

Tlingit-Haida Central Council Accepts \$7.5 Million Judgment

The Tlingit and Haida Central Council held a special convention last weekend and voted to accept the \$7.5 million, the figure set by the Court of Claims for the Tlingit-Haida land claims.

"The Central Council is on record expressing its deep disappointment as to the amount of award made by the Court of Claims for those areas of land and water and resources taken from the Tlingit and Haida Indians by United States and believe the award is grossly inadequate," said John Borbridge, president of the Central Council.

The council, however, decided to accept the award seeing little chance of getting favorable judgment if it appeals.

"Chances of obtaining grant of writ of certiorari is uncertain since information shows that the Supreme Court has granted petitions in one out of 20 cases where was sought and the percentage of success is less in Indian land claims cases," said Borbridge.

He said the council has decided to use the money that will be available to, "Number one, it is urgent necessity to take prompt steps to protect rights of Tlingit and Haida Indians in 2,628,207 acres of land in Southeast Alaska to which Court of Claims decided title of said Indians had survived (Indians title not extinguished).

"Number two," Borbridge continued, "is the pressing need to take action as promptly as possible to safeguard interests of Tlingit and Haida Indians in connection with the proposed legislation being considered by Congress pertaining to Alaska native groups of Alaska.

"Number three is the impelling need to adopt and

place in early operation programs and measures designed to advance economic and social well-being of Tlingit and Haida Indians."

These will be the main point to be considered when the council meets in Juneau on April 25-26-27.