

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor*

### MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly  
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor  
DATE: August 6, 2013  
SUBJ: Status Report

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Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience. July was filled with celebrations all over the North Slope! Congratulations to Anagi Crew and Quvan Crew of Barrow for hosting wonderful Nalukataq celebrations in July. We are thankful for safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations across the North Slope, and a big "quyanaqpak" for volunteers across the Slope.

The **Mayor's Office** continues to increase its efforts in the training and professional development of our local workforce. The **Mayor's Job Program** increased its usual number of hires this cycle in order to accommodate for those individuals looking for summer employment, including the hire of college and high school students. This summer cycle also included a heavy emphasis on training through coordination with the new **Training & Development Division of the Mayor's Office** and with Iñisaġvik College. Course offerings for July included: First Aid/CPR, NSB Rules & Regulations, the Job Club Seminar, Business Writing, Technical Writing, and Microsoft PowerPoint. The **Training & Development Division** will also host an employer "round table" meeting in August to discuss what lessons have been learned from training and development efforts over the last 20 years and identify what is needed to continue building our workforce.

The **Healthy Communities Initiative** hosted the second annual IMPACT Camp from July 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. This year's camp brought over 175 students from the North Slope with more students coming in from our villages. Camp participants enjoyed a diverse range of healthy activities, including skin-sewing, Eskimo Dancing, film making, photography, guitar lessons, gun safety, culinary arts, aviation, and various athletics. Another **Healthy Communities Initiative** was delivered through the Challenge Life Program, bringing a little summer fun with lessons in mentoring, leadership, and health to Point Hope and Barrow last week. In Point Hope, Ryan Rock and two of his Post University teammates, Devin Willis and Travis Carbahal, organized and ran a basketball camp for young boys and girls in grades 3 - 12. The program was a tremendous

success with the teaching and organizational skills of the three collegiate players. They hope to use this model to bring similar programs to each community across the North Slope to bring positive, inspiring and engaging activities to our young people. Quyanaqpak to Dorothy Edwardsen and Brad Weyiouanna for their hard work and countless hours dedicated to ensuring successful and healthy events for our young people across the slope!

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff prepared and worked on their various 2013 field projects, which include: satellite tracking of ringed seals, deployment of satellite-linked drifters to better understand surface currents in the Chukchi Sea, study of ears and hearing in bowhead and beluga whales, stress levels in marine mammals, contaminants in beluga whales, and documenting the impacts of helicopters and airplanes on subsistence hunting and hunters. The Department also participated in a community meeting in Point Hope to talk about the health status of ice seals and walruses.

The **Department of Capital Improvements Program Management** is working to complete the renovation of the Nunamiut School in Anaktuvuk Pass, with the final completion inspection scheduled for the end of July or early August. A great deal of the inside renovations of Kali School are also near completion and are ready for final touches.

The **Police Department** is working on a draft Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Transportation to provide Security Services at the Deadhorse Airport. If successful, the funding will supplement the cost of the police officer currently assigned to Deadhorse. The department is also working on an agreement with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency to provide task force assets to facilitate the interdiction of illegal drugs and alcohol into the North Slope Borough.

The **Department of Health and Social Service's** float for the Barrow 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade was focused on awareness about suicide prevention, and was prepared by the student interns currently working for the summer. The Integrated Behavioral Health Division will be hosting a weekly Talking Circle at the Matsutani Building every Thursday during the month of August at 5:30 pm. Department Director Doreen Leavitt attended the SSMH Governing Body Meeting held in Fairbanks, and was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Board. Congratulations Director Leavitt. In addition, the Health Department hosted the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's "Store Outside Your Door" program, which focused on natural plants and traditional foods in rural Alaska regions. They filmed several "webisodes" which will be featured on ANTHC's website.

This concludes my summary report for the month of July. Have a safe and blessed end of summer and good luck to our students who are returning to the classroom in the coming weeks!