



# Regional Economic Development

Commentary for the Calista Region



# Calista Corporation

## Vision

An Alaskan Native Corporation that is the standard for economic success and corporate responsibility.



# Calista Corporation

## Mission

To continue growth and profits through teamwork, professionalism and innovation while respecting cultural values.



## *President Matthew Nicolai* **Calista Status**

*"As we ease into the new year, business and political leaders nationwide are watching Calista as a prime example of an ANCSA Corporation that sets the standard for growing an increasingly profitable company, while also adding to our list of accomplishments that may not be directly related to revenues, but that help our shareholders continue to thrive."* December 2004, Calista

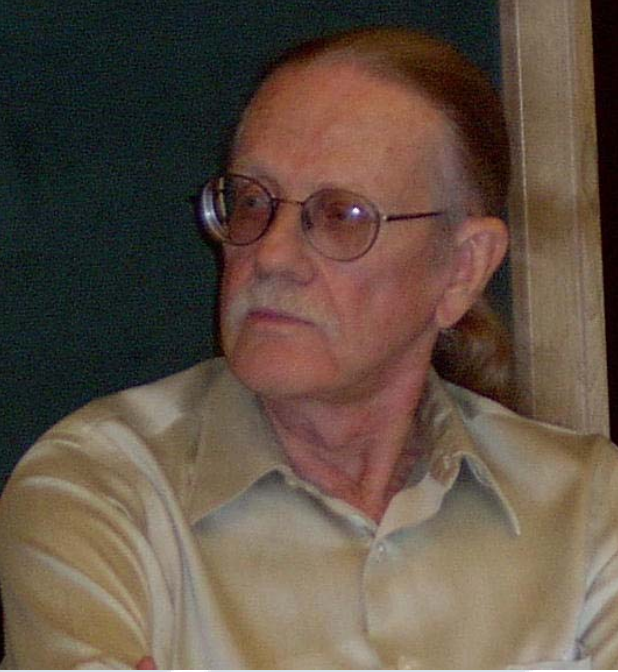
*Storkyknife*





# New Ways of Looking at our Economy

- Government dollars, although still very much needed, forms much of the economy of the Calista region.
- We realize now that we cannot depend solely on government and outside resources.
- Investing through private enterprise, entrepreneurship and doing so creatively is now the order of the day.



***Vernon Smith, UAA Chairman  
of Economics***  
**New Ways of Looking at our  
Economy**

*"I think it's incredible the mileage you've gotten from federal money, but I think you know that cannot be the basis of your economy. The government, fundamentally cannot be a creator of Wealth." He also said, "You have a great need here for up-front capital funds. You have to find new ways to do the same thing with new capital ventures here."*

*Noble Prize Laureate*



# Regional Economic Development Corporation

Calista promotes the development of a Regional development corporation. What is an economic development corporation?

- A legal entity/organization directed by a board of directors and/or members, for the purpose of creating business opportunities, new jobs and income growth.



# Regional Economic Development Corporation

- The directors for a Calista/AVCP Region EDC would be made up of representatives from ALL sectors of our economy (no one entity will have neither control nor will the EDC move off on it's own without oversight from the membership).

# Purpose of EDC

- Economic Development Corporations are used by numerous communities, counties, boroughs, corporations and regions to attract new businesses, private companies, subsurface companies, etc. to place investments in their local markets.
- Many depressed counties or boroughs use special federal and state legislation such as tax incentives to lure new businesses into their depressed areas or communities.
- An EDC can provide research, economic development data and information to support an EDC's development goals and to interpret economic trends, threats and opportunities.



# Prioritizing economic development projects

- Cohesiveness, integration and coordination based upon the cooperation of all our stakeholders, built upon the strengths of the region and committed to the well-being of our people.
- The projects and activities directed towards sustainable development principles.



# Prioritizing economic development projects

- Development, facilitated with mutual respect and concern for all persons, stakeholders, organizations, and agencies.
- Federal and State Governments working in consultation with a Regional Economic Development Corporation.



# Foster a positive attitude

Create a dynamic, sustainable and progressive environment that will attract people and business and allow smooth development of infrastructure needs in the region.



# Assessment of assets

Conduct an objective assessment of development opportunities based upon commitment to the long-term sustainability of the region and equitable access to the benefits of development.



# Conduct extensive economic profiles

- To learn and understand about the needs of the regional community;
- To examine all local resources available; and
- To identify new opportunities which would benefit the communities we serve.



**An REDC would help to address  
several major questions.**

# How can we create and maintain a sustainable standard of living that improves the quality of life of the people we serve?

- Advocate economic development projects and programs of benefit to the people of the region.
- Provide relevant economic and business data.
- Develop proactive strategies for a response to an actual or threatened displacement.
- Eliminate barriers to finance infrastructure & business development.
- Remove job-training barriers to economic development.
- Focus in the future needs of the people we serve.

# How can we emphasize community-wide and regional collaboration?

- We all must join together. We need to balance the economy in the villages as they relate to the Bethel economy.
- Embrace our Traditional Cultural and Native language values as guiding principles.
- Embrace and align our educational goals.
- Embrace and align our health care needs.
- We need all our regional organizations to work together to make all regional plans successful.



# How can this be done?

- Appoint a representative from each organization to work together in formulating a regional plan to establish a regional economic development-clearing house to address all our needs.
- As representatives of our organizations, it is imperative we all set aside all our differences and start working toward a common purpose to improve the lives of the people we serve. Only through united effort and leadership can we make our region economically self-sustainable.

# Why do we need to promote coordination among local economic development efforts?

- We have over 16 regional plans. We are not coordinated.
- Growing demands in the region on resources now and in the future.
- We are quickly shifting to a cash based economy from a subsistence based economy.
- We need to strike a balance between traditional subsistence values and a western cash economy.
- We need to make better use of our resources currently coming into the region.



# Five Core Functions for an REDC

- Leadership in the Development and Implementation of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)
- Coordinate Business Development Support
- Support Organizations and Communities within the Region
- Coordinate Social and Economic Initiatives
- Promote Public Participation and Community Education

# Five Core Functions for an REDC

Leadership in the Development and Implementation of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

- Encourage and facilitate the development of partnerships, which may serve to further economic development in the region.
- Develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) between all our organizations and various federal and state government departments and agencies related to specific development initiatives identified in the SEP.
- Conduct seminars with relevant sub-regional organizations, individuals and agencies with their projects and technical needs.

# Five Core Functions for an REDC

Leadership in the Development and Implementation of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

- Develop and disseminate through electronic, print and other media promotional materials to encourage investment in the region.
- Promote the SEP and inform other organizations and individuals within the region about the strategies contained in the SEP.
- Seek input from economic development stakeholders and others in the region to allow the SEP to reflect the changing priorities and needs of the region.
- Identify and address conflicts that may affect the successful implementation of the SEP.

# Five Core Functions for an REDC

## Coordinate Business Development Support

- Develop and maintain an electronic and physical list of government and other financial programs that can be used to fund initiatives identified in the SEP.
- Develop partnerships and linkages with funding agencies.
- Market the SEP to local private and public financial institutions.
- Assist businesspersons and potential investors to identify opportunities for local investment



# Five Core Functions for an REDC

Support Organizations and Communities within the Region

- Assist in the identification, development and delivery of meetings, workshops and seminars to better identify and clarify roles and responsibilities of all economic development stakeholders in the region.
- Provide, to the extent possible, human and technical resources necessary for good project development.
- Assist stakeholders and individuals to acquire the technical, human and administrative resources necessary for successful project management.
- Develop and deliver workshops and seminars designed to address leadership needs of organizations within the region



# Five Core Functions for an REDC

## Coordinate Social and Economic Initiatives

- Identify development initiatives, which may have potential to provide employment opportunities for unemployed persons and other regional clients.
- Identify opportunities for the development of post secondary education programs that may help to develop key sectors of the SEP



# Five Core Functions for an REDC

## Promote Public Participation and Community Education

- Create and atmosphere of public involvement in economic development by designing and facilitating workshops, seminars, roundtable and focus group meetings on topics related to economic development.
- Develop and disseminate through electronic, print and other media information to encourage involvement in and to educate people about economic development, the role of economic development organizations within the region in relation to the SEP and the philosophy behind the regional board approach.



# Five Core Functions for an REDC

## Promote Public Participation and Community Education

- Develop and promote a public participation policy that ensures maximum involvement in SEP revisions, opportunity identification, develop board strategies, objectives, and local decision-making.
- Encourage all sub-regional groups to use a public participation model in their local needs identification and decision making processes



# Developing Opportunities

- Donlin Creek provides long term opportunity
- Regional Energy and Transportation
- Other mineral resources in the Calista region
- Calista's current contracting operations requiring qualified and trained labor force
- Communities and sub-regions developing Strategic Economic Development (SED) plans



# Developing Opportunities

- Looking into pros and cons of Port Authorities
- Other Financing venues for large scale sustainable development
- As mentioned Calista promotes formation of a Regional Economic Development Corporation – result of regional economic summit March 2004
- Fostering Regional Transportation Planning



# Closing Thought

“The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man’s foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher.”

Thomas Henry Huxley



# Quyana

A New Regional Economic Vision can  
happen through commitment and hard  
work