When you learn about the life and times of CIRI shareholder Percy Blatchford, you can’t help but be impressed. A collection honoring Blatchford’s 30-year career in the military is now on display in the Alaska Veterans Museum in downtown Anchorage. Although Blatchford passed away in 2003, his story continues to resonate with people. Even when they stumble upon it by accident.

Kelly Turney owns Alaska Picker, an antique and salvage business in Wasilla, Alaska. A couple of years ago, CIRI shareholder Joel Blatchford showed up in Turney’s shop offering to sell some trunks and foot lockers loaded with military odds and ends that had belonged to his father.

“Wow, I didn’t know what it was but it was [worth $10,000],” Turney said. “He had a lot of stuff that had been in his family for many years.”

The museum called Turney to see if he was interested in selling. “He had a lot of military items. Stuff that had belonged to his father. He had some uniforms and a watch. He had a lot of things.”

Turney acquired the collection of military items. “I was just so impressed with the story behind it and the fact that he had been a military man for so many years,” Turney said.

This is where Kaleigh Wotring enters the story. Wotring serves on the board of directors of the Alaska Veterans Museum, located in downtown Anchorage. She was visiting Alaska Picker to check out a drone Turney had acquired when Turney mentioned the Percy Blatchford items he had collected. And Turney had an offer for Wotring, “Take it. It belongs in a museum.”

“It proves that we’ve been more than successful,” explains CIRI Senior Director of Energy Development Suzanne Gibson. “It shows that we’ve been successful in bringing the project to fruition and how well it would operate. Four years after the project became operational, Fire Island Wind has been lauded by General Electric Company (GE) as one of the top four wind energy projects across the country.”

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“I love history anyway and finding the story behind whatever items come in through my shop,” Turney said. “So when I saw how important this story was and how important this may have been to not only the military but to the Alaska Native community and to the state, this stuff had to go to a museum.”

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VETERANS MUSEUM HONORS LATE CIRI SHAREHOLDER

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I'm always grateful when I have a chance to attend a meeting of the Tikchikn Forum. I especially appreciate seeing so many individuals and organizations, from all over the Cook Inlet region, coming together to work toward improving the lives of Alaska Native people.

Now I'd like to tell you about the focus of a recent Forum meeting. I attended that reached beyond the interests of the individuals and organizations represented in that room and other Alaska Native people, and concerned the shared interests of every Alaskan. As the day drew to a close, we all got a wake-up call when Gunnar Knapp, Director and Professor of Economics with the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage, outlined Alaska's economic future and the fiscal crisis before us:

“Our state has a huge deficit – we are spending nearly three times as much as we are bringing in.”

— SOPHIE MINICH

It’s dire. Essentially, Alaska has a huge deficit—expenses exceed revenues by nearly three times. For years our state has been extremely dependent upon oil revenues to fund our government. Between 2005 and 2014, 90 percent of Alaska’s general fund revenues came from oil revenues. Alaska’s oil revenues have fallen significantly due to lower oil prices and lower production. This, coupled with a steady rise in our population, has rendered our state’s savings, the Constitutional Budget Reserve, and Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve to fund Alaska’s subsidization of essential public services and maintain a sustainable dividend check and a healthy Permanent Fund.

Permanent Fund earnings to significantly reduce the deficit, support broad-based public support necessary to convince lawmakers – during the 2016 legislative session – of the urgency and importance of using Permanent Fund Earnings to significantly reduce the deficit, support essential public services and maintain a sustainable dividend check and a healthy Permanent Fund.

The reality is that we'll have to do a combination of all these things to solve the problem.

Because I am a voter who is concerned about the challenges our state faces, I am serving as a co-chair of Alaska’s Future—a diverse group of Alaskan individuals and organizations joined together to promote a solution to the budget deficit that threatens Alaska’s future. Alaska’s Future aims to cultivate a broad-based public support necessary to convince lawmakers – during the 2016 legislative session – of the urgency and importance of using Permanent Fund Earnings to significantly reduce the deficit, support essential public services and maintain a sustainable dividend check and a healthy Permanent Fund.

