

# Tlingit, Haida youth support rec centers

During the Tlingit and Haida Youth Conference held April 19 in Juneau, a resolution was submitted to the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida to create Native Youth Recreation Centers and Personal Development Enhancement Programs.

The youths' reasons for the recreation centers included that in some communities the youth don't have a voice in the development of activities; that they needed positive, healthy activities to help them combat drugs and alcohol; that many Southeast communities lack sufficient programs to address these issues; and that proper recreational facilities would allow Native youth to be competitive with non-Native youth socially, intellectually and athletically.

A region-wide Advisory Youth Council was suggested to assist in the creation of the youth centers and in the process of identifying activities and programs.

The resolution was submitted to and ratified by the 54th General Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida.