

Carlos Frank conviction reversed

The Alaska Supreme Court has reversed the 1977 conviction of Athabascan Indian Carlos Frank of Minto on charges of illegally taking a moose out of season.

The conviction had been upheld by a Superior Court Judge in Fairbanks in 1978.

Frank had been arrested and convicted for killing a cow moose out of season for a funeral potlatch for another Minto Indian.

He appealed the conviction on religious grounds, arguing that Athabascan spiritual beliefs required villagers to take a moose after a death in the village in or-

der to have fresh moose meat available for a funeral potlatch.

The State Supreme Court, in a decision announced last week, agreed with Frank's arguments and ordered the conviction reversed. The Court also recommended that state game regulations be modified to take into account the religious tradition of the Athabascan funeral potlatch.