Some of you may read that statement and resist the idea because you think utilizing a portion of the Permanent Fund earnings to reduce Alaska’s deficit means eliminating the permanent fund dividend. But that is not the case.

The corpus of the Permanent Fund is worth about $52 billion. Because of the way the Fund works, we can only spend the realized earnings we have saved in the earnings reserve portion of the Fund, which is about $7 billion. By using the earnings reserve to help close the gap between what we spend and what we save, we can still maintain a healthy dividend for Alaskans for generations to come.

So it’s not a choice about whether our state increases revenues, saves less, cuts spending or cuts dividends. The reality is that we’ll have to do a combination of all these things to solve the problem.

As Alaska’s President of CIRI, I urge you to make your voice heard. Our fiscal challenge is all too real, and it touches each and every one of us. This problem demands that all Alaskans become informed about the economic-reality we face and to let their representatives know it’s time to take action. It isn’t something we can put off until later.

How can you make a difference? Register to vote. Call or write your legislators. Participate in public hearings on the budget. Be a part of the discussion. Sound your voice. Vote. The future of our state depends on it.

Sophie Minich

SCOPE OF THE PRESIDENT
Sophie Minich, CIRI president and chief executive officer

KOAHNIC BROADCAST CORPORATION ALASKA NATIVE ANNUAL ART AUCTION

Koahnic Broadcast Corporation held its 21st Annual Alaska Native Art Auction on Feb. 18. This annual fundraising event and celebration of Alaska Native culture features artwork by Alaska Native artists from throughout the state.

The gala had another successful year, with more than 350 business leaders, art collectors, volunteers and some of our state’s finest Native artists coming together to support Native broadcasting. The event raised more than $380,000 for the programming heard on KNBA 90.3 FM.

The event’s volunteers, ambassadors and art selection committee members included long-time donors and several CIRI shareholders and employees, including Susan Anderson, Rachel Batres, Carolyn Bickley, Debra Call, Brianna Cannon, Barbara Donatelli, Joann Kroto-Gonzales, Lisa McKinney and Jaclyn Sallee.

Recent polls indicate that the majority of Alaskans want legislators to take action on this plan during the current session.

Presently there are several pieces of legislation supporting various fiscal plans working their way through the legislature. Alaska’s Future does not support any one plan. Our goal is to convince lawmakers to act this session and include using a portion of the Permanent Fund earnings as the cornerstone of a long-term plan that also includes a mix of sensible cuts and new revenues.

Alaska’s lawmakers need to hear from their constituents. Regardless of how you feel, I urge you to make your voice heard. Our fiscal challenge is all too real, and it touches each and every one of us. This problem demands that all Alaskans become informed about the economic-reality we face and to let their representatives know it’s time to take action. It isn’t something we can put off until later.

How can you make a difference? Register to vote. Call or write your legislators. Participate in public hearings on the budget. Be a part of the discussion. Sound your voice. Vote. The future of our state depends on it.
The PFD Voter Registration ballot initiative group announced it had collected more than 42,000 signatures in an effort to get the measure on the Alaska ballot for voters to decide.

The group announced the results of the signature drive Jan. 14 in a press conference at the Fireweed Business Center, the headquarters for CIRI. After the press conference, volunteers carried boxes full of signatures across the street and delivered them to the Alaska Division of Elections.

The ballot initiative would allow the state to synchronize voter registration with the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) application process, reducing paperwork and saving on processing costs. The measure is projected to register as many as 70,000 Alaskans to vote in year one.

“Is this a common sense, low cost solution to a known problem,” said organization Co-Chair Aaron Schutt, president and CEO of Doyon, Limited.

One of the groups currently under-represented among registered voters are Alaska Native people, who account for 15 percent of the population, but make up only seven percent of registered voters, according to the group.

In early polling, the group said 60 percent of Alaskans support the idea of the initiative, and in the span of four months, the group was able to collect more than 125 percent of the required number of signatures.

