

# Justice conference to be in Alaska

by **Alexandra J. McClanahan**  
*Tundra Times publisher*

Alaska isn't alone in facing the difficult problem of how to integrate a Western justice system with a predominantly Native rural society. Greenland and Canada share similar problems and in some cases have found different answers.

Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia, has united the three nations since 1983 in an education and information network for those involved in the delivery of justice services across the North called the Northern Justice Society. The society has held conferences in Yellowknife, Valdor, White Horse

and Thompson, Canada.

The society's board of directors is currently headed by Capt. Glenn G. Godfrey of the Alaska State Troopers.

Godfrey is currently involved in planning the first conference to be held in Alaska, which will be April 7-13, 1991, in Sitka.

*continued on page twelve*

# • Justice conference

continued from page one

The theme will be "Self-sufficiency in Northern Justice Issues," and Godfrey said he expects the issue of sovereignty to be one of the major discussion topics of the conference.

The captain hopes that the conference will for the first time attract participation from people of the Soviet north. He said the four nations can all offer each other much in the way of experiences in dealing with northern justice.

For example, Godfrey said the Alaska Village Public Safety Officer program has been well received by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and that the RCMP has been requesting information about how it works, considering a similar system for the Canadian Arctic.

And he predicted that Alaska's local option system for alcohol control in rural villages will be discussed in detail at the conference in Sitka.

"That's a perfect example of self-sufficiency," he said.

Godfrey said attendance at the conference will be limited to about 300 people. He said anyone interested in the justice system is invited to participate.

Those who want more information may contact the society's office: Northern Justice Society, c/o Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6; telephone, (604) 291-3792. People may also contact Godfrey at his office in Anchorage, 269-5647.

