

# Johnson Opens THIA Office

Walter Johnson, 46, was named as Community Liaison Officer to open the first office of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Anchorage (THIA).

Eric Morrison, president of THIA made the announcement last week. The office is at 670 West Fireweed, in the Cook Inlet Native Association building.

Morrison said Johnson was selected because of his experience in corporation work to acquire funds to "move the position from a temporary one into a permanent position," and also someone that can identify with the Tlingit and Haida culture.

Morrison said the Anchorage chapter has grown very fast, but the total general membership has not been officially tallied. "That is part of Mr. Johnson's job to register all tribal members in the area," he added.

Johnson's position is being funded by the Tlingit and Haida Central Council and Sealaska Native Corporation, Morrison said. "So we'll be serving as an information center for Sealaska's shareholders in Anchorage, and also we have a corporative agreement with CINA to share information."

"This is the first opportunity I've had to work for my people," said Johnson. "All these years our people always had to call the Central Council, of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes in Juneau, and CINA was helping out some of us. But now we are going to have a place that our people can

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# OFFICE OPENS

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get direct assistance when they need it."

Johnson said his preliminary information shows there are 670 registered voters in the Anchorage area who are of the tribe, and that number will probably top 1,500 members after adding children and non-registered voters.

Johnson and wife Leona Marie have four children: Leanne, 11; Junior, 7; Marcus, 6; Emma, 5.

THIA holds regular monthly meetings at the CINA building every second Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m. The new office is opened from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. The telephone number is 278-4641.