“Alaska has some of the most stringent ballot initiative signature requirements in the country,” said Kim Reitmeier, president of the ANCSA Regional Association, a group that represents the 12 Alaska-based Native regional corporations. “We couldn’t have achieved this herculean task without the support of Alaskans all over the state who are committed to a better future.”

In order for the PFD Voter Registration initiative to appear on the ballot in 2016, the campaign was responsible for submitting 28,545 signatures from registered voters to the Lieutenant Governor before the start of the 2016 Alaska legislative session on Jan. 19. Depending on when the Division of Elections validates the signatures, the initiative will either appear on the August primary ballot or the general election ballot in November.

As a reminder, Alaskans completing their PFD applications can support one or more nonprofit organizations through Pick.Click.Give, which provides a searchable list of eligible organizations, including five CIRI-affiliated nonprofits: the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alaska Native Justice Center, The CIRI Foundation, Koahnic Broadcast Corporation/KNBA 90.3 FM and Southcentral Foundation. As an added bonus, ten lucky Alaskans who file by the March 31 deadline and elect to share part of their PFDs through Pick.Click.Give will be given an extra PFD this year! (Details at www.pickclickgive.org.)

IMPORTANT CIRI DATES

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 11, 2016</td>
<td>First quarter Elders’ Settlement Trust distribution</td>
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<td>MARCH 14, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline to sign up for direct deposit for the first quarter dividend and resource revenue distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 22, 2016</td>
<td>Address change and cancel direct deposit deadline for the first quarter dividend and resource revenue distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 31, 2016</td>
<td>First quarter dividend distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 1, 2016</td>
<td>Resource revenue distribution</td>
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2016 CIRI DIVIDEND UPDATE

CIRI’s dividend policy states that the total dividend payment to shareholders in any given year is equal to 3.50 percent of total shareholders’ equity, calculated as of December 31 of the prior year. As the first step in calculating dividend amounts, CIRI’s prior-year accounting books must be “closed,” which means all prior-year expenses and income must be received and either paid or properly accounted for. Next, the finance and accounting department prepares CIRI’s financial statements for the prior-year, after which an independent accounting firm is retained to review the statements and confirm their accuracy. This process determines CIRI’s total shareholders’ equity upon which current-year dividends will be based. Prior to the completion and audit of the financial statements, the accounting and finance department has enough information to estimate the ending shareholders’ equity balance, enabling the amounts of the first through third quarter dividends to be declared. For 2016, the amounts of the first through third quarter dividends have been calculated and will be $8.70 per share (or $870 per 100 shares). As in the past, once the financial statements have been reviewed and confirmed, the amount of the fourth quarter dividend will be calculated. The amount of the resource revenue distribution will also be calculated at that time. Once known, the amounts will be announced and the website distribution schedule will be updated.
TAKE THE NEXT GENERATION TO WORK

CIRI hosted its second annual Take the Next Generation to Work Day on January 18, when ten CIRI shareholders and confirmed descendants ranging in age from nine to 18 years spent Martin Luther King Jr. Day learning about the company’s history and business strategies, as well as CIRI’s current corporate giving, volunteer and outreach activities. Participants were also inspired to contemplate what culture means to them and how culture contributes to personal growth and development as part of a workshop provided by the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

CIRI JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR

With more than 135 attendees and 26 vendors, CIRI’s fourth annual Job and Resource Fair was held on January 29 at the Fireweed Business Center. Participants had the opportunity to connect with CIRI, its affiliated entities, other Alaska Native corporations and private employers in the Cook Inlet region to learn about potential employment and training opportunities. Instead of the usual resume development workshop, 2016 Job Fair attendees had the opportunity to access a bank of computers where they were able to work on and print their resumes. With Cook Inlet Tribal Council representatives on-hand to answer questions and offer resume advice. As in the past, CIRI employees held a clothing drive and made available a variety of gently used professional attire and accessories for attendees to choose from for interviews.
CIRI places a high value on youth. We want youth to succeed, and to do that, we know they need to get to class, and then stay in school until graduation. In fact, studies show that there is a direct correlation between reading and math proficiency and school attendance rates. In other words, students can’t learn the basics if they are not in the classroom every day.

