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### **For Immediate Release**

**ANCHORAGE** – Nils Andreassen has been named Managing Director of the Institute of the North, replacing Ben Ellis who has resumed his career as a consultant.

In making the announcement, former Governor Walter J. Hickel, the institute’s chairman and founder, thanked Ellis for his accomplishments in advancing the goals of the institute during the past six years.

“I am grateful for Ben’s efforts to improve the connections among all people in the North,” Hickel said. “I wish him well in his future endeavors.”

Andreassen has served as the Dialogue Coordinator for the institute and is known for his efforts to engage emerging leaders and to communicate Alaska’s unique Owner State. He has a degree in Peace and Development from the University of Bradford and has spent time abroad in Africa, Japan and Europe. Since moving to Alaska, Andreassen has worked in rural Alaska through RurAL CAP and has been an adjunct professor at the University of Alaska. He currently serves on the board of directors for Commonwealth North.

“I am excited about the potential that exists for the Institute of the North to strengthen and expand our existing relationships in the Arctic, as well as to continue to develop and explore the unique role Alaska has as an Owner State,” said Andreassen.

Ellis will continue to serve as a consultant to the institute for the International Arctic Fisheries Symposium, to be held in Anchorage Oct. 19-21.

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Founded by former Secretary of the Interior and twice governor of Alaska, Walter J. Hickel, the Institute of the North specializes in how to utilize and care for the resource-rich commons for the benefit of those living in the region. Areas of special study include Alaska, the many regions of the Arctic and other areas of the world with sparse populations yet wealthy in human cultures and natural resources. [www.institutenorth.org](http://www.institutenorth.org)