



Ella Sassuuk Tonuchuk,
Calista Shareholder originally from Kotlik

ELLA SASSUUK TONUCHUK, LEADER FROM THE REGION

SHAREHOLDER AIMS FOR MBA WITH GOAL TO UPLIFT ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Ella **Sassuuk Tonuchuk**, a Calista Shareholder with ties to **Kotlik**, is working on her Master of Business Administration degree from Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. She wants to start a business that focuses on lifting up Alaska Native people and communities.

Tonuchuk grew up in Kotlik and St. Michael learning from her parents the Yup'ik way of being. She went to fish camp every summer, attended potlatches in Stebbins and St. Michael every year, and picked salmonberries near Kotlik.

"My strong cultural upbringing paved the way for success and has influenced my work," Tonuchuk says. "I thank my parents for raising me knowing that the only way to work is to work hard."

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STORYKNIFE

THE VOICE OF THE REGION

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MAR/APR 2024 • CALISTA CORPORATION NEWSLETTER



2024 Spring Distribution

Total: \$12.1 Million
7 percent increase over last year

CALISTA CORPORATION 2024 SPRING DISTRIBUTION IS \$12 MILLION

OVER 37,300 SHAREHOLDERS WILL RECEIVE 44TH DISTRIBUTION

Calista Corporation's largest-ever Shareholder distribution of **\$12.1 million** will occur on or before **April 12**.

This distribution is **7 percent larger** than last year's spring distribution of \$11 million, **despite the 1,195 additional Shareholders who enrolled in the past year**.

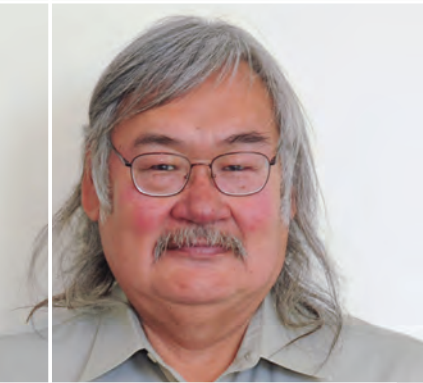
The average Shareholder who owns 100 shares will receive an **estimated \$302**. About 1 in 3 Shareholders is under 18 years old, and because 6 in 10 Shareholders live in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region, about \$7 million of the distribution will go into the Region.

"Our mission is to increase benefits and economic opportunities for our Shareholders," said **Willie Kasayulie, Calista Board Chair**. "Many of our Shareholders face a high cost of living, and this distribution can help alleviate some of those expenses."

Direct deposits will be made on or before April 12 and checks will be mailed on the same date for those without direct deposit. Shareholders in the Y-K Region should allow up to three weeks for mailed checks to arrive, weather permitting.

Shareholder distributions are typically made in the spring and the fall, subject to approval by Calista's Board of Directors. This is the 44th distribution in Calista's history, and **total distributions to Shareholders now exceed \$141.6 million**.

Over 37,300 Shareholders will receive the 2024 Spring distribution. Calista is the largest regional Alaska Native Corporation by number of Shareholders.



Willie Kasayullie, Board Chair

“THE BOARD OPENED AN APPLICATION PERIOD FOR QUALIFIED CALISTA CORPORATION SHAREHOLDERS TO APPLY FOR EACH POSITION.”

Willie Kasayullie

BOARD MESSAGE: INTERIM DIRECTORS APPOINTED

Willie Kasayullie, Board Chair

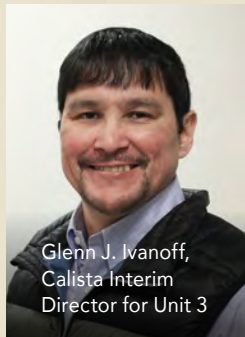
The Calista Board of Directors has selected interim directors for the Calista Board Unit 3 and Unit 6 director positions.

The Unit 3 director position became vacant with the passing of longtime Board Member and former Board Chair **Robert L. Beans** last year.

The Unit 6 director position became vacant when Director **Jolene John** resigned her seat on the Calista Corporation Board of Directors to accept the position of BIA Regional Director – Alaska Region.