So what can CIRI do to make that happen? Well, you may remember that Greg Razo, CIRI shareholder and vice president of Government Services, serves on the leadership team of Anchorage’s 90 Percent by 2020 Community Partnership; among other goals, the partnership aims for every student to attend school at least 90 percent of the days they are enrolled.

More recently, CIRI joined forces with United Way of Anchorage and the Anchorage School District to encourage perfect or near-perfect attendance with the Attendance Champion program. In fact, in January, CIRI was the monthly “Attendance Champion” for United Way of Anchorage’s effort to reach out and remind kids to stay in school. The more people who know that attendance is the key to success in school, the better. So CIRI helped spread the word about the importance of staying in school through posters around the workplace, Facebook posts to CIRI shareholders and descendants, announcements on Twitter and direct emails to CIRI employees. We also encouraged employees to like and share the Facebook posts, because keeping kids in school is a community effort, everyone has a role to play.

But how do you encourage perfect attendance? You motivate students by recognizing those who show up! Last year, CIRI introduced educational incentives aimed at encouraging young CIRI shareholders and descendants to attend and excel at school (visit the CIRI website or call Shareholder Relations for details). And for the 2015-2016 school year, United Way instituted a monthly attendance recognition program with local business partners as part of the overall effort to achieve a 90 percent graduation rate by 2020. Together, United Way and local businesses came up with some prizes as incentives to stay in school.

For high school juniors and seniors, the first prize for perfect year-long attendance (no unexcused absences) is a Jeep Renegade; the winner is randomly selected from all eligible students. The four runners-up for grades 9-12 each receive 50,000 Alaska Airline miles. For elementary school students, the four winners will receive four roundtrip rail tickets each to either Seward or Denali. In middle school, year-long perfect attendance will be awarded with an Ultimate Field Day for the school, and there will be quarterly drawings for iPads. At the elementary school level, students in grades K-6 are eligible for a trip for four to Disneyland, including flights, hotel, Disney passes and more. Quarterly attendance prizes include parties for the winning student’s entire class.

That might sound like a lot of prizes. But emphasizing perfect attendance as early as kindergarten and continuing to reward it throughout the student’s academic career is important. The more regularly students attend class, the more likely they are to graduate high school, and the better chance they have of succeeding.

Do you know a potential attendance champion? Help motivate the students in your life to stay in school by telling them, and others, about United Way’s attendance recognition program. Today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders.

“BE AN ATTENDANCE CHAMPION!”

“IT’S REALLY COOL TO SEE A GROUP OF SCIENCE-, ENGINEERING- AND TECHNOLOGY-MINDED KIDS INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THESE KINDS OF PROJECTS.”

— SUZANNE GIBSON

“IT’S REALLY COOL TO SEE A GROUP OF SCIENCE-, ENGINEERING- AND TECHNOLOGY-MINDED KIDS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THESE KINDS OF PROJECTS,” says Gibson.

GRADUATION OF FIW.jpg

Hannah Jade Juliusen Gibbs, Dená’ina Athabascan and Aleut
Child of Charlene Juliusen
Anchorage, Alaska

Ali Michelle Minium, Iñupiaq
Child of Henrietta G. Minium
Nikiski, Alaska

Matthew Randa Minium, Iñupiaq
Child of Henrietta G. Minium
Nikiski, Alaska

Mauri Bella Butzke, Iñupiaq
Child of Jonathan R. Butzke
Anchorage, Alaska

Scout Catherine-Grace Morgan, Iñupiaq
Child of Virginia M. Parry-Morgan
Columbus, Ohio

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CIRI was proud to support the students as they competed in local events and partnered with local businesses as part of the overall effort to encourage perfect attendance in school.

