

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2008

For More Information Contact:

Rose Ellis (907) 952-5214

Nelson Angapak (907) 229-9162



AFN Announces Thirteen Winners with Surprise Announcement to Extend Competition

Winners to Split \$300,000 in Seed Money ~ \$300,000 More Still Up For Grabs!

ANCHORAGE: 11 of the 42 Alaskan entrepreneurs competing at the third *Alaska Marketplace Competition* in Anchorage will walk away with a share of \$300,000 in seed money. The *Alaska Marketplace*, an initiative of the Alaska Federation of Natives, is sparking grassroots development in rural villages by funding Alaskans' innovative ideas for new ways to revitalize rural economies from the ground up. Winners hail from a broad range of communities across Alaska.

The 2008 *Alaska Marketplace* theme, "Innovations for Thriving Communities," reflects the Alaska Federation of Natives' ongoing commitment to addressing the most pressing needs of our rural and Alaska Native communities.

"We wanted to capitalize on the excitement generated by this year's competition at the Convention, **so we're calling for another round of proposals due by January 15, 2009,**" said Julie Kitka, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Yesterday, the *Year 3* competitors, who spent months honing their innovative ideas, pitched their business plans and innovative concepts to a respected panel of judges. The judges evaluated participants' concepts according to their innovation, sustainability and profitability, job creation and exemplification of Alaskan cultural heritage. The top vote getters will leave Anchorage with a portion of the seed money to launch their ideas.

The mission of the *Alaska Marketplace* is to stimulate innovation and economic development in rural Alaskan communities. Managed by AFN, the *Alaska Marketplace* partners include BP, ConocoPhillips, Denali Commission, Shell, Alyeska, Bristol Bay Native Corporation and NANA Regional Corporation.

For more information about the *Alaska Marketplace*, please visit www.alaskamarketplace.org.

OVER

2008 Alaska Marketplace Winners

A Cut Above Quilting ~ Barbara Ramos ~ Bethel ~ \$46,575.00

Kvichak Organic Produce ~ AlexAnna Salmon ~ Igiugig ~ \$36,900.00

Porcupine River Timber ~ Dacho Alexander ~ Fort Yukon ~ \$30,000.00

The Meyers' Farm: Farming on the Tundra ~ Tim Meyers ~ Bethel ~ \$30,000.00

Forest Firewood ~ Mark Leary ~ Bethel ~ \$29,060.00

C Side Lumber ~ Fred Sagoonick ~ Shaktoolik ~ \$27,945.00

From Shellfish Subsistence to Sustainable Farming ~ Marie Bader ~ Homer ~ \$27,945.00

Cup'ik Dance Songs of the Tundra ~ Dr. John F. Pingayak ~ Chevak ~ \$25,000.00

The Dugout ~ Louise Walcott ~ Nome ~ \$18,630.00

Southeast Alaska Livestock Production & Processing ~ Clint Daniels ~ Sitka ~ \$18,630.00

Tundra Woodworks ~ Patrick Hall ~ Chevak ~ \$9,315.00

Peoples' Choice Award Winners ~ Chosen by the Public ~ \$1,000 Each

Sponsored by Old Harbor Corporation, Tatitlek Corporation & NANA Regional Corporation

Best Display ~ A Cut Above Quilting ~ Barbara Ramos ~ Bethel

Most Innovative ~ Birch Water ~ Martin Kelly ~ Pilot Station

Best Example of Culture & Traditional Values ~ Yupik Arts ~ Cecilia Frenze, Delta Junction

For more information about the *Alaska Marketplace*, please visit www.alaskamarketplace.org.

**For More Information Contact:
Rose Ellis (907) 952-5214
Nelson Angapak (907) 229-9162**

#