

# New Director at Cook Inlet Association

Jake Lestenkoff, formerly vice-president for land claims at the Alaska Federation of Natives, is the new executive director of the Cook Inlet Native Association.

Lestenkoff was selected October 13 by the CINA Board of Directors, a week after former CINA President/Executive Director Jeanmarie Larson was re-

moved.

Board members were reluctant to discuss what was apparently a close vote on Larson's removal. One director acknowledged that the action was very abrupt but said it in no way reflected on Larson's character or her capabilities.

The board also decided to split the positions of president

and executive director. The executive director will be responsible for running the day-to-day operations of CINA programs. The president will serve as a conduit between the executive director and the board. Walter Riley has been named acting president of CINA until several seats on the 15-member board are filled.

Jim Sinnett, personnel director for CINA, commented on the leadership change at CINA:

"The change was not as abrupt as it might appear. It was contemplated for some time. The synopsis is that this is a change in administration to meet the needs of programs and increase management efficiency."

Sinnett said CINA's rapid

growth in the last year made it necessary to look for an executive director "substantially more experienced." He said CINA program funding has increased from \$1.5 million administered last year to a projected \$5.5 million this year; employees have jumped from 65 to 105 and CINA has expanded into an ad-

(Continued on page 8)

# **C.I.N.A. . . .**

**(Continued from page 1)**

**ditional office building.**

Sinnet also said the board has directed that CINA policy development should involve villages in the Cook Inlet Region to a greater extent.

The Tundra Times has been unable to contact Jeanmarie Larson for comment.