leadership Motivation
  - VI. Farm-Site Preparation
- D. BASIC NEEDS FULFILLMENT
  - VII. Health Care Expansion
  - VIII. Low Cost Energy
- E. COMMUNITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
  - IX. Adequate Equipment
  - X. Resource Use

# THE CREATIVE PROPOSALS CHART

<b>A</b> SOCIO-ECONOMIC HEALTH		<b>B</b> BLENDING THE NEW WITH THE OLD LIFE-STYLE		<b>C</b> PUBLIC COMMITMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECT		<b>D</b> BASIC NEEDS FULFILLMENT		<b>E</b> COMMUNITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	
Cash-Flow Facilitation I	Reduced Alcoholism II	Management Assistance III	Heritage Preservation IV	Leadership Motivation V	Farm-Site Preparation VI	Health Care Expansion VII	Low-Cost Energy VIII	Adequate Equipment IX	Resource Use X
Resident I.D. System	Family Support Programs	Day Care Center	Mothers' Club Program	Long Range Structured Programs	Farm Site Ownership	Tundra Sewage Disposal	Wood Fuel Project	Heavy Equipment Purchase	Total Land-Use Plan
			Local History Documentation	Informal Leadership Training	Camp Site Construction				
		Business Management Training		Organization Goal Setting	Reindeer Feasibility Study	Regional Health Service	Alternate Transportation Modes		
Check-Cashing Feasibility Study	Alcohol Counseling Funded	Expert Marketing Advice	Selawik Elders Association	Local Organization Coordination	Agriculture Test Plot	Health Information Center	Utility Contract Review	Equipment Operators' Training	Multi-Purpose Community Building
			Native Skills Curriculum	Regular Public Meetings	Farm Skills Training	Nutrition Education Focus			
Personal Finance Information	Chemical Dependency Information	Expanded Business Experience	Local Heritage Center	Total Citizen Participation	Consumer Market Research	Preventive Care Program	Local Building Materials	Village Maintenance Schedule	Available Facility Inventory
				Local Enforcement Schemes	Farm Acreage Allotment				

## A. SOCIO-ECONOMIC HEALTH

The community's sense of well being depends on a healthy economy and a healthy social life. Proposals created by the residents of Selawik focused on circulating cash through the village structures in order to establish an economy capable of supporting the community. This basis for a sound economy would begin to counteract a dependence mentality so often the cause of alcoholism and drug abuse.

### I. CASH-FLOW FACILITATION

During the conference, Selawik residents agreed that cash flow is a priority for the village because it allows flexibility in purchasing. One component of the cash flow facilitation is a resident I.D. system which is necessary for check-cashing within as well as outside the village. The second component is a feasibility study to determine the possibility of establishing a check-cashing operation in Selawik. The third component is the providing of personal financial information which will enable residents to be acquainted with private financial services.

### II. REDUCED ALCOHOLISM

Selawik residents also agreed that reduced dependence on alcohol and drugs is a priority for the village because of the growing number of youth and adults suffering the effects of abuse. One component of the Reduced Alcoholism proposal is family support programs which provide structures

for rehabilitation and activity. The second component is alcohol counseling funding which will enable the hiring of a trained counselor. The third component is chemical dependency information which will appraise citizens of current programs and research as well as the long-range effects of continued dependency.

#### B. BLENDING THE NEW WITH THE OLD LIFE-STYLE

Proposals in the arena of Blending the New with the Old Life-style intend to deepen the growing pride in Eskimo heritage and increase the skills needed for today's business. The coordinating of these aspects of community life allow the honoring of the rich values that build self-worth and thus prepare a foundation for people to receive skills necessary for a full participation in the present and the future.

### III.

#### MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

Selawik residents agreed that management assistance is a priority for the village because they need successful business ventures. One component of the management assistance proposal is a day care center which will free adults to work. Another component is business management training which will enable successful enterprise. The third is expert marketing advice which will facilitate obtaining outlets for products produced in the village. The fourth component

is expanded business experience which will provide additional opportunities for residents to participate in business activity and will thus improve the viability of local commerce.

VI.

HERITAGE

PRESERVATION

During the conference Selawik residents agreed that heritage preservation is a priority for the village in order to maintain their cultural values. One component of the heritage preservation proposals is the mothers' club proposal which will allow younger mothers to be trained in traditional skills. Another component is local history documentation which will compile the stories of the first people of the community. The third component is the teaching of the youth by village elders. The fourth is a Native skills curriculum which will pass on the traditional crafts and skills, and fifth is the local heritage center which will house local history material.

### C. PUBLIC COMMITMENT FOR AGRICULTURE PROJECT

The intent of the agriculture project is the creation of permanent local jobs that complement the subsistence life-style of Selawik. The leadership of the community will be enabled in its attempts to create a viable community for all the citizens by the generation of job opportunities and a growing cash economy. The proposal for community support reflects the importance of involving the whole village in the practical use of their land resources for the benefit of all.

V.

MOTIVATING

LEADERSHIP

During the Planning Conference, Selawik residents agreed that the motivation of leadership and citizens is a priority for the village in order to achieve effective local action. One component of the leadership proposal is long range planning sessions which will structure the responsibility among existing organizations for major community projects. The second component is informal leadership training which will supplement current planning methods and decision-making techniques. The third component is organizational goal setting which will give direction and drive to local projects. The fourth is local organizational coordination to enable joint planning assemblies. The fifth component is regular public meetings which will ensure the

inclusion of public input into plans. The sixth component is total citizen participation, which will give power to the actions of the organizations; the seventh component is local enforcement schemes which will update and publicize local, state and federal laws and regulations.

## VI.

### FARM-SITE

### PREPARATION

Participants in the conference agreed that farm-site preparation is a priority for the village in order to offer an alternative for the rising cost of outside produce while complementing the subsistence life-style of the village. One component of the farm-site preparation proposal is farm-site ownership which will allow control of the land to be transferred to the village. This will mean that the village will own all produce harvested and can use the proceeds from produce sale to cover the labor and management costs. Another component is camp site construction which will encourage long-term residence and work. A third component is a feasibility study and research effort into the possibility of local reindeer herding. The fourth component is an agriculture test plot which will demonstrate the practicality of arctic farming. The test plot will include a large variety of vegetable crops, as well as large test plots in grains and grasses to be used as fodder for goats and reindeer. The fifth component is farm skills training to provide agricultural training for those interested. The farm skills training is seen as vastly important and will occur not only for those



VI.

FARM-SITE

PREPARATION

directly involved in the farm-site project, but also for the home gardeners. The sixth component is consumer market research to identify marketable foods and grains. The seventh component is farm acreage allotment which will schedule crops to be planted. An in-depth study of arctic agriculture methods, successes and failures will be carried on throughout the winter so that a working plan for the farm will be set long before land clearing begins in the spring.

#### D. BASIC NEEDS FULFILLMENT

Proposals in the arena of Basic Needs Fulfillment are intended to equip the residents of the village to more adequately care for their own needs through availability of health and sanitation information and setting up locally controlled fuel sources.

#### VII. HEALTH CARE EXPANSION

Participants in the conference agreed that health care expansion is a priority for the village in order to fulfill the basic health requirements of the people. The first component of the health care expansion proposal is tundra sewage disposal which will promote a more sanitary environment. The second component is regional health service which will bring broader services and programs to the village. A third component is a health information center which will provide a wide range of necessary rural medical data and practical advice. The fourth component is nutrition education focus which will educate residences in food values and the results of inadequate intake. The fifth component is preventive care programs which will stress preventive versus curative health care.

During the Planning Conference Selawik residents stated that low cost energy is a priority for the village

VIII.  
LOW  
COST  
ENERGY

because of the rising cost of fuel oil. One component of low cost energy is the wood fuel project which will bring firewood into the village at low rates as well as making wood stoves available for residents to buy. The second component is alternative transportation modes which will initiate a study of the possibilities of reducing freight costs of needed materials. The third component is the utility contract review to explore any ways of lowering that cost, and the fourth component is to use local building materials which will not only cut shipping charges but keep Selawik's money flowing within the village.

#### E. COMMUNITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Many plans of the people of Selawik include capital improvements and the local jobs that these new developments will create. Decisions on land-use, location, equipment needed and maintenance issues are important to the move to a self reliant community.

IX.  
ADEQUATE  
EQUIPMENT

During the conference Selawik residents agreed that adequate equipment was a priority for the village in order to facilitate future construction and farming. One component of the adequate equipment proposal is heavy equipment purchase which will provide the means for better farming output as well as the formation of trails necessary

IX.  
ADEQUATE  
EQUIPMENT

for transport. Another component of adequate equipment is equipment operator training so that there will be more utilization of local labor and better care for the equipment after it is obtained. The last component of this proposal is a village maintenance schedule which will provide the necessary preventative care for equipment and machinery, thereby saving on the unnecessary depreciation of the equipment

X.  
RESOURCE  
USE

Citizens of Selawik stated that resource use is important for the village because they have been blocked on a number of decisions while waiting for a long range land use plan. One component of the resource use proposal is a land use plan which will allocate land for refuse and sewage disposal as well as determining appropriate uses for currently vacant facilities. Another component of the resource use proposal is a multi-purpose community building which will be suitable for a variety of activities and will provide added flexibility in the scheduling of community events. The third component is an inventory of available facilities which will identify and enable the completion of needed improvements.

SELAWIK PLANNING CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Leslie Burnette	Trish Knight	Nancy Johnston
Clara Burnette	Christie Knight	Rena Ballot
Pauline Harrison	Eddie Knight	Wanda Stanley
Lucy Smith	Mildred Foster	Ramona Foxglove
Faye Foster	Dorcas Ballot	Eileen Foxglove
Diana Ramoth	Pauline Ramoth	Roy Foxglove, Sr.
Georgiana Foster	Linell McCrum	Charlie McAnally
Ruby Foster	Nellie Russell	Diane McAnally
George Keats	Lulu Foxglove	Hannah Davis
Elmer Ballot	Emma Ramoth	Lloyd Davis
Lottie Ballot	Ada Smith	Andy Cleveland
Franklin Griest	Magdaline Tickik	Ellen Cleveland
Wilbur Skin	Vera Skin	Brian Ramoth
Chuckie Riley	Laura Smith	Lowell Ramoth
Fred Metcalf	Enoch Stalker	Grant Ballot
Sandy Olive	William Sheldon, Sr.	Barb Tervo
Teenie Griest	David Cleveland	Ray Smith
Donna Werneke	Roy Smith	Rachael Yoder
Marlene Beam	Delbert Harrison	Barb Askey
Effie Ramoth	Roger Clark	Daniel Foster
Lee Ballot	Doreen Clark	Edith Snyder
Ben Foxglove	Ed Werneke	Marie Greist
Elvira Starbuck	Glenn Skin	Albert Wood
Johnny Ticket	Marjorie Ticket	Norma Ballot
	Maggie Davis	

SELAWIK PLANNING CONFERENCE CONSULTANTS

Bert Griest, NANA

Bertha Lowe, NANA

Robyn Nayyar, Public Health Nurse

Helvie Sandvik, Mauneluk

Helena Squicciarini, NWASD

Joseph Squicciarini

Dennis Tiepleman, Mauneluk

Dan Weatherly, State Trooper

Bayard Coggeshall, M.D.

David Coggeshall

Ken Gillgren, R.V.I.

Kenneth Henry, Institute of Cultural Affairs

Elizabeth Loudermilk, Institute of Cultural Affairs

Richard Loudermilk, Institute of Cultural Affairs

Patrick Moriarty, R.V.I.

Jean Poole, Institute of Cultural Affairs

Joe Two Bear, Standing Rock Sioux Corporation

Don Wegscheider, On-Site Counseling, Inc.

