SPECIALTY FINANCE BOLSTERS CIRI’S INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Dividends for CIRI shareholders are generated by the investments that the company has made over its 45 years of existence. While the investment portfolio changes some each year, reflecting shifting economic priorities and market trends, it is anchored by real estate, energy, infrastructure, government contracting and investment securities.

These business segments reflect the expertise of the CIRI Board of Directors and management team. They are industries in which CIRI knows well and in which the company has cultivated expert partners.

When considering new investments, the challenge is weighing the opportunity for a positive return to benefit shareholders against the potential risks that could negatively impact the investment. In the last couple of years, the CIRI management team has tackled this balancing challenge with a new investment strategy, one that leverages both the company’s experience and its network of expert partners: specialty finance.

CIRI’s foray into specialty financing began with a loan backed by the Briscoe Wind Project, a 150-megawatt wind farm in Texas. CIRI lent money to Capital Dynamics, Briscoe’s owner and one of CIRI’s partners in another project, the Middletown Energy Center. The loan is secured by 100 percent of the equity in the wind farm. Other recent specialty finance investments include a loan to CIRI’s long-time partner in the hospitality industry, Woodbine Development Corp., which is backed by a hotel in Dallas, Texas, and a debt investment secured by stock in Iceland’s fastest-growing telecom company.

CIRI’s prime targets thus far have been in the infrastructure, real estate and energy arenas.

“This type of investing is less risky than being an equity investor in projects while providing a better risk-adjusted return that, in many cases, approaches the level of returns an equity investor can expect to receive,” Chief Financial Officer Stig Colberg told CIRI shareholders at a recent Information Meeting.

CIRI shareholders at a recent Information Meeting. Colberg said.

Rona Johnson
A self-described “late bloomer” when it came to her career, CIRI shareholder Rona Johnson has more than made up for lost time.

Born and raised in Alaska, Rona spent her childhood on the Kenai Peninsula and moved to Anchorage after graduating high school. She dabbled in “weird jobs” for about a decade, trying to decide on a career path. In 1998, Rona’s grandmother fell ill and received treatment at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC). “I watched her die and that changed my life,” Rona said. “I realized the end of life is a really sacred time, and that my feelings about death were largely shaped by the nurses who were caring for her.” The experience prompted her to pursue a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Alaska Anchorage. In 2003, at the age of 33, she graduated cum laude.

Rona worked as a staff nurse from 2003 to 2006 at ANMC, after which time she moved into a management role. “But I missed the patients,” she said. “When a job with oncology came open, I jumped. That’s when I got the hangkering for palliative care. I had done grief support before, but working with cancer patients, it really started to gel.”

In Western medicine, palliative care is a relatively new and little-understood specialty. According to the American Academy of
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT
Sophie Minich, CIRI president and chief executive officer

Thank you to all who participated in person or via proxy in the 44th Annual Meeting of Shareholders, held June 3 in Anchorage. Voting to elect the members of the CIRI Board of Directors is an important shareholder responsibility; our 15-member Board sets the overall direction in the conduct of the company’s business and initiatives, develops and adopts the corporate policies, business plans and strategic goals carried out by the CIRI management team. Voting in elections ensures your voice is heard when it comes to selecting the individuals who will guide the company’s success and demonstrate the leadership and judgment best suited to fulfill its mission.

The preliminary results of the election for CIRI Directors indicate the following shareholders will serve a three-year term ending in 2020:

- Robert E. Harris
- Roy M. Huhndorf
- Katrina M. Jacuk
- Patrick M. Marrs
- Samuel G. Spangler

We were pleased and honored to hold the Annual Meeting at the Nuka Learning and Wellness Center on the Southcentral Foundation (SCF) campus. The Nuka Center is a special place, characterized by large learning-circle spaces that facilitate discussion, support and healing. SCF’s Nuka System of Care is a relationship-based, customer-owned approach that helps Alaska Native people achieve physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness. CIRI is proud to include SCF – whose system of care is now a model for the nation – among its family of nonprofit organizations.

