

Cesar named head of BIA; Lund to rejoin SEARHC

Niles Cesar, president of Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corp., has been named director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Juneau Office. The office administers BIA programs for all of Alaska.

Former SEARHC president Ethel Lund will rejoin the Native health corporation next month as its new president.

Cesar was appointed to the SEARHC presidency earlier this year when Lund resigned to accept a position as deputy director of the state Fish and Game Subsistence Division.

Cesar, who has been with SEARHC since 1979, previously served as the organization's executive vice president. In his new position he will be one of 12 BIA regional directors nationwide.

After meeting with the SEARHC board last week, Lund agreed to again head the corporation. Lund served as president from 1977 to 1989. She said she will leave her post early next month to return to SEARHC.

Cesar said that while his new BIA job will involve him in many of the same issues facing Native people in the state, it will be more encompassing than his current position.

"Subsistence, employment and

education are all related to the health of our people," he said.

With his SEARHC background he said he will be able to better coordinate the BIA human services program with the Native health programs run by the Indian Health Service and its contracts.

Cesar said he is confident that he will be returning the presidency to Lund with the organization in excellent shape. SEARHC, he said, has made progress in several areas this year, foremost of which has been the growth of the Raven's Way program.

The program, formerly called the Adolescent Residential Treatment Center, is a new youth substance abuse treatment program that focuses on personal growth and on building self-esteem.

Cesar said he will give up his position on the Sealaska Board of Directors before taking on his new BIA job. However, he added, he plans to continue to serve on two federal advisory groups, the Native American Veterans Coordinating Council and the Indian Self-Determination Task Force.

Cesar said he will stay on with SEARHC until Sept. 21, in order to provide for a smooth transition with the new president.