

# Youth & Justice Report released

A 507-page report on Alaska's youth and their needs was released by the governor's office on Nov. 4.

The report comes from Gov. Knowles' Conference on Youth and Justice, a year-long effort by appointed people on how best to deal with youth crime, prevention of juvenile crime and how to identify and help at-risk youth.

The conference was co-chaired by Attorney General Bruce Botelho and Health and Social Services Commissioner Karen Perdue.

The report makes more than 100 recommendations and will be available this week at state libraries and at the governor's offices.

"This is an important step for Alaska," Knowles said in a prepared statement.

"The report stresses the point that solutions must include greater individual and community responsibility for Alaska's youth."

Knowles will review the recommendations and decide which to incorporate into the fiscal 1998 budget proposal to be presented to the legislature.

Some of the recommendations of the conference are measures to help the state punish the chronic juvenile offenders, working with state, local governments and Native organizations to deal with minor juvenile offenses and the continuation of the National Guard Youth Corps.

Other recommendations include expansion of early childhood learning services and urging parents to become involved in their children's lives.