



For Immediate Release:

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Hickel's Institute of the North will Continue His Legacy

The passing of one of Alaska's greatest statesmen has left its mark on the Institute of the North. As the organization's founder, Walter J. Hickel invested in it his time, resources and energy over the past 15 years. The staff, senior fellows and Board of Directors - as well as the thousands of Alaskans who have participated in the Alaska Dialogue series, seminars and other Institute activities - will greatly miss him.

The Institute of the North is committed to honoring Governor Walter J. Hickel's legacy.

His vision, passion and commitment to the people of Alaska are core components of the Institute's mission. Even more, his strong belief that Alaska should play a leadership role in the Arctic and in connecting Arctic peoples is a center-point of the Institute's Arctic programs.

Governor Hickel spoke many times of the Alaska Commons. The Institute is honored to continue to build on what commons management means to Alaskans and the world. Hickel believed that if the commons were managed for the good of all, there would be no good reason for poverty on this earth.

A more recent focus of the Institute has been on Alaska's young leaders. Governor Hickel's single message to those Alaskans who will lead this state into the future was that they must understand the obligations of ownership. Alaska is to be invested in and cared for. Each of us has unique obligations and responsibilities that come with being citizens. Hickel commended to the Institute the need to convey to all Alaskans those responsibilities.

The Institute of the North has a strong board of directors that is actively engaged in the Institute's mission, programs and fiscal foundation. The board has spent the past few months preparing to transition to a new structure that best reflects Alaska's interests and opportunities.

It is not easy for any organization to lose its founder. The Institute has benefited from Governor Hickel's investment and is looking at a future built upon a strong legacy, even as we accept new challenges and address the changing dynamics that make Alaska great.

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