



**“Preserving our tribal culture, protecting our lands, and empowering our people.”**

**ANCSA Village Corporation for the Native Village of Tetlin, Alaska since 1973**

(Media Release by David Flenaugh, General Manager / dflenaugh@tetlincorp.com)

**CORRECTIONS TO 9/26/2023 NEWS MINER ARTICLE**

A recent article by Jack Barnwell was published in the *Fairbanks News Miner* that warrants immediate corrections for the attention of the Corporation’s shareholders and any others who may hold an interest in the KINROSS partnership issues.

The article “*Tetlin Village Council disputes corporation's land use claims*” has several inaccuracies”:

THE NEWS MINER SAYS	THE TNCORP PRESS RELEASE SAYS
<p>“... land currently being operated as part of the Manh Choh gold mine was <b>illegally transferred</b> in 1996 <b>without a vote of its shareholders</b>, “</p>	<p>“... the 1996 wrongful transfer of the village corporation’s ANCSA land to the Council.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TNCorp intentionally uses this word from a judge’s decision in the 1999 – 2006 lawsuit, <i>Jimerson v. Tetlin Native Corporation</i> [Donald Adams, President]. Also, TNCorp seeks legal representation to clarify landownership, such as the validity of the 1996 transfer.</li> <li>• The press release does not say the land was transferred without a shareholder vote. In fact, shareholders voted on the transfer/sale of the land at two meetings. However, each meeting ended in <b>no decision</b>. Therefore, <b>NO SALE</b>. Adams and his associates transferring the land anyway was what led to dissenting shareholders opposing the transfer/sale in the 1999 lawsuit.</li> </ul>
<p>“TNCorp’s release contains a number of <b>inaccuracies, misstatements and unsubstantiated allegations</b> with respect to the Manh Choh Mining Project on the Tribe’s lands,” <b>the Tetlin Village Council</b> stated.</p>	<p>TNCorp emailed Jack Barnwell documentation to validate every infraction the Corporation cites in the press release. Barnwell <i>could</i> have made an unbiased statement to this effect as a statement of fact. This would have shown he is giving merit to both <i>sides</i> of the story.</p> <p>The Council speaking now, <b>was not the Council in 2008</b>. Smith told Barnwell the Corporation holds declarations of Council members who were <b>at the meeting</b>. Chief Sam, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief during the 2008 meeting was not asked to give TNCorp a declaration out of respect to his position with the current Council. Chief Sam, however, <i>emphatically</i> told TNCorp’s General Manager Flenaugh and researcher Smith <b>“none of what Juneau said in the Lease was true</b> and that <b>the Council never negotiated with Juneau, never voted on anything about Juneau and never granted any land to Juneau.</b>” (Smith voluntarily read portions of the Lease to Chief Sam who appeared appreciative for her to do so).</p>
<p>“the land conveyed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was <b>illegally transferred</b> to the tribal council...”</p>	<p>Again, the press release does not say that. The wording used is consistently <b>“wrongfully transferred”</b>.</p>

<p>TNCorp claimed that <b>Adams misused his authority and did not conduct a vote of the shareholders to authorize the land sale.</b></p>	<p>“...transferred 643,147 acres to the Tetlin Council <b>without the approval</b> of TNCorp’s shareholders”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The press release never says Adams misused his authority or that he did not conduct a vote (see above).</li> </ul>
<p>“According to U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filings by Contango Ore, the junior partner in the Manh Choh mine project, <b>Adams and one other council member signed off on a mineral lease with Brad Juneau</b> of Juneau Exploration.”</p>	<p><i>Tetlin’s Chief and JEX (Brad Juneau) created and signed the Mineral Lease <b>completely outside the knowledge and consent of the Council</b> and the ANCSA village corporation thereby <b>violating several of Tetlin’s governing laws...</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Tetlin Law: Title 1 Chapter 5.C.1:</b> The Chief shall sign with either <b>the 2nd Chief or Sec/Treas, all contracts, Leases and other documents approved by a quorum of the Council.</b></li> <li>The “council member” signing the lease with Adams was an unauthorized council member (not an officer, who told Smith “<i>he did not know what he was signing – he was asked to sign by his father, so he signed</i>”).</li> </ul>

Jack Barnwell also made errors in his 9.15.2023 article [Tetlin Native Corporation contests mineral lease over ManhChoh project.](#)

The most glaring of these errors was...

THE NEWS MINER SAYS	THE TNCORP PRESS RELEASE SAYS
<p>Smith said a lawsuit was filed against Adams and his associates in 1999 in the Alaska state court system. The lawsuit lasted until 2006. <b>TNCorp had requested return of control of the transferred lands</b>, citing that it had not been done “in regular course of business.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was the [dissenting] <b>Shareholders, not the Corporation, who requested the return of the transferred lands</b> under AS 10.06.568. <i>Sale of Assets Not in Regular Course of Business</i></li> </ul>

TNCorp understands there are a lot of “moving pieces” in the issues presented by the KINROSS Manh Choh mining partnership. We also understand that **truth** and **facts** are the key to resolving these issues.

The Corporation proudly states that all statements, as shocking or incredible as they may sound, are factual, credible, and certified with public documentation, the Mineral Lease, government permits, federal SEC filings, correspondence, and certified declarations.

TNCorp has shared much of its documentation with media resources in the hope to educate the public and finally rally champions to assist the ANCSA village corporation in its plight. Standing on truth, TNCorp is debt-free, current on all licensing and taxes but has no staff, no revenue, and no legal representation to meet the challenge of the property infractions imposed on the Corporation’s land. But **the Corporation and its shareholders and many Tetlin tribal members – have hope and belief that there are others who believe in doing the right thing.**

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**TETLIN NATIVE CORPORATION – ANCSA Village Corporation to the Native Village of Tetlin, Alaska**

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