Attendees at the Annual Meeting heard a presentation about the company’s previous year’s financial performance. Many exciting developments occurred in 2016, including a number of investments in the energy and infrastructure segment and the sale of CIRI Alaska Tourism Corporation to Viad Corp. Additionally, in early 2017, CIRI subsidiary North Wind Group acquired environmental remediation services company Portage Inc. We believe these new investments will improve our financial results and grow shareholder dividends going forward.

We accomplished a great deal in 2016, working to fulfill the CIRI mission of promoting the economic and social well-being and Alaska Native heritage of our shareholders – but the economic challenges facing Alaska means it’s time to embark on bold new initiatives.

Looking ahead, part of CIRI’s investment strategy will involve specialty finance, which you can read about in this month’s lead story. These opportunities are available to CIRI because of the strong partnerships we have forged with large-scale, sophisticated investment partners.

As we move into summer, I hope you are able to take advantage of the warmer season and enjoy it to the fullest.

Warm regards,

Sophie Minich

CIRI in the COMMUNITY

Jason Brune, CIRI Senior Director, Land and Resources, and Alaska SeaLife Center Board Member

He may be senior director of CIRI’s Land and Resources department, but Jason Brune’s heart belongs to the sea. Over his decade as a board member with the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), “I’ve done it all,” he said. He has served on various committees, including executive, governance, fundraising and marketing; supports staff recognition events; and personally sponsors the Stewardship and Sustainability award, which honors an industry leader that demonstrates the highest commitment to sustainability of ocean resources.

While attending Minnesota-based Carleton College, Brune came to Alaska in the early 1990s for a summer internship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He was primarily tasked with working with oiled sea otters that had been victims of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. After graduating with a degree in biology, he moved to Alaska for graduate work in environmental science and has been here ever since, ultimately landing a job as executive director of the Resource Development Council (RDC), a nonprofit organization that advocates for responsible resource development in Alaska. In this capacity, he served on the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Recovery Team and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Committee – areas of keen interest for the ASLC.

“I don’t have any specific ties to Seward (where the ASLC is located), but I volunteered for years at a fishing fundraiser that benefitted the SeaLife Center,” Brune said. “That, coupled with my work for RDC, provided me the opportunity to join the board of the ASLC.”

For information on the Alaska SeaLife Center, including a summer aquarium schedule, visit www.alaskasealife.org.
**ANNUAL MEETING RECAP**

Thank you to the nearly 300 shareholders and their family members who turned out for the 2017 Annual Meeting of CIRI Shareholders!

The event was held Saturday, June 3 at Southcentral Foundation’s Nuka Learning and Wellness Center in Anchorage. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be in Kenai. To best accommodate its geographically diverse shareholder population, CIRI rotates its Annual Meeting between Anchorage, Kenai and the Pacific Northwest—the regions with the highest concentrations of CIRI shareholders. While some shareholders have expressed their preference for holding all Annual Meetings in one location, a 2014 CIRI Shareholder Survey showed that 71 percent of respondents wanted CIRI to keep rotating the location of its Annual Meeting.

This year’s event featured a report from CIRI President and CEO Sophie Minich and the election of five shareholders to serve on CIRI’s 15-person Board of Directors. Door prizes and a delicious catered breakfast and lunch were also on offer.

The CIRI family of nonprofit organizations provides a suite of important services to CIRI shareholders and other Alaska Native people in the Cook Inlet region. After lunch, attendees had the opportunity to learn about the services of four of these Anchorage-based nonprofits: The CIRI Foundation, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Cook Inlet Housing Authority and Southcentral Foundation.

Again this year, CIRI offered to donate $1 to the Brother Francis Shelter for every shareholder with a valid, active proxy (for any proxyholder or candidate) on file by the proxy deadline. Brother Francis Shelter provides temporary, emergency shelter to Anchorage’s homeless population, serving 3,668 homeless men and women and providing 96,498 nights of stay in 2016. CIRI’s planned donation to Brother Francis is estimated to be $7,500.

CIRI shareholders will once again have an opportunity to gather in the fall, when CIRI and The CIRI Foundation host their annual Friendship Potlatches. Details will be made available on ciri.com and in future editions of the Raven’s Circle newsletter.

