

# Native cultural group seeks support

To the Editor:

I am Michael D. John, and I am the treasurer for the Alaska Native Cultural Group.

I'm writing to express my views and opinion on the Alaska Native Cultural Group at the Fairbanks Correctional Center.

The reason I want this group so I could know my culture, then others could share theirs.

At V.C.C. the inmates want to know their culture too but the Administration is blocking the formation of this group.

The group has research being compiled by Alaska Legal Services for the group.

This is the only facility within the State that has no Native Cultural Group. Why?

The chairman of the group has been working on this group, for formation, approximately 6 months. We have been denied recognition by the Superintendent, L. Caldron of

F.C.C.

The inmates lost their freedom, but that should not mean that they lose their culture and identity.

The group has some support letters from senators, groups and organizations. The chairman had support letters from these people, and they disappeared from his living area. Those letters have not been found or returned.

Every Monday evening the group has a meeting, so we could talk about why we want and need the Cultural Group. We see films, slides and movies about different cultures in Alaska. Preceding the films, we have the singing and drumming on the sacred drum.

We also attempt to invite guests and/or speakers. The group is very happy to see these people to come and share their own time with us. I'm participating in the group by introducing these guests or speakers. It makes me feel

good to do this because I'm involved with the group.

In the last meeting we spoke about writing letters to Representatives and Senators, so we can get continued support for us to function here. It'll help the group now, more than before.

We would like to get this group going so that we could have more projects and programs for us in here, other than lying around all day.

So when we get out we could have some people assist us, when we return to society, so we won't come back to an institution.

And this is why I feel that we should have this Native Culture Group, so that our Pride, Heritage and Culture will continue to live even within the prison walls. We need the real people's support for F.C.C., Alaska Native Cultural Group.

All my relations,  
Michael D. John