

# Tlingits/Haidas on the job

There are now more than 550 members of the Tlingit and Haida tribes working in CETA Title VI jobs in Southeastern Alaska, according to Raymond E. Paddock, Jr., president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska.

In March of this year, the unemployment rate among Alaskan Natives in Southeastern was an astronomical 60 percent. Central Council's Manpower Division received \$4.7 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to address the problem. Paddock stated, "While we have been most successful with this program, we still have a long way to go. For each person in a CETA job, there are nine others still seeking work, and we have to do something for them."

The impact of these funds and jobs varies with each community, Paddock stated. Robert Sanderson, mayor of Hydaburg, informed Paddock that his community is now experiencing "practically full employment" due in large part to the Tlingit and Haida CETA jobs. More than one out of every 10 residents of the village of Klawock is working in a CETA position.

In conclusion, Paddock praised his staff for their extra effort to get so many people on the payroll before Christmas, and felt positive that the unemployment situation among the Tlingit and Haida people would continue to improve.