After nearly fifteen years of litigation, the class action litigation initiated by key plaintiff Elouise Cobell v. Salazar against the Department of Interior settled for $3.4 billion. In December 2010, President Barack Obama signed legislation authorizing the reimbursement of funds to eligible claimants. The case began in 1996 when key plaintiff Elouise Cobell and 500,000 American Indians filed a suit against the federal government. The plaintiffs maintain that the Interior Department did not keep an accurate accounting of what went into and out of Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts, which were to be set up for Alaska Native and American Indian people to hold. The lawsuit also was intended to force the federal government to conduct an accurate accounting of IIMs and to reform the recordkeeping system going forward. Total estimates for the discrepancies at one point were alleged to be as high as $100 billion.

Public support for the Fire Island wind project continues to grow. On Feb.1, the Anchorage Assembly passed a resolution, AR-2011-38, directing Anchorage’s municipally owned utility, Municipal Light & Power (ML&P), to participate in a power purchase agreement with Fire Island Wind LLC, CIRI’s commercial-scale Alaska wind generation company. The resolution is the Anchorage Assembly’s response to projections that Southcentral Alaska and the Railbelt region’s usage of natural gas will exceed local supplier’s production by or before 2013. The resolution also reflects local sentiment captured in a recent survey conducted by polling company Craciun Research Group. The survey revealed that nine in ten Railbelt ratepayers surveyed think that local and diverse sources of energy are very important. Public knowledge of dwindling natural gas supplies has also increased. The survey revealed that more than 85 percent of local ratepayers think diverse energy sources are very important.

CIRI, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and Doyon, Limited are encouraged by reforms published Feb. 11 by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The reforms promote accountability and transparency in the 8(a) business development program without denying opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged companies to develop sustainable businesses.

CIRI, ASRC and Doyon proposed a slate of viable and responsible reforms to the SBA in September 2010 to increase competition and accountability in 8(a) contracting while reducing the potential for abuse. For example, in response to draft regulations issued in 2009, CIRI, ASRC and Doyon proposed to prohibit the “rollover” of 8(a) sole-source contracts from one 8(a) participant to an affiliated 8(a) company owned by the same organization. CIRI, ASRC and Doyon are pleased that the SBA took its comments into consideration and adopted their proposed approach.

“The rule-making process has been long and difficult for the Alaska Native community. The SBA struck a meaningful balance by protecting government and taxpayer interests with these reforms while continuing to provide economic opportunities for disadvantaged businesses,” said Rex Rock Sr., president and chief executive officer of ASRC.

Norm Phillips, president and chief executive officer of Doyon said, "Congress expanded competitive opportunities for Alaska Native corporations under the 8(a) program to benefit thousands of Alaska Native shareholders, families and individuals, and this should remain a priority of the federal government.”

The new reform does not dismantle existing federal Indian policy. Current congressional legislation targeting Alaska Native corporations’ participation in the 8(a) program would effectively amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, the very act by which Alaska Native corporations were created.

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View a copy of the reform proposal and a letter to SBA Administrator Karen Mills on CIRI’s news feed at www.ciri.com.
A word from the president

Have Alaskans lost their can-do attitude?

By: Margie Brown, CIRI president and CEO

In 2009 we celebrated 50 years of statehood, and the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act turns 40 later this year. Both of these anniversaries commemorate a time before Alaska had much material wealth, when Alaskans were spirited, scrappy and excited to take on oversized challenges that people Outside said could not be done. They turned their territory into a state. They settled Alaska Native indigenous land claims and created Alaska Native corporations that do business around the world and create new wealth that is benefitting generations of Alaskans. And in only 38 months, they built an 800-mile-long pipeline that crosses three mountain ranges and more than 800 rivers and streams to supply oil to our nation.

It was not too many years ago when Alaskans saw opportunities where we see problems today. Maybe it was because the state was young and did not have a lot to lose, but Alaskans were adventurous entrepreneurs who were not afraid to take risks and bet that innovation and hard work would pay huge rewards.

