

# Tlingit/Haida Central Council may hold convention in April

by **Laury Roberts Scandling**

Juneau correspondent

The regional tribal organizations which provide social services to Natives in Southeast is considering moving its annual autumn convention up six months.

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians, which represents about 17,000 constituents, may hold its convention in April instead of October, according to executive director, Ed Thomas.

"We're investigating it thoroughly," he said. Delegates from 17 Southeast communities will decide the issue in mid-February. The earlier date is being looked at because the

usual October convention comes during an already crowded calendar for Natives. Regional and village corporation meetings as well as ceremonial potlatches are traditionally conducted during September and October.

If a Tlingit and Haida convention is held this April it would mean funding two sessions in the same budget year. It costs T&H about \$90,000 per annual meeting. Thus, the council is considering waiting until next year to make the change. However, that would result in the council going for nearly 18 months without a full convention.