**SUSIE’S RHUBARB CAKE**

*RECIPE*

**START TO FINISH:** 65 minutes (approximately 15 minutes active)

**SERVINGS:** 6-8

**INGREDIENTS FOR THE CAKE:**
- ½ cup shortening
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1½ cups chopped rhubarb

**FOR THE TOPPING:**
- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup chopped nuts

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. Heat oven to 325 F.
2. Mix together shortening, brown sugar, white sugar and egg.
3. Add flour, baking soda, salt, buttermilk, vanilla and rhubarb.
4. Top with sugar, cinnamon and nuts.
5. Bake in a 9x13-inch pan for 50 minutes.

Good served with Cool Whip or vanilla ice cream.

This recipe was from late CIRI shareholder Edna Steik’s personal collection. It originally appeared in the 2003 edition of the Ninilchik Community Cookbook.
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, its goal is to improve a patient’s quality of life by managing pain and other distressing symptoms of a serious illness. Care is usually provided by an interdisciplinary team of experts, including palliative care doctors, nurses and social workers. The team addresses the physical, psychological, spiritual and practical burdens of illness, while providing support to and working in partnership with the doctor.

“Palliative care is often confused with hospice or end-of-life care,” Rona said. “About 75 percent of our patients are in their last year of life, but the rest are experiencing a decreased quality of life due to symptoms related to illness or treatment. Palliative caregivers are the supporters of suffering, whether it’s pain or other problems – mind, body and spirit.”

In 2005, via competitive selection, Rona participated in an evidence-based practice internship that was a collaboration between ANMC and the University of Iowa. “The internship allowed us (palliative caregivers) to work with experts who helped us focus on the ways we impact not only patients, but the medical staff as well,” she said. “They’re so interwoven, if the staff can’t navigate their own feelings, they can’t support people who are grieving or dying.”

Rona’s passion for and commitment to palliative care has been instrumental in growing ANMC’s program. “I was the lone caregiver in our hospital for a really long time,” she said. “We finally got a physician in 2015, and since then, our program has really grown. We now employ a social worker, a physician assistant, another nurse, a program manager and we just hired a second physician.”

I’m getting ready to transition to a nurse practitioner position, so we need a nurse to take my place and we’re looking to hire an additional social worker.”

Rona will receive her master’s degree in nursing from Omaha, Neb.-based Clarkson College later this summer. She is the past president of the local chapter of Oncology Nursing Society, a member of the ANMC Ethics Committee, and a founding member of ANMC’s Palliative Care Workgroup. For her work in end-of-life care and grief support, she has twice received Hospice of Anchorage’s “Hero of Healthcare” award. She received March of Dimes Nurse of the Year “Rising Star” award in 2004 and its “Innovation” award in 2015. A presenter at state, national and international conferences, Rona has spoken on a variety of topics including advance-care planning, end-of-life communication, and recruitment and retention of Alaska Native people in nursing.

Together, Rona and her husband, John Ennenga, own Laughing Chums Studio, which specializes in original mosaics made from glass and wood. “Art is really healing for me,” she said. “It’s really an awesome way to release and honor the people who’ve passed on and are on my mind.” ANMC’s Oncology Department features a mosaic wall of salmon created by the husband-and-wife team.

“I love my job,” Rona said. “I’m so fortunate to be able to care for my people. I’m passionate about preserving patients’ quality of life, respecting the autonomy of each person as his or her own decision-maker, and offering gentle guidance and support. I work with an amazing team; I couldn’t be luckier. This job absolutely gives me so much energy and so much perspective.”
The Kenaitze Indian Tribe officially opened the 2017 Educational Fishery on May 1, welcoming scores of tribal members to the fishery site in Kenai for a day-long celebration that included food, music, dancing and time around the fire.

It’s the 28th year the Tribe has operated the fishery along the shores of Cook Inlet, Tikahtnu, near the mouth of the Kenai River. No salmon came to the net, but that didn’t dampen the mood on the season’s opening day.

“This tribal fishery has given us much more than fish,” Tribal Council secretary Liisia Blizzard said. “We have reconnected with our culture, our identity, and we have pride in our heritage. We are teaching our children our language, songs, dance and values of our ancestors.”