Today, by contrast, Alaskans still like to talk big, but bold action is uncommon. Instead, as a group, I wonder -- how have we lost our can-do attitude?

CIRI is developing two significant energy projects, Fire Island Wind and Stone Horn Ridge underground coal gasification, that are showing me first-hand the obstacles to developing resources in Alaska today.

Should we care that Alaska resource development has become so difficult? Consider that Alaska has historically generated the vast majority of its revenue from resource development, primarily oil and gas, especially North Slope oil. In 2010, 85 percent of the state’s general fund came from oil, almost $5 billion. That is a lot of money, but known oil reserves are running out and there is little exploration on the horizon. In the natural gas-hungry Cook Inlet region gas production decreased 40 percent between 2005 and 2010.

One need only look at the province of Alberta to see what Alaska once was. It is bustling and alive with activity, with business enterprises pursuing both traditional oil and gas development and innovative and cutting edge techniques to access previously unrecoverable reserves by a variety of means. Alberta oil is now one of our country’s most important imported energy resources.

In stark contrast to Alberta, Alaska’s energy industry is atrophying. Legacy reserves are in steep decline and little effort is being put into exploration and development of new oil and gas reserves. It is likely that there will be only one true exploration well drilled on the North Slope this season. There is also a chance that only one true exploration well will be drilled this season in the Cook Inlet basin, where residents need new energy sources to power and heat our homes.

Southcentral Alaska’s energy industry in particular is down to its bare bones. Nigerians are looking to buy pieces of the shuttered Agrium fertilizer plant at Nikiski. Conoco Phillips recently announced it is closing its Nikiski LNG export plant -- the one and only LNG export terminal to ever operate in the United States of America -- this spring. Chevon, a company that has been in Cook Inlet since the discovery of commercial oil in Alaska, has its entire Cook Inlet portfolio on the market.

What can we do to get things moving again? Government can help some, not by just studying the problem, but by providing appropriate and timely regulatory regime that facilitates reasonable and responsible development. It should assure equitable access to energy infrastructure. More than anything else, our government needs to take immediate steps to support the entrepreneurial spirit by breaking down institutional barriers that needlessly inhibit new development. After that, it should be up to Alaskans.

How can Alaskans recapture a can-do spirit that will drive us to do the hard work it takes to develop new energy solutions?

Many Alaskans are becoming increasingly alarmed at the prospect of the state slowly withering in the midst of all of the natural wealth that we have around us. Reacting to these concerns, grassroots coalitions, like Make Alaska Competitive (www.MakeAlaskaCompetitive.com), are forming to look at the long-term health of Alaska’s energy industry and business climate. These broad-based, citizen-led initiatives, characterized by creativity, ambition and bull-headed fortitude, will help ensure prudent development proceeds.

I am hopeful we can re-discover our can-do attitude -- our old Alaska spirit -- and in doing so, chart a course to a prosperous and fulfilling future for generations of Alaskans.

How can Alaskans recapture a can-do spirit that will drive us to do the hard work it takes to develop new energy solutions? First, we need to stop making excuses. Too often I hear that development cannot happen because we are not completely sure of the outcome, or worse, because Alaska is too unique. We must put aside these excuses, and we must ask our political leaders to do so as well.

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Fire Island Wind continues from page 1

More uncovered from the survey:

- 96 percent of surveyed ratepayers think that stable energy pricing is important
- 75 percent of surveyed ratepayers think that renewable energy resources are very important
- 76 percent of surveyed ratepayers surveyed oppose importing liquid natural gas
- 79 percent surveyed support flat-priced energy sourced from wind
- More than 80 percent of surveyed ratepayers think that the Cook Inlet natural gas shortage is a serious or somewhat serious problem.

This public opinion survey shows that lessening local dependence on natural gas, Southcentral Alaska’s primary source of energy, is important to ratepayers. The Fire Island Wind project would reduce the Railbelt’s dependence on natural gas by 1 to 1.5 billion cubic feet per year. The price of power that Fire Island Wind LLC is offering is competitive with expected gas prices when the project comes online and will not fluctuate with world energy prices while remaining a profitable investment.

