

Native Justice Center receives CIRI grant

The newly-established Alaska Native Justice Center has received a critical financial boost in the form of a \$25,000 grant from Cook Inlet Region Inc.

The center, which is expected to need about \$300,000 annually to fulfill its mission, has been created to advocate for the rights of Native victims of violent crime, and to ensure that the rights of Native defendants moving through the judicial system are protected in accordance with the law.

"It's important to keep moving ahead with this project," said Roy Huhndorf, CIRI president and a prime sponsor of the center. "The first order of business

will be to call a planning meeting of the full board in early October in order to develop a strategic plan for the center. We plan to be operational by year's end."

Huhndorf said a full board consisting of 30-40 directors drawn from Native corporations as well as the broader public and private business sector will oversee the center.

The Alaska Native Justice Center incorporated last May in response to a continuing pattern of violence against Alaska Natives and a perception of indifference on the part of the state's law enforcement and judicial systems.