Under late-morning, overcast skies, the event began with remarks from tribal leadership. Jim Segura, chair of the Hunting, Fishing and Gathering Commission, provided an overview of new fishery policies and procedures while introducing the staff members who will manage the site this summer. Segura said the Tribe is authorized to fish one net through June and four nets in July. The Tribe’s quota is 10,000 fish for the season, he added. Tribal Council Chairperson Jennifer Showalter Yeoman welcomed attendees and thanked past and present tribal leaders for advocating for the tribal fishery, which the Tribe began operating in the late 1980s. “This is a dream of all of our Elders to be able to fish together,” Showalter Yeoman said.

Highlights early in the day also included a prayer from Elder Linda Ross, as well as a performance by tribal members Joel Isaak and Jasmine Koster, who sang a duet of a song called, “Dena’ina Qenaga.”

After lunch was served, families spent time around the fire, children played in the sand and the fishery crew prepped the net. The evening included drumming by Heartbeat of Mother Earth and a performance by the Jabila’ina Dance Group, which is made up of Yaghanen Youth Program participants.

From Elders to youth, those who attended enjoyed the day for different reasons. Fourth-grader Robert Hayes, 10, said he appreciated spending time with his friends and family and meeting new people. Hayes wasn’t sure how many net openers he had attended in the past, but he looked forward to fishing with his family this summer. To Hayes, the net is important not for what it gives him but for what it provides for others. “Elders can have fun and get some food,” he said.

Hayes’s friend William Wilson, 11, also spends time at the net with his family each summer. What Wilson looks forward to most, he said, is the anticipation of catching fish — staying up late, waking up early, waiting for the tide and pulling the net out of the water. But for Wilson, the highlight of opening day was dancing with the Jabila’ina Dance Group. “It’s fun and we laughed a lot,” he said.

Meanwhile, for others, it was their first time attending the celebration. Early Childhood Center employee Josie Oliva, attending for the first time, said it wasn’t until last summer when she worked at the K’Beq’ Interpretive Site in Cooper Landing, Alaska, that she learned the tribal fishery existed. She enjoyed many different aspects of the celebration. “The food, seeing people I know, seeing the kids have fun and watching everybody dance,” Oliva said of the highlights.

Another first-time attendee was Catherine Wolk, an anthropology student at Kenai Peninsula College. Wolk, who was born in Soldotna and raised in Kasilof, grew up set-net fishing with her family and carried those experiences into adulthood. For Wolk, being at the tribal fishery brought back fond memories of childhood. “It was really important, it was a lot of fun and we got a lot of fish,” she said. “It was a time for everyone to meet up at least once a year.”

The fire was a popular stop during the opening of the net ceremony on May 1. The day featured a brisk breeze and intermittent rain.
The personal and commercial insurance company now occupies the entire fifth floor of the building. Coupled with engineering firm Stantec’s expansion late last year, the Fireweed Business Center is currently 70 percent occupied and continues to attract strong interest from potential tenants drawn to its quality, energy efficiency and spatial comfort.

The Center also boasts over 2,000 square feet of customizable meeting space, which may be rented for a variety of uses. For more information, visit www.fireweedcenter.com.

### 2017 ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS

The 2017 Annual Meeting of CIRI Shareholders included cash prize drawings for shareholders who submitted a valid proxy for any proxyholder or candidate by the proxy deadline (2 p.m. on May 25), or who registered to vote in person at the Annual Meeting. The winners, whose names are listed below, were randomly chosen in drawings conducted by Sramek Hightower, the independent accounting firm retained to assist with vote tabulation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tammy L. Ashley</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<td>Stephanie S. Thompson</td>
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<td>Latina A. Newhall</td>
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<td>Howard O. Chichaklian</td>
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<td>Andrew A. Topkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene J. Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guy J. Hughes</td>
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<td>Darlene M. Swenson</td>
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<td>Stephanie S. Buffas</td>
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<td>Duane C. Maney</td>
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<td>Kimberly D. Rodgers</td>
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<td>Roy L. Hansen Jr.</td>
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<td>Myrina O. Traeger</td>
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<td>Florence Kudlatobk</td>
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<td>Edward C. Greenhalgh</td>
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<td>Pamela J. Marsden-Maier</td>
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<td>Dominik K. Dalton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael K. Scott</td>
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<td>Ruth E. Hofstad</td>
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### IMPORTANT CIRI DATES