“SIX GREAT DREAMS BECOME REALITY”

“IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE AN ALASKAN NATIVE!”

“That’s an everyday thing,” Gibson says. “It demonstrates very good maintenance practices and being very proactive.”

Adds CIRI Senior Vice President of Land and Energy Development Ethan Schutt, “This achievement highlights that our internal and contracted team is best-in-class in its operations and maintenance, despite the remote, isolated and subarctic location of our project.”

The project also provided an inspiration for young Anchorage engineers. When a FIRST Robotics Program team of Anchorage high school students from several different schools brainstormed a name for their team, they looked to what inspired them—and saw the massive wind turbines of CIRI’s Fire Island Wind.

The inspiration led the Fire Island Wind Robotics team to solicit donations of tie shirts andickers from CIRI’s Land and Energy Department, which was proud to support the students as they competed in FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Competition. The team successfully won four awards for their robot, their team booth and their community outreach and team spirit. As a result, the team qualified for the Alaska State FIRST Robotics Competition. Placing in the top five, the Fire Island Wind Robotics team will go on to represent Alaska at the West Super Regionals in Oakland, Calif., in March.

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, the team paid a visit to CIRI to demonstrate the robot they designed and built. Afterwards, the students met with CIRI Land and Energy representatives to learn more about the project that inspired their name.

“IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE AN ALASKAN NATIVE!”

“It’s really cool to see a group of science-, engineering- and technology-minded kids who are interested in learning more about these kinds of projects,” says Gibson.
CIRI mailed IRS Form 1099 to all shareholders for the 2015 tax year on February 1, 2016. Please note that you may receive more than one type of Form 1099, depending on the type of income received from CIRI, and the proper IRS forms and schedules to use when completing your tax return may vary depending on the types of CIRI payments received. For example, IRS instructions stipulate that IRS Form 1040A is not the proper form to use if a 1099-MISC was received.

CIRI’s IRS Forms 1099 reflect all 2015 payments, including:
- Quarterly dividends (reported in Boxes 1a and 1b on Form 1099-DIV)
- CIRI Elders’ Settlement Trust distributions (reported in Boxes 1a, 1b and 3 on Form 1099-DIV)
- 7(j) resource payments (reported in Box 3 on Form 1099-MISC)
- Shareholder prizes (reported in Box 3 on Form 1099-MISC)

In 2015, CIRI paid $36.51 per share (or $6,351 per 100 shares) in quarterly dividends, which were reported on a 1099-DIV in both Box 1a - Ordinary Dividends, and Box 1b - Qualified Dividends. Dividends received in 2015 from the Elders’ Benefit Program are also reported by CIRI on a Form 1099-DIV.

If you inherited shares during 2015 you may have an amount reported in Box 3 - Nondividend Distributions on the 2015 Form 1099-DIV. In some circumstances, depending upon an individual’s tax “basis” in their stock, some or all of the Box 3 total could be subject to tax. Please consult your tax advisor for the appropriate treatment of distribution totals reported in Box 3.

At-large shareholders received a $15,413.33 per share (or $1,541.33 per 100 shares) 7(j) resource revenue payment in 2015. If you are an at-large shareholder, your 7(j) payment is reported on a Form 1099-MISC in Box 3 - Other Income. The resource revenue payment derives from resource sharing among the 12 regional corporations as required by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Your 7(j) payment appears on a different form because resource revenue payments are not dividends and are not considered investment income. ANCSA requires that resource revenue be paid to village shareholders’ village corporations, so that CIRI does not report these payments as individual shareholder income. CIRI reports payments made in 2015 to shareholders for prizes or awards on Form 1099-MISC in Box 3 - Other Income.

