



Walter Sampson President, Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly

Long-time NANA employee Walter Sampson is vice president of NANA's new Department of Lands & Regional Affairs. Sampson has been with NANA for more than 35 years and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in land selection and the protection of traditional subsistence rights.

In his new position, Sampson works to fulfill the vision of the department by maximizing the benefits from NANA's resource base while protecting NANA lands, the environment, and the subsistence culture. He oversees NANA's resource activities within the region, including Red Dog Mine — the largest producer of zinc in the world and a major asset of the corporation. He also directs and enforces NANA's land policies and guides NANA's land selection process to ensure that NANA and the 11 villages within its region receive lands entitled under ANCSA from the federal government.

Sampson also serves as a liaison to the Red Dog Subsistence Committee, an advisory committee created under the agreement between NANA and Teck to ensure protection of the resources in and around the mine activities. He also plays a major role in helping the NANA villages communicate with state, federal and local agencies. He works closely with shareholder individuals and groups to assist them in resolving problems that affect the local community such as land management, training, and employment.

Sampson was born in the village of Noorvik, Alaska and came to NANA in June 1973. He served in the U.S. Army for two years, and spent 12 months in Vietnam with the Americal Division combat infantry unit. He was awarded two bronze star medals, one Army commendation medals, a Vietnam service medal, a National Defense medal, a Vietnam campaign medal, and a combat infantry badge for his service.

For the past two decades, Sampson has participated in various federal and state boards or commissions to promote shareholder interests, and he continues to have extensive involvement in organizations that impact the NANA region. He is currently president of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly, chair of the Kobuk Valley Resource Commission, and treasurer of the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative. Sampson also plays a central role in search and rescue efforts within the region, serving as commander of the Kotzebue Squadron Civil Air Patrol.