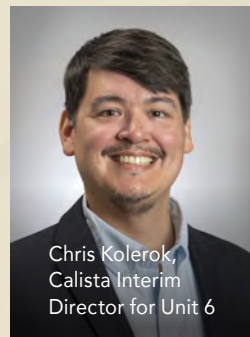
Pursuant to the Calista Bylaws, “any vacancy on the Board of Directors may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Directors.”

The Board opened an application period for qualified Calista Corporation Shareholders to apply for each position.



Glenn J. Ivanoff,
Calista Interim
Director for Unit 3

The Board appointed **Glenn J. Ivanoff** as the **Unit 3** Interim Director at our December 2023 meeting. We reviewed applications submitted by eligible Shareholders with ties to the Unit 3 villages of Kotlik, Chuloonawick, Mountain Village, Pitkas Point and St. Mary’s.



Chris Kolerok,
Calista Interim
Director for Unit 6

Additionally, the Board appointed **Chris Kolerok** as the **Unit 6** Interim Director after reviewing applicants at our February 2024 meeting. We reviewed applications submitted by eligible Shareholders with ties to the Unit 6 villages of Chefornak, Mekoryuk, Newtok (Mertarvik),

Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Tununak and Umkumiute.

Ivanoff will serve the remainder of the Unit 3 term and is up for election at this year’s 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Kolerok will serve the remainder of the Unit 6 term, up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.



Kotlik, Alaska



Andrew Guy, President and CEO

“REALIZING LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR THE REGION MEANS WORKING IN UNISON.”

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: VILLAGE UTILITIES

Andrew Guy, President and CEO

Infrastructure development opportunities have been an integral part of Calista’s strategic goal to promote in-Region economic development and partnerships. This January we submitted three potential projects into the State of Alaska’s **Capital Project Submission and Information System (CAPSIS)** that would benefit many communities in our Region.

The projects submitted into CAPSIS include new equipment for the **Kuskokwim Ice Road**, constructing a barge landing and road access in **Marshall**, and reconstructing Phillips Road in **Akiachak**.

Additionally, we submitted a letter to the federal **Indian Health Service** to advocate for **operations and maintenance (O&M)** costs towards water and sewer systems throughout rural Alaska. Advocating for annual operations and maintenance costs will protect existing and incoming utility infrastructure across the Region.

Realizing large infrastructure projects for the Region means working in unison. This makes me think back on our Elders’ words, **Ikayuqluteng Atunem Piuraraqluteng** which means “they always mutually helped one another” in Yup’ik.

The recent revitalization of the **Yukon-Kuskokwim Coalition** has proven how effective we can be when we help one another. The Y-K Coalition is made up of the Association of Village Council Presidents Regional Housing Authority, Coastal Villages Region Fund, Nuvista Light and Electric Cooperative, Inc., the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, the Y-K Regional Tribal Government and Calista Corporation.

The coalition has been able to advocate in Juneau and Washington, D.C. for a wide range of needs. From housing, energy infrastructure, and O&M funding to transportation access, emergency operations and workforce development opportunities.

The advocacy efforts by the coalition drove us to supporting projects into CAPSIS and push for O&M funding to ensure the longevity of our water and sewer systems. If we continue to work together, we can provide more for our Region.



Kuskokwim Ice Road in Bethel

YULISTA ACQUIRES COLORADO TECH FIRM

DSOFT TECHNOLOGY INCREASES YULISTA’S CAPABILITIES IN TECH AND SPACE SECTORS

One of the ways a company can boost its capabilities—and ultimately its revenue—is by acquiring another business.

Our **Yulista** holding line recently acquired **DSoft Technology, Engineering & Analysis, Inc.**, a Colorado Springs, Colorado-based firm specializing in technology, engineering and analysis services to space, defense and civil clients.

DSoft Technology has strong capabilities in technology development and systems engineering. This includes space modeling and simulation, software development, geospatial information services, cloud computing and web/mobile applications.

One of DSoft Technology’s competitively-bid projects was to develop and administer a geospatial portal used by the U.S. Forest Service to coordinate wildland firefighting at the national level. This portal has provided real-time situational awareness for firefighting assets, integrated with data sources including satellite, smoke, fire perimeter, lightning strike history, and much more.

DSoft Technology was originally founded in 1998 by David Hollenbach, a service-disabled military veteran. Mr. Hollenbach remains with the DSoft Technology subsidiary as the General Manager.

In its announcement, Yulista said the DSoft Technology acquisition significantly broadens the holding line’s information and technology capabilities, and further solidifies its position as a leading technology development and systems engineering provider.

You can learn more about Yulista’s new subsidiary by visiting www.dsoft-tech.com.



Through a geospatial portal, DSoft has provided 2D renderings and 3-D terrain mapping of fire perimeter and operational fire-fighting activities. Photo courtesy of Yulista.

OUR LAND RIGHTS

HOW OUR HISTORIC LAND CLAIMS RELATE TO ANCSA SECTION 17(D)(1)

On June 1, 1972, the Calista Corporation incorporators attended a ceremony in Washington, D.C. to approve the creation of Calista and two other regional corporations. One of Calista’s top priorities was selecting lands. Pictured left to right: Assistant Secretary of the Interior Harrison Loesch, Senator Ted Stevens, and Calista incorporators Elizabeth Beans, Paul Dixon, William Tyson, Fred Notti, Robert Nick and Phillip Guy. Dept of Interior / Ted Stevens Foundation photo.

In 1971, Congress passed the **Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act**, authorizing the U.S. Department of the Interior to convey 45 million acres of land to 12 Alaska Native regional corporations and 200-plus village corporations.

However, despite hard work and good-faith efforts including the **Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of 2004**, many village and regional corporations have not received their full entitlement.

Across Alaska, village corporations are still owed **636 square miles** and regional corporations are still owed **1,360 square miles** of their ANCSA entitlement, according to U.S. Bureau of Land Management calculations.

Calista is still owed **330 square miles** of its ANCSA subsurface entitlement, and 24 Village Corporations in the Region are still owed **109 square miles** of their surface entitlement.

“The promises made over 50 years ago to resolve our Alaska Native land claims need to be honored,” says **Tisha Kuhns**, Calista Vice President of Land and Natural Resources.

Section 17(d)(1) Impact on Land Selections

Meanwhile, the Interior Department is proposing to lift its **ANCSA Section 17(d)(1)** withdrawals throughout Alaska, including in the Calista Region.

“THE PROMISES MADE OVER 50 YEARS AGO TO RESOLVE ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS NEED TO BE HONORED.”

- **Tisha Kuhns**,
Calista Vice President of Land and Natural Resources

This would open these lands to State selection and mining claims, making them unavailable to Calista and the Village Corporations to fulfill their entitlement, and potentially unavailable for other purposes that are important to our Shareholders.

Calista submitted a comment letter to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement to revoke ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals, stating that our preferred alternative is Alternative A, the no action alternative, which would keep the Section 17(d)(1) withdrawals.

The BLM requested comments to be submitted by February 14. Calista requested a 90-day comment period extension so that all 56 Tribes and 45 Village Corporations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region have ample time to provide meaningful comments.

CALISTA LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

LANDS IN FOCUS

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON SUBSISTENCE

Fed up with salmon bycatch and reduced opportunities for subsistence fishing?

In April, governing bodies will consider two actions: adding subsistence user representation on the **Federal Subsistence Board**, and a **cap on chum salmon bycatch** by Alaska's pollock trawling fleet.

Calista strongly supports increased representation by subsistence users in federal decision making that affects our food and our way of life. We encourage Shareholders to provide their input as well.

Federal Subsistence Board

Did you know five of the eight members of the Federal Subsistence Board, which manages subsistence harvesting on federal lands and waters in Alaska, are agency personnel based in urban areas?

After consultation with Tribes, Native Corporations and others, the federal **Departments of the Interior and Agriculture** have published a set of proposed rules to increase representation from qualified subsistence users.