Randy Williams, Institute of Cultural Affairs

SELAWIK PLANNING CONFERENCE

Oct. 1	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Consult Set Up Facility Arrangement Consultant Field Work Village Involvement	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Document Writing and Production			
	Field Visits and Preparation	Field Visits and Preparation	Field Visits and Preparation				
	1:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.				
	Team Workshops	Team Workshops	Team Workshop 3:00 p.m. Plenary Session				
	6:00 p.m. Dinner Film: "The World of Human Develop't"	6:00 p.m. Dinner Eskimo Heritage Celebration	6:00 p.m. Dinner Closing Festivities				
7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.					
	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Consultant Debriefing and Evaluation				

## SELAWIK TOWN MEETING

August 5, 1980

### Introduction

On August 5, 1980, the people of Selawik met in a "Town Meeting" to initiate their thinking and input into a contractual agreement to be reached between the Selawik IRA COUncil and Rural Ventures, Incorporated for a five year program toward the social and economic development of Selawik.

The format of the Town Meeting portion of the day was (1) to determine from the people their hopes and dreams for the future of their community, (2) to have them discern the challenges blocking those hopes and dreams and (3) to have them state the initial proposals of cooperative activity which they as a village could begin to engage in, in order to meet those challenges.

The following pages contain the information and decisions generated by the Town Meeting which is intended to inform the above mentioned contract negotiations.



## I. HOPES AND DREAMS

What are your hopes and dreams for the future of Selawik?

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Job training for youth   | 10. A hospital in Selawik                  |
| 2. Exporting of fish        | 11. A resident doctor in Selawik           |
| 3. Selawik air services     | 12. Elimination of alcoholism              |
| 4. Highway to Anchorage     | 13. Village producing and growing food     |
| 5. Adequate housing for all | 14. Establishment of market for foodstuffs |
| 6. Supermarket              | 15. Dry goods and hardware store           |
| 7. The bank of Selawik      | 16. Means to produce own clothing          |
| 8. A bigger airport         | 17. A sheep farming enterprise             |
| 9. More jobs                | 18. Running water and sewage disposal      |

## II. CHALLENGES

What is blocking the achievement of these hopes and dreams?

- I. Over-dependence on outside trade sources
  - a. shortage of cash
  - b. no capital
- II. Unidentified agricultural and industrial potential
  - a. job shortage
  - b. no farm equipment
  - c. no construction equipment
- III. Cultural alienation and being cut off from village cultural heritage
  - a. shortage of leaders
  - b. too few people willing to assume responsibility
  - c. basic lack of organization
- IV. Inadequate education and training programs
  - a. inadequate education
  - b. limited practical skills
- V. Inaccessible technical resources
  - a. do not know who or where resources are
  - b. not enough communications to receive outside information
  - c. irrelevant T.V. programming

## PROPOSALS

1. Agricultural programs
2. Start burning wood
3. Develop export market for local fish
4. Manufacture raw wood products for construction of houses, boats, sleds
5. Set-up cash change system
6. Set-up local assistance mechanism for application of loans and grants
7. Open sawmill and logging operation
8. Boat building
9. Farm equipment and maintenance
10. Manufacture furniture
11. Produce arts and crafts
12. Set-up herd animals tannery
13. Fish cannery industry
14. Open fur farm
15. Heritage training program
16. Teach everyone Inupiaq
17. Teach boys hunting, butchering and how to make traditional tools
18. Teach girls spinning, fur clothing construction, food preparation and preservation
19. Involve elders at village level to teach oral history, customs, family tree, etc.
20. Develop Eskimo games tournaments
21. Adult education programs
22. Set-up village coordinator to do research
23. T.V. teaching
24. Grant writer for funds to train people in sled building, boat building and basketry



The symbol represents a local artist's rendering of several dominant themes and motifs suggested by the village participants in the Planning Conference. The creation is an attempt to revitalize in graphic form objects and shapes to which the cultural identity is linked. The symbol is also associated currently with the Selawik Agriculture and Village Development Project.

