

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS



CORPORATE CHARTER  
OF THE  
NOORVIK NATIVE COMMUNITY



RATIFIED DECEMBER 27, 1939



UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
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# CORPORATE CHARTER OF THE NOORVIK NATIVE COMMUNITY

A FEDERAL CORPORATION CHARTERED UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE 18, 1934, AS AMENDED BY THE ACT OF MAY 1, 1936

Whereas, a group of Eskimos having a common bond of living together in Noorvik, Territory of Alaska, seek to organize under Sections 16 and 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934, and Section 1 of the Act of May 1, 1936 by adoption of a constitution and by-laws and a charter approved by the Secretary of the Interior,

Whereas, more than one-third of the adult natives have petitioned that a charter be granted to the group,

Now, therefore, I, Oscar L. Chapman, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, by virtue of the authority given to me by the above acts, do hereby grant this charter of incorporation to the group of Eskimos so organizing, to be effective when duly agreed to; *Provided*, That the said constitution and by-laws have been duly agreed to.

**SECTION 1. Purpose and Name.**—In order to enable the Community and its members to do various kinds of business for their good, the Community is hereby chartered as a corporation of the United States of America under the name of "Noorvik Native Community."

**SECTION 2. Membership.**—The corporation shall be a membership corporation, consisting of all persons of the Community considered members under the rules of its Constitution.

**SECTION 3. Management.**—The corporation shall be managed by the governing body set up under the Constitution.

**SECTION 4. Powers.**—The corporation shall have the power to do the following things:

To own, hold, manage and dispose of all community property;

To make contracts;

To sue and be sued;

To borrow money from the revolving Indian credit fund and to use it under a loan contract;

To enter into any business or activity that will better the condition of the Community and its members;

To do such other things as may be necessary to carry on the business and activities of the Community.

**SECTION 5. Limits to Powers.**—In using its powers the corporation must not do the following things:

Go against any law or the constitution and by-laws of the Community;

Sell or mortgage any land set aside as a reserve for the Community;

Make leases, permits or contracts covering any lands or waters set aside as a reserve for the Community without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative.

**SECTION 6. Property of Members.**—Property owned by a member of the Community shall not be taken to pay the debts of the corporation without his consent.

SECTION 7. *Records.*—The corporation shall keep correct records of its business and activities and give copies of these records when asked to do so to the representative of the Office of Indian Affairs serving the Community.

SECTION 8. *Changes in the Charter.*—Changes in the charter may be made by the Community and if approved by the Secretary of the Interior shall be in force when agreed to by a majority vote of those members voting in an election called by the Secretary of the Interior, *provided*, that at least 30 percent of the voting membership votes. The charter itself shall continue in force for all times, unless taken away by Act of Congress.

SECTION 9. *Adoption of Charter.*—This charter shall be in force when it is agreed to by a majority vote of those members voting in an election called by the Secretary of the Interior, *provided*, that at least 30 percent of the voting membership votes and provided that the Village has agreed to a constitution and by-laws approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

#### CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to an order, approved May 11, 1939, by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, the attached Charter was submitted for ratification to the group of Eskimos having a common bond of residence in the neighborhood of Noorvik, Territory of Alaska, and was on December 27, 1939, duly ratified by a vote of 70 for and none against, in an election in which over 30 percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, in accordance with the Alaska Act of May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250), and section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).

JAMES WELLS,  
*Chairman, Election Board.*

PAUL OUTWATER,  
*Secretary, Election Board.*

G. LEROY SWENSON,  
*Government Representative.*

This Charter is hereby approved and granted by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior to the group of Eskimos having a common bond of residence in the Village of Noorvik, Alaska, to be voted on in an election called and held under the Instructions of the Secretary of the Interior.

[SEAL]

OSCAR L. CHAPMAN,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 11, 1939.