The key changes are to:

- Add **three public members** nominated or recommended by Tribes who possess personal knowledge of and direct experience with subsistence uses in rural Alaska, including Alaska Native subsistence uses
- Require the chair of the Board to have personal knowledge of and experience with rural subsistence uses

Calista Shareholders can submit comments on this proposal by going to www.regulations.gov and searching for the docket number "FWS-R7-SM-2024-0017." Once there you will see a "Proposed Rule" box where you can submit a comment online.

You can also submit a comment by U.S. mail or hand delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R7-SM-2024-0017; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 5275 Leesburg Pike; MS: PRB (JAO/3W); Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Comments must be received or postmarked by **April 26, 2024**.

Chum Bycatch Cap

The **North Pacific Fishery Management Council** will meet in April to evaluate options to reduce the bycatch of western Alaska chum salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries.

While the trawl catches are increasing, wasting thousands of chum salmon, subsistence salmon fishing has ground nearly to a halt. So

far, the council has rejected proposals to limit bycatch from Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim subsistence users.

However, at its April 4-9 meeting in Anchorage, the council will consider potential caps on bycatch ranging from 200,000 to 550,000 total chum, as well as other measures to limit bycatch when chum are on the trawling grounds.

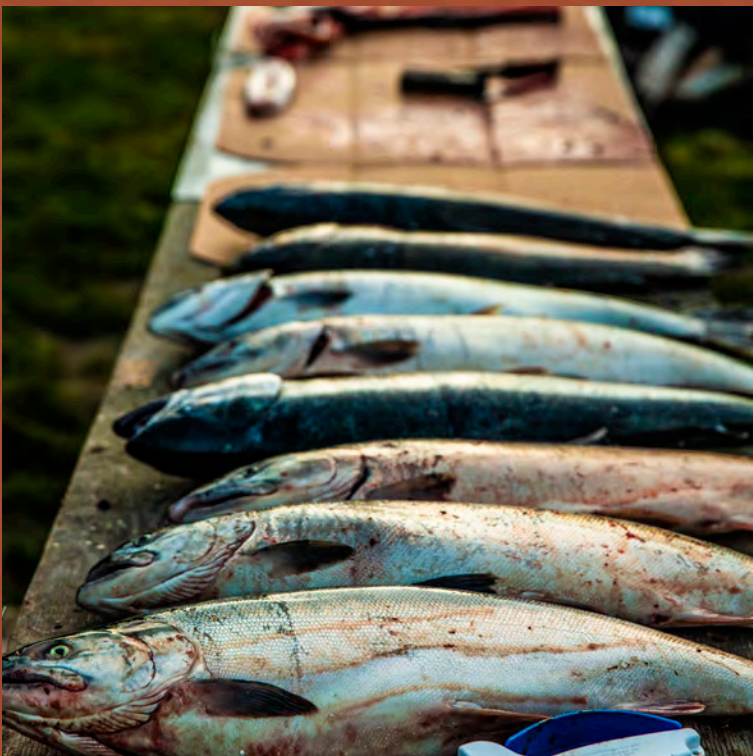
The council will post a 'chum salmon bycatch analysis' to <https://meetings.npfmc.org> on March 11 and take public comments before the April meeting. The board will conduct "initial review" of the caps at the April meeting and a decision is expected by December 2024.

More Representation Needed

Over the past year, the state and federal government have appointed more rural Alaskans to advisory bodies that provide recommendations to Alaska's fishery managers.

That's a good start, but it is also important to have a seat at the table where decisions are made.

To that end, Calista is advocating for increased subsistence or Tribal representation on the **Alaska Board of Fisheries**, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and the Fish & Wildlife Service' Yukon and Kuskokwim River panels.



CALISTA EDUCATION & CULTURE, INC. PRESENTS

YUP'IK TEACHING MOMENT

ELUQRUUYAK [LOOK-GH-HOO-YUCK] OR CUUKVAK [JUKE-VAHK] IS YUP'IK FOR "PIKE."

