



ANCSA: The Congressional Approach to Alaska Native Ownership

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) marked a new Congressional approach to Federal Indian policy. Unlike the reservation system, Congress sought to empower Alaska's Native people through ANCSA by giving them control over their own land and cash assets received through the settlement. In addition to resolving land claims, ANCSA mandated the creation of socially responsible, for-profit entities, which Congress termed "Alaska Native corporations," tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of their Alaska Native people and communities in perpetuity.

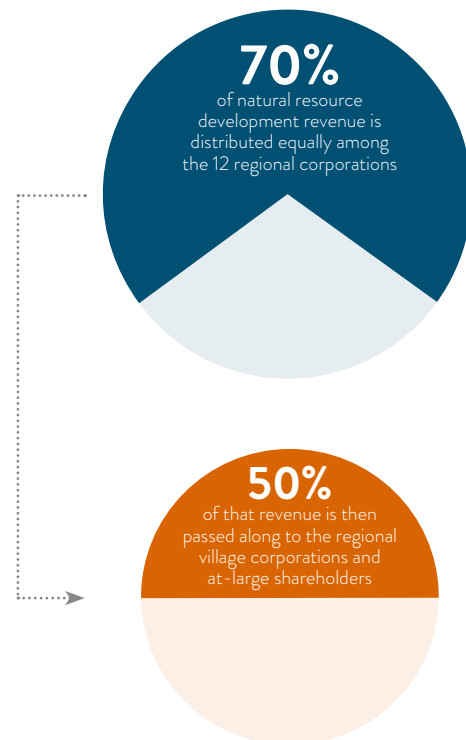
FROM CESSION TO CONGRESS



- 1867**
 The United States purchases Alaska from Russia through the Treaty of Cession.
- 1958**
 Alaska becomes the 49th state through the Statehood Act of 1958.
- 1960s**
 Oil is discovered in Alaska, but proposed pipelines can't be built due to long-unresolved land claims.
- 1971**
 Congress passes ANCSA, extinguishing prior land claims and dividing Alaska into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within the geographic area.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE CORPORATION

Through ANCSA, Congress created the first socially responsible, for-profit corporations.



ANCSA TODAY

In the 50 years since Congress passed ANCSA, Alaska Native people have built successful corporate operations on a foundation of Alaska Native values. Profits from these Alaska Native corporations are used to care for Elders, educate youth, assist communities, create jobs and perpetuate our cultural heritage for generations to come.

