

# WCIP helps ICC fund Berger study

The World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP has now joined the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) in sponsoring the Alaska Native Review Commission which is being conducted by former Canadian Supreme Court Justice Thomas R. Berger.

On Dec. 13 the WCIP unanimously endorsed a motion by Goerge Manuel of Canda to join the ICC in sponsoring the "Berger Commission." Aslak Nils Sara from Norway seconded the motion by Manuel to place the full weight of the

WCIP behind the ICC and Berger.

Berger has conducted three previous royal commissions in Canada. He is probably best known for the work that he did with the MacKenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry in the Canadian Arctic. He is internationally respected for the integrity of his work on aboriginal rights.

"We are very fortunate in having Justice Berger come to Alaska to conduct the Alaska Native Review Commission," says Oscar Kawagley, ICC Executive Councilman, "and we

are pleased that the World Council has joined us in sponsoring the Commission. Everyone realizes the importance of the issues confronting us in Alaska. Receiving the full support of the World Council is a real blessing."

"Certainly everyone knows the caliber of Justice Berger's work," continued Kawagley. "The work he is doing for us

here is vital not only to Alaskans; it is important for the indigenous community worldwide."

The Alaska Native Review Commission was first established by the ICC in July, 1983, to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the experience of Alaska Natives since the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of

1971. The Commission established offices in Anchorage in September and is preparing for village meetings and more formal hearings throughout the state in 1984 and 1985.

Both the World Council of Indigenous Peoples and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference are consultative members in the United Nations' Economic and Social Council.