

# Tribal employment is focus of conference

by Steve Kakaruk

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The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. this year is sponsoring the Council for Tribal Employment Rights (CTER) the Eighth Annual Basic Tribal Employment Rights Organization (TERO) and Implementation Course.

CTER is an Indian owned non-profit organization. There are over 60 entities across the Nation involved with the CTER. Founded in 1978 as the Tribal Employment Rights Planning Committee (TERPC), 12 TERO's began their first organizational work. Today over 60 TERO's have joined in the ranks. TERPC changed their title in 1982 to the Council of Tribal Employment Rights instead of TERPC. The eight-member board of directors are from five regions including; Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, the Northern Plains, Southwest and Eastern United States.

The CTER and the TERO's it represents are dedicated to ensuring the maximum utilization of Indian people in all areas of employment, business, and training opportunities on and off Indian Reservations. CTER and TERO's provide Indian Employment Rights that are sovereign and protected rights just as are the hunting and fishings rights for Indians.

The primary goals provided by the TERO workshops and program implementation course is to help Native people understand and overcome the barriers which have prevented their participation in social and economic self-sufficiency.