

Testimony before
The Alaska Rural Justice and
Law Enforcement Commission
April 5, 2005

My name is Edward Andrews, I am a Tribal Native member and serve as Emmonak Elders Group. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to express myself and the members of my Community.

The Emmonak Elders Group was established and recognized by Emmonak Tribal Council on February 15, 1998 with a resolution 98-08.

Today after seven years of journey with the help of the community and recognition from our Tribal Council. The Emmonak Elders Group help the community leaders such as the school, churches, Corporations, especially the young adults, young juveniles.

In the beginning of the Emmonak Court, Elders were respected and take part as being the judges, the knowledge and wisdom to lead our court was honored and creating Yu'pik Native way of living and why we as a Native we must always respect those Elders are no longer with us as well as those who are with us today.

What we the Emmonak Court Judges accomplished working with our young juvenile is a big commission for the Community of Emmonak.

After the Federal recognizes Tribes in Alaska. That gives all the Native community a open challenge and set up there own courts however they see it fit. Each Tribal Courts through out our state operate different from each other. Emmonak Tribal Court is working well with our young juveniles. We also work closely with our State Court here in Emmonak. Another big help for Tribal Court is probation officer working out of Bethel.

We the Emmonak Tribal Court like to see a unified Court System through out Alaska, but since we still don't know how the other Tribal Courts operate in Alaska. We believe at this time to have a unified court in Alaska is still unclear. We are open to any questions and answers from our neighbor through out Courts in Alaska.

As for the ways to have improvement on Law Enforcement, Alcohol and domestic violence, our court here in Emmonak, don't really have time to discuss on each of these issues. We hope that at this hearing there will be some input into that effect. Please accept our apology in this part.

We appreciate A.V.C.P. to invite our Emmonak Court to participate in this hearing.

Edward Andrews
Edward Andrews

Ben Tucker
Ben Tucker

Alec Bird
Alec Bird

Mary Ann Andrews
Mary Ann Andrews

Virginia Kassoek
Virginia Kassoek