The project will also help Alaska meet its goal of securing 50 percent of its energy needs from renewable resources by 2025. The Alaska Sustainable Energy Act (Senate Bill 220), signed into law by Gov. Sean Parnell June 16, establishes a statewide energy policy that sets energy goals and provides funding for renewable and emerging energy technologies.

The momentum for renewable energy in Alaska is in place, but the Fire Island wind project cannot move forward with construction on the island without cooperation from local utilities in the form of power purchase agreements. The project has qualified for grant funding that will lower the price of power to local ratepayers once the wind farm is operational, but without agreements in place with local utilities, the project risks losing crucial construction time and value to ratepayers.

To learn more about this local energy project and protecting Southcentral Alaska from volatile world energy prices, visit www.fireislandwind.com
**CIRI Spotlight: Jan Harper Haines**

**The author in her own words**

"Hootlani!," a story by author and CIRI shareholder Jan (Petri) Harper Haines, was recently published in the winter 2010 West Marin Review. Haines is also the author of "Cold River Spirits: The legacy of an Athabascan-Irish Family from Alaska's Yukon River." Haines has a bachelor's degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has participated in and taught many writing workshops and conferences.

Tell me about your early life: I was born in Sitka in 1943, in Sheldon Jackson's infirmary, Tillie Paul Manor, when Mom couldn't make it to the hospital. The nurse at 4 a.m. was not pleased to be delivering a baby and scolded Mom. When I was about 4, we moved from Sitka to Anchorage. We first lived on Third Avenue with my godparents, near the first ANS hospital.

**What are you most proud of?**

As an Athabascan, I am leery of talking about pride. Like bragging, it can jinx good luck. I have had moments of success in advertising and marketing in Honolulu and San Francisco. And I am very pleased to have had "Cold River Spirits" published, which honors my mother's people and which was well received by those whose opinion I value, including many of Alaska's elders.

**When your publisher told me Tony Hillerman had written a blurb for "Cold River Spirits," I felt like I'd won the academy award. It was an amazing moment and I felt lighter than air. I suppose one of my happiest moments was when I presented at the Kachemak Bay Writers' Conference in 2005. The caliber of the other authors and poets was impressive; it was a joy to be there. I loved teaching the workshops. I'd like to do that again.

I was also part of the Anchorage Sisters In Crime "Authors to the Bush" program in 2007. I went to Nenana—not exactly bush. One of my stories in "Cold River Spirits" takes place in Nenana. It tells of a frightening episode in my mother's life. It was in the Anchorage Daily News, Alaska Magazine and I believe the News-Miner, as well as a Seattle newspaper. While in Nenana, I also had a lovely visit with Nina Alexander, an elder who had known some of my Harper relatives.

I was also the guest author and workshop leader for the Chena Hot Springs Alaska Student Writing Retreat. That was a kick. I loved those kids, wanted to take them home.

**What are you working on now?**

My short true story "Hootlani!" revolves around a personal experience. I have written several such stories. I'd like to assemble them into a book, possibly similar to "Cold River Spirits," but of my generation.

**Tell me about your early life:**

I was born in Sitka in 1943, in Sheldon Jackson’s infirmary, Tillie Paul Manor, when Mom couldn’t make it to the hospital. The nurse at 4 a.m. was not pleased to be delivering a baby and scolded Mom. When I was about 4, we moved from Sitka to Anchorage. We first lived on Third Avenue with my godparents, near the first ANS hospital.

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**Excerpt from Hootlani!**

**S**pirits were as plentiful as rocks in a riverbed when I was growing up in Anchorage. When my mother’s Athabascan relatives got together, the presence of our ancestors was so thick, I could almost smell great aunt Lucy’s powder, or the bitter smoke of Sam Harper’s hand rolled cigarettes.