- **June 30, 2017**: Second quarter dividend
- **July 4, 2017**: Independence Day; CIRI offices closed
- **August 9, 2017**: Application Deadline: SPC Youth Representatives; Submission Deadline: Youth Art Contest
2017 EARLY BIRD PRIZE DRAWINGS

To ensure a quorum is achieved for the Annual Meeting, the Early Bird Prize Drawings seek to reward shareholders who submit a valid proxy for any proxyholder or candidate by certain dates (April 28, May 5, May 12 and May 19) in advance of the Annual Meeting. This year’s Early Bird winners include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE OF PRIZE</th>
<th>SHAREHOLDER</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 28, 2017</td>
<td>Shawn B. Steele</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Flower Mound, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28, 2017</td>
<td>Daniel J. Gleason</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Eagle River, Alaska</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5, 2017</td>
<td>Beryl Hancock</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>White River, S.D.</td>
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<td>May 5, 2017</td>
<td>Gloria Renee-Koolknecht Maywood</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>North Huntingdon, Penn.</td>
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<td>May 5, 2017</td>
<td>Beatrice A. Dossat</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Wasilla, Alaska</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5, 2017</td>
<td>Jeralene M. Anderson</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Anchorage, Alaska</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12, 2017</td>
<td>Wendy M. Wheeler</td>
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<td>Woodinville, Wash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12, 2017</td>
<td>Sharon K. Parks</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Wasilla, Alaska</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19, 2017</td>
<td>William G. Nicholi</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Anvik, Alaska</td>
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Submissions due by 5 p.m. on Aug. 9

Each year, CIRI engages young shareholders and descendants with a variety of youth programs, including the opportunity to serve as a youth representative on the Shareholder Participation Committee (SPC) and CIRI’s Youth Art Contest.

SPC Youth Representatives

Teens have an opportunity to apply for one of three youth representative positions on the Shareholder Participation Committee (SPC). SPC youth representatives provide input to the SPC as it works with the corporation on issues or activities identified by the SPCs, the shareholders or the corporation.

To be eligible to serve, youth must be a CIRI shareholder or a confirmed, registered CIRI descendant 13 to 17 years of age. Interested youth must submit:

1. An application;
2. Letter of introduction;
3. Reference letter; and
4. A short essay explaining why s/he wants to serve as a youth representative and what s/he knows about her/his Alaska Native heritage and CIRI.

Complete packets received by the Aug. 9 deadline will be reviewed by a selection committee and those chosen will be contacted. Youth representatives participate in a two-day October SPC meeting, which is when new SPC members—brought on after the Annual Meeting of Shareholders—receive general information about CIRI and its affiliated nonprofit organizations, as well as a one-day meeting in June.

CIRI believes it will be useful for the youth representatives to hear this information and to have an opportunity to meet CIRI Board members and executive staff. In turn, CIRI leadership hopes to learn more about the issues important to the next generation of shareholders.

Youth Art Contest Submissions

Interested CIRI shareholders or descendants aged 5 to 12 may submit original artwork interpreting the theme “The WILDlife in Alaska” and a completed entry form to be entered in the 2017 Youth Art Contest. Winning entries will be displayed at the CIRI and The CIRI Foundation Friendship Potlatches this fall.

Entry forms can be downloaded and printed at www.ciri.com and are also available from Shareholder Relations. Information on how to register as a CIRI descendant is also available on the CIRI website and from Shareholder Relations.
ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER
2017 Summer Schedule
The Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC), a CIRI-affiliated nonprofit organization, showcases Alaska Native cultures and serves to educate visitors about the history and traditions of Alaska Native people.

Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
May 14 to mid-September

During the summer season, the ANHC has a complimentary shuttle that runs from various downtown Anchorage locations. Learn more at www.alaskanative.net.