

Subsistence, sovereignty

NCAI to meet in Fairbanks

by Holly F. Reimer

Tundra Times reporter

The National Congress of American Indians' mid-year conference, "Sovereignty and Subsistence — Cornerstones of Our Culture," will be held in Fairbanks this week.

The conference is from Tuesday through Friday and is being held at the Eagles Hall.

Neither NCAI's mid-year nor annual conference has ever been held in Fairbanks. A spokesman from Tanana Chiefs Conference, which is helping with coordination and organization, said more than 350 people are expected to attend.

Will Mayo, who is the director of village government services at TCC and also NCAI's Alaska area vice-president, said notices about the con-

ference were sent to every village profit and non-profit organization in the state earlier this month in conference recruiting efforts.

He said this conference will give participants a chance to take a close look at issues affecting Alaska Natives and also the opportunity to get involved with various national issues

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concerning American Indians as well as Alaska Natives.

"The mid-year conference is an informational, sharing meeting, a report card sort of thing," he said during a recent telephone conversation.

He said the mid-year NCAI meeting is a good time to check on the previous annual meeting's success toward accomplishing its goals.

Panel discussions during the conference will include tribal sovereignty and its legal status, the subsistence issue, sovereignty and jurisdiction, new federalism, the Indian Child Welfare Act, health issues, education and other discussions.

Doyon Ltd. and the Fairbanks Native Association are also helping with organizational and coordination efforts.