

Film focuses on struggle with alcohol

A film was shown during the Alaska Federation of Natives annual youth and elders conferences that told the true story of one Canadian Indian tribe's successful struggle to combat alcoholism in their community.

The film, "The Honour of All," was viewed by more than 500 people of all ages in the Anchorage Hilton Hotel.

Afterwards, the group was encouraged to express the powerful emotions brought out by the film.

Young and old alike told stories of personal tragedy: the loss of parents, brothers and sisters and other loved ones. Tears were evident on the faces of many people who had viewed the film, though they mostly spoke of hope the film had instilled in them and the sense of relief they felt.

"If the people of my village were suffering from a disease," one woman from the Elders Conference said after the film, "you would send the medicine we needed. Please, send this movie to my village!"

The film is a two-part educational docu-drama that recreates the story of

The Sixth Annual Statewide Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Symposium will be held Nov. 17-19 at the Egan Convention Center

the Alkali Lake Indian Band's heroic struggle to overcome alcohol abuse. Between 1971 and 1985, the Alkali Lake Band went from an alcoholism rate nearing 100 percent to being 95 percent sober.

"The Honour of All" dramatically portrays the painfully slow road back to sobriety. It has given hope to Native people throughout North America that with love, community support and forgiveness, individual lives can be reclaimed and communities can be restored to productivity.

This month, Andy and Phyllis Chelsea, around whom much of the action of the film focuses, will come to Alaska at the invitation of the Alaska Council on Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse for their Sixth Annual Statewide Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Symposium.

The event will be at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Nov. 17-19.

A two-day gathering will take place prior to the symposium itself on Nov. 15 and 16. Participating in the gather-

ing, which includes a potlatch, music, dancing and sharing of information on the prevention of alcohol abuse in Alaska and Canada, will be the members of the Alkali Lake Band, representatives from the Alaska Council and Four Worlds Development Project.

The Four Worlds Development Project is an organization whose goal is the elimination of alcohol and drug abuse on every reserve in Canada by the year 2000. More information can be obtained by calling Marcia Michel at the Alaska Council, 349-6602.

"The Honour of All" is available through the Alkali Lake Band for \$300, which includes shipping and handling.

The production is a full-color, high fidelity videotape available in VHS, Beta and 3/4-inch formats. Prepayments or purchase orders should be sent to: Alkali Lake Indian Band, Box 4479, Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada V2G 2V5. Those ordering should indicate what format they prefer.