

# Charles Edwardson Starts Organization

"There is a great lack of awareness among the general public of Alaska natives and their problems," Charles Edwardson told the Tundra Times. "We hope to change that lack of understanding on the socio-economic problems of Alaskan natives through Friends of Alaska Natives."

Edwardson is the president of the newly created Friends of Alaskan Natives, Inc., a private non-profit education and research

oriented corporation which seeks to "coalesce individuals, organizations and groups interested in educating the American public about the history of Alaskan Natives and the significance of their present efforts toward self-determination."

FAN, which has its offices in Washington, D.C., was organized last April for five major purposes. Edwardson outlined them as they appear in the organization's Ar-

(Continued on page 6)

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(continued from page 1)

ticles of Incorporation.

"FAN seeks to promote the development of an enlightened public opinion with respect to Alaskan natives; to provide the public with a fair, accurate and non-partisan presentation of information about the history, the interests and the problems of the Alaskan natives; and to encourage research and the publication of studies with respect to the history, the interests and the problems of Alaskan natives," Edwardson said.

He described two other purposes as "to make use of the various media of communication to disseminate educational information about the Alaskan natives to the public; and to raise funds for the Corporation's affairs from any source, public or private."

Edwardson stated that FAN was in full support of the land settlement sought by Alaskan natives. Commenting on the lack of awareness of Alaska native problems, he concluded, "What we are exerting is public education on Alaska natives."