## ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

## News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2006 PFD application period opens Monday, Jan. 2

JUNEAU – The 2006 PFD application period will open on Tuesday, January 2 and PFD Division Director Sharon Barton encourages Alaskans to apply for their PFD online promptly, on or after January 2. "Alaskans who are registered with the myAlaska program online at www.pfd.state.ak.us can also electronically sign their applications to save mailing costs and time," Barton said.

Alaskans who are not already registered with the myAlaska program can go to the PFD website to set up an account and learn more about the electronic signature program. To set up an account, a person must have a valid Alaska driver's license or identification card and have been approved for a dividend in 2005.

Adults who have a myAlaska account can apply online and electronically sign their children's dividend applications. Those who do not set up a myAlaska account can still apply online but are required to send a paper signature page to the division.

PFD dividend information offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau will be open on January 2 to assist applicants. Applicants in other areas can call the division's toll-free number 1-800-733-8813 for assistance. Barton also encouraged applicants needing information to email the PFD Division at Dividend Information@revenue.state.ak.us for assistance.

PFD Chief of Operations Paul Dick said the division expects to receive about 325,000 applications online this year, up from 211,000 online applications received last year.

"The online application is secure and more efficient for processing dividend applications," Dick said. "Applicants who apply online receive immediate confirmation that their application was received by the division and they can check the status of their application thereafter online."

Barton emphasized that the PFD Division will have an early direct deposit this year as an incentive for Alaskans to apply online in January and also to select direct deposit.

The first direct deposit will be October 4, 2006 for applicants who apply online in January and qualify for direct deposit. The second direct deposit will be October 19 for all others who qualify for direct deposit. Persons who choose to be paid by check will receive their dividends in mid-November.

"Our records from last year indicate that Alaskans from every community received direct deposit and those from all but four communities applied online," Barton said. "The division will work with applicants from all areas of the state to assist them with the online application and direct deposit."

Barton said every dollar spent to administer the PFD program comes directly out of the dollars available for dividends. "At least \$450,000 could be saved every year if all Alaskans used online application and direct deposit for their PFDs," she added.

Application booklets will be delivered to Alaska households or post office boxes on January 3. Dick estimated that the PFD Division will receive approximately 630,000 dividend applications this year.

The 2006 PFD application period closes March 31, 2006. The 2006 dividend amount will be announced in September.

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