

**Women's conference to be held in Bethel:**

# Rural participation anticipated

The first Regional Women's Conference, "Having A Voice" will be held in Bethel, Alaska, on October 9, 10, and 11. The conference is being jointly sponsored by the Native Women of Calista, Tundra Women's Coalition, Association of Village Council Presidents, Social Services Department, Alaska Humanities Forum and Alaska Commission on the Status of Women. The conference is expected to draw more than 150 participants from throughout Southwestern Alaska.

The primary purpose of the conference is to meet, listen, speak, share, and identify areas of concern to women and the community at large; and to build the skills women need for more effective leadership.

Three days of workshops will cover a variety of topics from the problems of working parents to how alcohol threatens the family, from the changing roles of men in the family to assessing the effects of law, institutions and agencies on the individual and family.

Heading the list of more than a dozen speakers is Dr. Billie Nave Masters, Native American educator, who will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Masters is currently Director of Teacher Education at the University of California, Irvine. She, as well as all other guest speakers for the conference, was chosen for her experience and

knowledge in the multiplicity of issues confronting women and all family members today.

Kuskokwim Community College will serve as the meeting site. Visiting participants and

guest speakers will be lodged in various homes throughout the community.

In conjunction with the conference, the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women will

hold its fall meeting in Bethel. This joint gathering will afford many rural Alaskans their first direct contact with the commission.

"Having A Voice" is more than a catch phrase for the conference. It represents the grow-

ing force that will be felt as the population majority — women — begin to speak together.

For further information, contact Tundra Women's Coalition, Box 1034, Bethel, Alaska 99559 or phone 543-3455.