When Grandma visited, friends and relatives tried not to mention Lucy or John Minook by name. If they did, Grandma would hiss, “Hootlani!” And if anyone mentioned my grandfather, Sam Harper, she grew still, as if something had entered the room.

**Hootlani** is Athabascan for protection against having summoned the dead. It is always uttered juicily, with plenty of spit. **Hootlani!**

Never say the name of a dead person or you will call them to you. **Hootlani!**

It was, however, permissible to refer to the departed obliquely. As in: Remember that woman from down river with two children by that man who worked at Nerlands? Or: You remember that old woman from spriver who wore pink slippers to the Coop drugstore, summer and winter? No mukluks for her!

One snowy afternoon I was in Anchorage visiting my cousin Mike. Of Grandma’s thirty-five grandchilren, Mike had lived with her the longest. He grew up immersed in Grandma’s stories and Native beliefs.

Jane, Mike’s wife, was about to fix dinner. She knew I was looking for photographs for a family biography and handed me an old shoebox. “See if there’s anything here you can use,” she said before disappearing into the kitchen.

Flipping through the aging black and white snapshots, many yellowed around the edges I went into high alert when I saw a faded photo of Grandma’s sister, Lucy Minook. She stood behind an open casket, almost regal in her dark coat, and styled hair.

Just then, the front door banged open and chilly air rushed into the house. “Hey, Mike,” I said, waving the photograph as he stomped the snow from his boots. “You’ve got to see this!”

Smiling, he reached for it. But as he looked at it, his eyes widened. With a sudden yelp, he reared back, knocking into the table and rattling the glassware. Uh oh. I caught the photo as it drifted to the floor. In the casket in front of Lucy was the body of our great grandfather, John Minook. His leathery Indian face fixed in stern repose against a pale satin lining.

Chagrined, I realized I had forgotten the power of photographs in summoning the spirits. **Hootlani!**

**CIRI dividend news**

CIRI will mail or directly deposit its first quarter 2011 dividend of $8.42 per share on Thursday, March 31. Shareholders who own 100 shares of stock will receive a first quarter dividend of $842.00.

The deadline for shareholder address changes for the first quarter 2011 dividend is 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22. Address change forms can be downloaded from CIRI’s website and mailed to P.O. Box 93330, Anchorage, Alaska 99509-3330, or faxed to (907) 263-5100 or toll-free at (800) 764-2474 to confirm receipt of the fax.

For information on dividend amounts, address changes, direct deposit or lost and missing dividends, visit www.ciri.com. Shareholders can also call CIRI’s dividend hotline at (907) 263-5100 or toll-free at (800) 764-2435.
**Former police chief heads ANJC**

Walt Monegan brings years of public service to job

The Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) has named Walt Monegan its new president and chief executive officer. Monegan was formerly the Anchorage police chief and the Alaska public safety commissioner.

Monegan joins ANJC with many years of public service experience. He worked in law enforcement for 33 years with the Anchorage Police Department, where he was appointed chief of police in 2001. He served as chief of police for five years until he retired from the police force in 2006. In 2006, he was appointed Alaska public safety commissioner, where he served until 2008.

Monegan is of Yup’ik, Tlingit and Irish heritage. After working as a radio announcer at the Bethel public radio station KYUK (AM), a commercial fisherman and a laborer, Monegan found his niche in public service, first as a U.S. Marine, then as a volunteer medic firefighter and then in law enforcement.

Monegan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management from Alaska Pacific University and has received training in Northwestern University’s Traffic Institute Staff and Command School, Harvard’s John F. Kennedy’s School of State and Local Government and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Executive Institute.

He has been honored for his police service by the Alaska Native Justice Center and the Anchorage Samoan Community, who made him an honorary chief.

**CITC distributes six tons of clothing**

CIRI employees donate time to KIDS Alaska

Each year, hundreds of Alaskan children receive new, high-quality clothing through KIDS Alaska, a program administered by Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC). Kids in Distressed Situations (KIDS) is a New York-based nonprofit that redistributes items donated from retailers and manufacturers to economically disadvantaged communities. CITC is the only Alaska-based affiliate for the KIDS program.

