

Canadian raises fears about ANWR

by Steve Pilkington

for the Tundra Times

Canadian George Whitman, former minister's special representative for the Canadian Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, told Alaskans Thursday that he has some fears about opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development.

The Canadian biologist spoke at the University of Alaska Anchorage about

(Continued on Page Ten)

• Oil development in ANWR

(Continued from Page One)

the impacts of oil development in the North.

Whitman said his fears stem from the changes which could result from the opening of ANWR to oil drilling.

"I abhor that term 'develop,' " he said, indicating that to him the term generally means the use of southern trained workers who live and work in the North until the oil dries up and then move on to other places.

Whitman focused his remarks on the social and cultural changes that industrial development has made in the Canadian North and his belief that the same could happen in Alaska.

"The coming of non-Natives has largely invalidated Native lifestyles by denying the Native claim to the land," Whitman said about the Canadian North.

He described some of the social disruptions which took place when a large mine was constructed in Canada.

"The leadership of at least a dozen Arctic communities was utterly destroyed," he said.

Whitman said Interior Secretary

Donald Hodel stated earlier this year that Canada was opposed to the opening of ANWR because Canadians wanted to sell their oil to the United States.

Five other lectures will be given weekly by prominent Canadians who will speak at the university in cooperation with a new Canadian studies program UAA has created.