*Calista Education & Culture, Inc. (CECI) presents the **Yup'ik Teaching Moment** in our Storyknife newsletter. CECI highlights Yuuyaraq, the traditional/cultural way of being in our Region. The **Yup'ik Teaching Moment** is provided by **Mark John, CECI Cultural Advisor** and Calista Elder from Nightmute.*

During March and April, as the weather starts to warm up, more activity starts all over the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region. Along the coast, the seal and walrus hunts and tom cod and smelt fishing begins. Ptarmigan also start to arrive across the Region. Inland, pike drive people to go out and fish.

Eluquruuyak [LOOK-gh-HOO-yuck] or Cuukvak [JUKE-vahk] is Yup'ik for "Pike."

Pike is the one type of fish that most people actively fish for across the Region. Along the coast, we refer to pike as **Cuukvak**. It is also known as **Eluquruuyak** and **Kegg'suli** in different dialects throughout the Region.

In the past, some people moved their families to certain locations to fish for and dry pike, then returned home before trails became impassable. Some remained in their camps to hunt and trap muskrat. Muskrat is hunted in the spring. Its fur is used for clothing and its meat is utilized for food. Later, it was also used to sell and support the subsistence needs in summer.

Today, with the advent of snow machines and four wheelers, people hardly go camping. Hunters and fishers mainly take day trips to known locations where pike is plentiful. Even those from the coast take part in fishing pike today—whereas in the past, they didn't.

In the Lower Yukon and coastal villages nearby, people go to Black River by Kusilvak and the rivers around the Volcano Mountains. Along the Kuskokwim and the Yukon, there are numerous locations people like to go that may be nearby their villages.

Pike is a delicacy eaten raw, frozen, half dried and plain dried. Pike roe is also enjoyed eaten plain or in **akutaq** (Yup'ik ice cream). Since it is not fat, it dries quickly and is enjoyed with seal oil and fats of other animals. Its thick skin in the past was also used for traditional waterproof gloves and boots.



CALIVIKA SHAREHOLDER DIRECTORY HIGHLIGHT

MICHELLE MACUAR SPARCK OF ARXOTICA

Tell us about yourself and the inspiration behind why you started ArXotica.



I'm Michelle Sparck, I go by Shelly, or Shell, and my Cup'ik name is **Macuar**. My triplet sisters and partners Amy and Cika and I are members of our mom's **Qissunamiut Tribe** of Chevak. We'd been picking plants and berries since we were set on the tundra, and when the **Alaska Federation of Natives** created a start-up funding contest called The Alaska Marketplace, we decided a skincare company was worth developing. We won almost six figures in three contests, and we put it into research and development to support our traditional knowledge.

Tundra botanicals are Midnight Sun powered superfoods, chock full of anti-aging properties, and we reveal the power of Arctic botanicals and minerals all the time. The name ArXotica is a merging of the words Arctic and Exotic, and we've been around since 2006. In 2013, we were selected as the Calista Business of the Year.

Where can our readers purchase your products/services?

The girls and I now have day jobs, so we've had to limit our online store hours and pop-up events. We once won a competitive spot for a kiosk at the Anchorage Airport years ago, but it was challenged and we lost out on this opportunity for a brick and mortar location. So, we remain an online store through the Square shopping platform. We do take orders over email or other social media messaging, so don't let a temporary closure notification on our online shop keep you from getting your TLC needs met (Tundra Loving Care!) arxotica-inc.square.site.



Can you tell us about the most rewarding experience you've had with Arxotica?



When we've had middle aged and Elder Native men make sure to find our pop-up booths to purchase our soaps, body balms, and other products that help tackle their skin, toughened by subsistence activities. It is the biggest validation and compliment to our tundra-powered products!

What advice would you give to budding entrepreneurs?

It isn't easy to run a business and be responsible for everything involved with owning one. You have to file paperwork with the State of Alaska, you have to renew your business license, and depending on your products or services, you may need liability insurance. We've had insurance coverage for years, and it's expensive.

Do your homework on what it means to open a business. If you have a talent, it is exciting to think of building a business around your brand. Do you have family support? Do you have community support? Do you have a business plan? And if you take that step, research the private, Tribal, and government programs that support small and minority-owned businesses. Some can help you lease office or manufacturing space, upgrade your equipment, pay for translations and printing, and so on. Oftentimes, you'll have to put in as many hours into your own business that a regular full-time job would require.