"The KIDS program is such a great way to have a significant impact on Alaska’s neediest children," said Gloria O’Neill, CITC president and chief executive officer.

KIDS ships the clothing to Tacoma, Wash., where CITC then is responsible for transporting the items to Alaska and delivering them to more than 1,000 families throughout the state.

"Partnerships are absolutely critical to the success of the KIDS Alaska program. We are so grateful for the outstanding support of Carlisle Transportation, the Rasmussen Foundation, Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Alaska Airlines, The National Guard and Spennak Air, all who have donated their services to the KIDS Alaska program," said O’Neill.

Once a KIDS shipment arrives at CITC, it requires many hands to unpack, sort and re-package the items for re-distribution. CITC recently received a shipment of six tons of clothing from the Sears Corp. and American Girl, a massive shipment which equated to 30 pallets of clothing and required two tractor trailers for delivery. CIRI employees, among many others, volunteered their time to help. To learn more about the KIDS Alaska Program or to make a donation, visit www.citi.org or contact Kelly Hurd, CITC development director, at khurd@citci.org or (907) 793-3272.
Cobell
continued from page 1

The settlement was brokered by Congress, and on December 8, 2010, President Obama signed legislation approving the $3.4 billion settlement of Cobell v. Salazar. On December 21, 2010, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia granted preliminary approval to begin the process of disbursing the settlement funds. A court-appointed media company recently started a campaign to notify hundreds of thousands of Alaska Native and American Indian individuals that they may be beneficiaries of the settlement. A special website, www.indiantrust.com, was established to provide information about the settlement and the legal rights of class action members.

The settlement provides for a $1.5 billion fund to compensate an estimated 500,000 affected individual trust beneficiaries who have or had IIM accounts or own trust land, and creates two groups of class action members eligible to receive money from the fund—the historical accounting class and the trust administration class.

The historical accounting class comprises individual Alaska Native and American Indians who were alive on Sept. 30, 2009, who had an open IIM account anytime between Oct. 25, 1994 and Sept. 30, 2009, and whose account had at least one cash transaction.

The trust administration class comprises individual Alaska Native and American Indians alive on Sept. 30, 2009, who had an IIM Account at any time from 1985 through Sept. 30, 2009, recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems, as well as individual Alaska Native and American Indians who, as of Sept. 30, 2009, had a recorded or restricted land from willing sellers to benefit tribal communities and aid in land consolidation, and depending on the level of participation in the land consolidation program, up to $60 million will be set aside to provide higher education scholarships for Alaska Native and American Indian youth.

It is estimated that Alaska has more than 20,000 possible beneficiaries. Individuals who are unsure whether they are included in the settlement should visit the website www.indiantrust.com or call (800) 961-6109 for more information.

Is the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) looking for you? OST is seeking current addresses for a number of IIM account holders. These account holders have either interests in lands and/or funds held by OST. To find out if OST is looking for you, please visit www.doj.gov/ost/iim/index.html, call (888) 678-6836 or write to Office of Special Trustee, attn: Trust Beneficiary Call Center, 4400 Mathias Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

CIRI shareholder news
february/march 2011

CIRI needs your help locating shareholder addresses

CIRI strives to ensure correspondence, reports, newsletters and dividends reach shareholders in a timely manner. The following CIRI shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record with the shareholder relations department and should fill out a change of address form at CIRI’s offices, or download it at www.ciril.com/content/shareholders/change.aspx. You can also write a letter, signed by the shareholder, which includes the new address, telephone number, birth date and social security number.

Download the 2011 CIRI calendar for your mobile phone or desktop!

ciri/content/shareholders/CIRIcalender.aspx
In Memory

Eleanor Virginia Bodkin, 71
Eleanor Virginia Bodkin died Jan. 29 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Ms. Bodkin was born Jan. 14, 1940, in Anchorage. She is survived by her sister, Elise Vivian Chythlook; and brother, Clarence R. P. Achayok.

