

COPE HAS NOW BEEN OPERATION SINCE JANUARY 1970/ COPE WAS INCORPORATED SEPTEMBER 1970.

COPE STAND FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR ORIGINAL PEOPLES ENTITLEMENT.

THE MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO PEOPLE WHO ARE INDAIN, ESKIMO AND METIS TO THE FORTH GENERATION AND WHO HAVE LIVED IN THE TERRITORIES FOR OVER A YEAR.

MEMBERSHIP CAN BE OBTAINED FOR THESE PEOPLE IF THEY ARE OVER 15 YEARS OF AGE.

THERE IS A MEMBERSHIP CALLED ASSOCIATE FOR THOSE WHO ARE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN THE NATIVE PEOPLES AND WHO WISH TO HELP.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE: \$3.00 per family

\$1.00 for an individual

\$5.00 for an associate member

The purpose of Cope is to provide a united voice for its members, the original people and owners of this land.

To work for the establishment and realization of the rights of the original people.

to encourage and promote native business enterprise.

to encourage and promote honest social fellowship among the original and non original peoples.

To promote progress, leadership and training in the educational, social, economic and cultural life of all original peoples. (political development and awareness)

to work in co-operation with Indian Band Councils, native organizations, government bodies, and other interested groups and persons, in helping the original peoples to take an active part in the industrialized ~~and~~ society.

to preserve, encourage, foster and develop original traditions.

to foster and promote the making and sale of handicrafts.

to provide a meeting place for the Society.

Administeeing, investing, utilizing, disbursing, or transferring funds, rights or benefits place in the hands of the Society for the benefit of the origianl people of the Northwest Territories.

board of directors:

Agnes Semmler - President (Manager of the Inuvik Craft Shop)

Victor Allen - Vice President (Eskimo Linguistic and operator of the McKenzie Valley Test

Jim Koe - 2nd Vice president - Loucheuz Linguistic / Radio Announcer and commentator

Willard Hagen - game officer
Nellie Cournoyea - manager CBC co-ordinate public relations and secretarial

Jake Heron - Treasurer - Accountant

Directors: Bill Cockney
Frank Steffanson
Charlie Gruben @ Tuktoyaktuk
Garret Ruben - Paulatuk
David Nasogaluak - Sachs Harbour
Willie McDonald - Fort McPherson

3/
WHAT HAS COPE DONE:

C.O.P.E. has been the voice of its members on Banks Island who were threatened by oil exploration which the Federal Government intended to allow without any consultation with the people of Banks Island and without any regard for the damage which might be done to the trapping of the whitefox which has brought in a good independent living for the people of Sachs Harbour.

As a result of many meetings, speeches and threatened court action, the government finally consulted with the people and controls were placed on the activities of the exploration company.

For over a year the consultation has gone on --- COPE is still not satisfied with what has happened - Every time the the people are talked to, the plans have been made already. This is not consultation - We feel the people of the north in many areas are being played with. The people were given the right to watch the exploration work to make sure all the rules were lived up to by the company. But it is only in very strong areas like Banks Island and Corral Harbour in the Eastern Arctic that this is carried out. Also in Old Crow. ---If people do not make a strong stand they will receive a lot of nice talk, but it is only cream.

C.O.P.E says that rights do exist and that the government and citizens of the United States have recognized the rights of the original people of Alaska by making payment to them of a billion dollars in settlement of their claims and also a percentage of the oil and minerals.

Oil development only last a very short time. Jobs are important to people and they should take part in these jobs as much as possible. They will not last long. C.O.P.E. always asked - If there is no settlement ~~off~~ or bank set up for the people- What will happen after the jobs with the oil companies are gone,???? That's a big question that few people want to be bothered with - It is hard for anyone to answer. The people who are in the North really don't care as they will soon be gone. - It is the native people

themselves who will have to demand a stake in the future. If not for themselves, then for their children.

C.O.P.E. has tried hard to make it known to the government which is suppose to represent us that the needs of the native people must come first. We have worked long hours dealing with many complaints that come to us daily.

Because that pressure was put on the government - The government has said that native people must be given jobs first and that every effort must be made in encouraging native people to take part in job opportunities- This was good for a while now we see and hear statements like ' Native people are unreliable' ofcourse we have our lazy people but we cannot say that for ~~ma~~ all the people. Many times workers with experience in heavy duty equipment, steamers, other trades are only hired as labourers.

Even though we feel we have made some progress - this situation will get worse as things go faster and faster. The only way we can help resolve these problems is to work together for native people.

It is ~~easy~~ easy for government bodies and developers to talk on wy they know what is best for the native people. In southern Canada, after a hundred years of help, the Indian people are having a hard time

(1)

The name of the Society is:

COMMITTEE FOR ORIGINAL PEOPLE'S ENTITLEMENT

(C.O.P.E. - INNUKHAT)

(2)

The objectives of the Society are:

- (a) To work for the establishment and the recognition of the special rights of the original people.
- (b) To promote equality of rights and opportunities for its members in the Northwest Territories.
- (c) To encourage and promote original people in business enterprises and in hunting, fishing and trapping.
- (d) To promote progress in leadership and training in the educational, social, economic and cultural life of original people.
- ✓(e) To work in co-operation with other native organizations, government bodies and other interested groups and persons, in helping the original people to take an active part in Canadian Society.
- (f) To preserve, encourage, foster and develop original traditions.
- (g) To provide a meeting place for the Society.
- ✓(h) To administer, invest, utilize, disburse or transfer funds, rights or benefits placed in the hands of the Society for the benefit of its members.

(3)

The Head Office of the Society shall be located in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada.

While the founding members of COPE in 1970 were representatives from the Western Arctic Gwich'in and Inuvialuit people, by 1972 the COPE leadership had expressed the desire that the COPE organization be the primary voice for only Inuvialuit people. That action did not eliminate non-Inuvialuit from continuing with their participation and so Agnes Semmler, of Gwich'in ancestry, continued on for many years in an active leadership role.

At the Federation of Natives North of Sixty meeting, Inuvik, November 1972, a resolution was passed unanimously accepting the new COPE organization as the representative of the Western Arctic Inuit – the Inuvialuit.