

# ***This just in***

Athabaskan Mike Irwin has been appointed by Governor Tony Knowles to be commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Irwin's experience in communities from Southeast Alaska to north of the Arctic Circle stems from positions with Sealaska Corporation, Doyon, Limited, Tlingit & Haida Central Council, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Federation of Natives, and the Alaska Natives Commission.

The Department of Community and Regional Affairs is responsible for providing financial, technical and program assistance to local governments at the community and regional level. The department administers the municipal assistance and state revenue sharing programs, the Alaska Coastal Management Program and Local Boundary Commission, the Rural Economic Development Initiative, Job Training Partnership Act, and Head Start.