Remember, it is your responsibility to accurately report your CIRI income on your tax returns. CIRI cannot provide tax advice. Shareholders are encouraged to consult with a tax advisor regarding individual circumstances and applicable federal and state tax requirements.
A soldier, hunter, boxer, adventurer
Originally born in Golovin, Alaska, Percy Blatchford was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 after World War II had broken out. He was assigned to units in Alaska and, according to Wotring, was part of Castner’s Cutthroats, an elite unit of scouts led by Col. Lawrence Castner that performed reconnaissance missions in the Aleutian Islands during the war.

“I hear a lot of stories. I hear everybody’s story. But for some reason Percy’s story was special to me. It was particularly poignant.” - KALEIGH WOTRING, DIRECTOR
ALASKA VETERANS MUSEUM

After Blatchford’s service during the war, he reenlisted, this time with the U.S. Air Force, where he trained dogs for rescue missions and joined a pararescue unit, which involved jumping out of airplanes. Wotring said he even combined the two—teaching dogs to jump out of airplanes to assist in rescue missions.

His skills as an outdoorsman caught the attention of the military brass. The collection at the museum features a letter written to Blatchford by James Doolittle, the famous pilot who led the first aerial raid over Tokyo during World War II. Blatchford had led Doolittle on a polar bear hunt near Barrow.

“Am sorry that I didn’t have my knife along Friday,” Doolittle said in the letter. “First, so that I could have made it available to you when yours got dull, but more importantly, to me, in order that I might have learned something about skinning through actual experience under your tutelage.”

The military is also where Blatchford picked up boxing, by accident. According to Wotring, after offending an officer’s sensibilities, the officer challenged Blatchford to a boxing match.

"Percy was really scared. He had never boxed before," said Wotring. "Then the guy (officer) started to brag about how good he was and how he was going to make Percy pay. Percy broke four of his ribs."

Blatchford went on to become the Alaska boxing champ and reportedly even fought Joe Louis in an exhibition bout while stationed in Adak. The fight was a military morale booster for the entertainment of the troops. No records have been found to indicate who won.

Blatchford’s obituary reports he helped build the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., received the Medical Medal of Merit from President Reagan and even trained beluga whales for the military.

Rifles make the collection complete
A few years before Kelly Turney received Blatchford’s military mementos, Scott Hamann, the chair of the National Rifle Association (NRA) in Kenai, connected with Joel Blatchford and acquired two of his father’s rifles – a Springfield 03A3 and an M1 Garand.

Hamann wanted to auction off the guns to raise money for the NRA. The auction was a success: The rifles sold for $16,000, to Hamann himself. Like Turney, the more Hamann learned about Blatchford, the more he felt like the rifles belonged in a museum rather than his own collection.

“I just felt the right thing to do was donate them to the museum so people could appreciate him and get to know Percy, cause he’s just a really great, great Alaska story. Anybody that gets into it just has to fall in love with him really,” Hamann said.

Last year, Hamann learned about a gala to raise money for the Alaska Veterans Museum and inquired about donating the rifles. The person he contacted was Kaleigh Wotring, who heard the name and immediately realized the opportunity to make the collection complete.

“I can’t express on paper how appreciative I am for the museum to have something so special, but also for me personally,” Wotring said. “I hear a lot of stories. I hear everybody’s story. But for some reason Percy’s story was special to me. It was particularly poignant.”

Courtesy of generosity and serendipity, everything is now in a display case at the museum. The rifles. The letter from Jimmy Doolittle. The article about the Joe Lewis boxing match. A collection of odds and ends that pieces together and honors the amazing life of one of CIRI’s original shareholders, Percy Blatchford.
The following CIRI shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record. When CIRI goal is returned as undeliverable, the distributions are held and the shareholders do not qualify to participate in any prize drawings until the address is updated. Shareholders can fill out the change of address form at CIRI’s offices, download it from the CIRI website or send a signed and dated letter that includes the new address, telephone number, birth date and the last four digits of their social security number.

(As of 03/02/2016)

Please note: As a reminder, permitting is required for all CIRI land use. CIRI does not charge for a recycling use permit but requires submission of a written post-activity report no later than 30 days at the end of the permit period.

www.ciri.com/land-permitting/

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