

Chugach Natives look for change in leadership

FROM OUR ANCHORAGE BUREAU

An apparent power struggle between Chugach Natives President Cecil Barnes and the corporation's Board of Directors may result in a new president when stockholders hold their annual meeting Oct. 13-15 in Anchorage.

A source close to the regional corporation, which represents close to 2,000 shareholders in the Prince William Sound area, told the Tundra Times Barnes has been offered the honorary position of president-emeritus. The transfer of position would mean Barnes would give up his corporate duties as president, be retained by the corporation as a paid consultant for some time, and become an ex-officio member of the board of directors. The source said Barnes has been offered a retaining fee of \$30,000 a year for 10 years to accept the position.

Barnes in turn must agree not to seek reelection as president of the corporation or to the board of directors.

A long brewing difference over corporate policies and directions between Barnes and the board came to a head recently when two Barnes supporters resigned. Appointed to fill the vacancies on the Chugach Native board were Dale Evenoff of Chenega and Richard Janson of Anchorage, also president of the Alaska Native Foundation.

Barnes, currently on vacation and unavailable for comment, has been president of Chugach Natives since its incorporation following passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.