

## ***This just in***

Two more Alaska Natives have been appointed by Governor Tony Knowles. Athabascan Karen Perdue, Fairbanks, has been appointed as Commissioner of Health and Social Services and Tlingit Albert Kookesh, Angoon, has been named rural liaison.

Perdue served as Deputy Commissioner of the department during the Cowper Administration (1985-1990). Previously, she served as director of the Division of Community Development in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Health and Social Services is the second largest department of state government, with 2,000 employees and a budget of approximately \$800 million. The agency is responsible for providing health care and social services, especially for those most at risk: the disabled, the poor, the elderly, juvenile offenders, and children and adults in danger. The department includes the divisions of Family and Youth Services, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Public Assistance, and Public Health.

Kookesh will serve as Knowles' link between the administration and rural Alaska. He will also advise the Knowles/Ulmer Administration on rural policy matters.

Kookesh served on the board of directors for Sealaska Corporation for six terms, is the current chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives, has served as chief executive officer of Kootznoowoo, Inc. of Angoon, and secretary and president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. He is a commercial salmon and halibut fisherman, and owner/operator of a hunting and fishing lodge and market in Angoon.