



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Policy & Planning and Assessment & Evaluation Committee Report
August 25, 2006**

The Policy & Planning and Assessment & Evaluation Committee have met only twice since the AWIB meeting in February. Neither meeting had sufficient member attendance to establish a quorum. Emails were sent out to members seeking ideas for the committee to take up as priorities. Committee priorities have been identified and include:

1. Improving communications with Regional Advisory Councils (RAC's);
2. Developing a list of priority industries; and,
3. Increasing outreach travel efforts by AWIB members to more communities.

Improving communications with RAC's

Letters were sent out in July to RAC's describing the AWIB's efforts to improve coordination and communication between the AWIB and RAC's. The letter described the AWIB's current priority to engage with the councils to make better investment decisions at both the regional and statewide levels, and the intention to provide a conduit with the councils for the sharing of information about local employers, development projects and regional workforce issues. It's the intent of the committee to improve this communication with the RAC's as the link between the workforce investment system, economic development system and the RAC's will help to maximize the effectiveness of state training expenditures. RAC's receiving the letter include the North Slope, Interior Alaska, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough RAC's, Southeast Conference, Northwest Arctic Regional Conference Committee, Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference and the Kenai Peninsula Development Coalition. Responses have been received from the Northwest Arctic Regional Conference Committee, North Slope Regional Council, and the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference.

Developing a list of Priority Industries

The occupational forecast (raw data) is scheduled for completion by the first part of September with an analysis of the data completed in time for the October TRENDS magazine. Upon receiving the occupational forecast data, Research and Analysis distills the information and comes up with a Best Bets scenario of occupations based on certain criteria such as salary, growth, number of jobs available, etc. It is then up to the committee to assess and develop the Priority Industry list with regards to what they are, how many there will be and whether the Priority Industry list will be ranked.

Increasing outreach travel efforts by AWIB members to more communities

Visiting One-Stops and the communities they serve will be an effort by the AWIB to put a face to the Board to let rural Alaskans know about the AWIB. The intent is for teams of a couple of AWIB members to travel to locales to see first-hand the workforce system needs and concerns of the numerous communities off the road system. The Board's FY07 discretionary budget includes funds that can be used for this purpose to better communicate the mission of the AWIB to the public as well as bring relevant information back to members.