How do you incorporate elements of your cultural heritage into your products or services?

Quyung-lii in Cup'ik means The Potent One. We wanted a name to represent the powerful ingredients we bottled for your skin, using a cold process to extract the oleoresin of our wild harvested crowberry, Arctic sage (stinkweed) and fireweed. We chose these plentiful resources full of vitamins and minerals to be our signature ingredients so we wouldn't compete with desirable subsistence foods like salmonberries. We give thanks to Cillam Cua, the Creator, for the bounty when we harvest. A little goes a long way—we don't have to pick a lot to make our products. Yup'ik/Cup'ik names and images play into our products, and we integrate cultural and traditional knowledge into our labeling and social media posts.

"WE GIVE THANKS TO CILLAM CUA, THE CREATOR, FOR THE BOUNTY WHEN WE HARVEST. A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY—WE DON'T HAVE TO PICK A LOT TO MAKE OUR PRODUCTS."

- Michelle Macuar Sparck,
co-owner of ArXotica



Scan the QR code to view Shareholder-owned businesses to create your own listing in our Calivika Business Directory



ELLA SASSUUK TONUCHUK, LEADER FROM THE REGION

SHAREHOLDER AIMS FOR MBA WITH GOAL TO UPLIFT ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

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– Ella Sassuuk Tonuchuk,
Calista Shareholder originally from Kotlik

Tonuchuk has one more semester at APU this fall. She looks forward to establishing her own small business but is already working self-employed and managing aspects of fundraisers for organizations like the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

“I hope to support our Native ways, inspire others, be self-sufficient, and represent my people well,” Tonuchuk says. “My goal is to serve Native peoples and communities in any given capacity.”

Coming from a small village, Tonuchuk prefers smaller scale schools. She says her tuition at APU as a private school is much higher than a public school. Tonuchuk has been able to benefit from the **Calista Education and Culture, Inc.** scholarship for many semesters in her college career.

“I cannot thank Calista enough. Without Calista Education’s support, I would not have the financial capacity to attend school, Tonuchuk says. “I tried UAA for a semester and could not get used to how big it was. APU works for me and it’s been my choice for higher education.”

Tonuchuk believes education is gaining knowledge that benefits others and is meant to be shared. Her message to the next

generation is to ‘never forget where you come from, it will help shape who you need to be.’ Many opportunities exist, but you must not give up, she says.

“I quit college before, in my undergrad—mostly due to homesickness—but my family encouraged me to go back after a year or two,” Tonuchuk says. “Surround yourself with family and friends who encourage you to do well and pick our friends wisely.”



Crooked Creek, Alaska

STORYKNIFE

THE VOICE OF THE REGION

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OWN YOUR FUTURE
Become a Shareholder.

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PROTECT YOUR SHARES



Scan to
learn more

A Stock Will is one of the most important forms a Shareholder can have on file for their family. Without a valid stock will, the State of Alaska will determine where your shares will go!

Update your stock will if there has been a change in your family due to marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, or a death.

Download a form or call Shareholder Services to request a copy:

www.CalistaCorp.com/CommonForms
or 907-275-2801

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PERSONAL DATA FORM – MAR/APR 2024

Shareholder Name _____

New Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Last 4 SSN _____

Birth Year _____

Would you like Calista to send you new Will forms? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Calista Shares _____

Village Corporation Shares _____

Please change my address as I have indicated above. I understand that you cannot make address changes without my permission and signature, which I hereby give of my own free will and without constraint. I further authorize Calista and its subsidiaries to share this information internally and in accordance with law.

Shareholder Signature _____
(Two witnesses are required if Shareholder signs with an "X.")

Date _____

Signature of Witness 1 _____

Signature of Witness 2 _____

Mail to: 5015 Business Park Blvd., Suite 3000
Anchorage, AK 99503
Toll Free 800-277-5516 • Fax 907-275-2922
www.calistacorp.com