George Nester William Constantine Jr., 25
George Nester William Constantine Jr. died Dec. 23, 2010, in Tyonek, Alaska. Mr. Constantine was born Feb. 24 1985, in Anchorage. He is survived by his daughters, Georgena and Cynthia Constantine; son, Dustin; mother, Emma Constantine; sisters, Gloria, Tina, Anne and Fedora Constantine; many nieces and nephews; and fiancé, Gena Bartels.

George J. Earviak Sr., 67
George J. Earviak Sr. died Nov. 7, 2010, in Newtok, Alaska. Mr. Earviak was born Jan. 1, 1943, in Alaska. He is survived by his spouse, Margaret A. Earviak; and daughters, Agnes R. and Marie A. Earviak.

Katherine Helmig, 89
Katherine Helmig died Nov. 20, 2010, at Taylored Cozy Care in Anchorage. Ms. Helmig was born in Anchorage. She is survived by her son, Paul Panamarioff.

William McCord, 74
William McCord died Dec. 26, 2010, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Mr. McCord, a lifelong Alaskan, was born Nov. 21, 1936, in Anchorage. Mr. McCord was the most loving, quiet, generous and kind husband, father, brother and friend. To be in his presence was a blessing…He is greatly missed and will be cherished forever within our hearts. “ He is survived by his wife, Marcella; children, Myriah, Seth, Chelsea and Nathan; sister, Lorraine (Bill) Mantor; brothers, Wesley (Resa) Suydam and Roger Suydam; and numerous nieces and nephews.

John Amos McFarlin, 55
John Amos McFarlin died Nov. 15, 2010, in Palmer, Alaska. Mr. McFarlin was born March 27, 1955, in New Jersey. He is survived by his son, James R. McFarlin; grandson, Troy James McFarlin; mother, Hazel T. McFarlin; father, Donald W. McFarlin; sisters, Roxanne Smyers and Clovis Leiser; and nieces and nephews.

Louis Edward McMeeken, 81
Louis Edward McMeeken died Dec. 18, 2010, in Bellingham, Wash. Mr. McMeeken was born in 1929 in Seldovia, Alaska. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn McMeeken; daughters, Kathy McMeeken Bower, Karen McMeeken Nagel, Kristie McMeeken Lines and Karyn Marchel; and sons, Daniel and David McMeeken.

Ernest Leslie Oksoktaruk, 60
Ernest Leslie Oksoktaruk died May 26, 2010, on the Fish River near White Mountain, Alaska. Mr. Oksoktaruk was born Dec. 11, 1949. He is survived by his daughter, Theresa Ann Lincoln.

Larry Wayne Rodgers, 45
Larry Wayne Rodgers died Dec. 21, 2010, at home in Henderson, Nev. Mr. Rodgers was born Jan. 29, 1965, in Soldotna, Alaska. He is survived by his son, Jesse Michael Rodgers; mother, Kathryn M. Rodgers; and father, Carl F. Rodgers.

Lowell Keith Suydam, 57
Lowell Keith Suydam died Jan. 14 in Seldovia, Alaska. Mr. Suydam was born Jan. 27, 1953, in Chignik Lagoon, Alaska. Mr. Suydam was a successful commercial fisherman and computer expert for the Seldovia Village Tribe. His family says, “We have lost this great fisherman. Lowell was the most loving, quiet, generous and kind husband, father, brother and friend. To be in his presence was a blessing…He is greatly missed and will be cherished forever within our hearts.” He is survived by his wife, Marcella; children, Myriah, Seth, Chelsea and Nathan; sister, Lorraine (Bill) Mantor; brothers, Wesley (Resa) Suydam, Steven (Linda) Suydam, Dwain Suydam, Leon Suydam and Roger Suydam; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Condolences

Darren Bradley Alexander, 30
Arthur J. Brandon, 79
Carol Marie Watson, 55