

# AFN withdraws 1991 amendments

by **A.J. McClanahan**

Tundra Times publisher

Alaska Federation of Natives leaders last week withdrew amendments for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, but spokesmen say negotiations are still continuing with Alaska's congressional delegation.

The AFN leadership requested the withdrawal of the 1991 legislation in order to allow its membership to vote on the Senate version of bill.

"Our procedural options in Congress are severely limited," U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, said recently. "Unless there is a post-election session, there is no way to accommodate a complete review of the 1991 bill at the annual convention and still enact a bill this year."

Murkowski and Sen. Ted Steves, R-Alaska, both said they will work hard to get the new Congress to consider the bill in an expeditious manner next year.

Janie Leask, AFN president, said

AFN has been committed throughout the entire process to bringing any legislation back to regional and village shareholders for final approval.

"We believe those affected directly by the legislation and the changes it includes ought to have a direct say in its passage," Leask said.

Leask expressed hope that the differences can still be worked out in some manner this week.

Major provisions of the 1991 legislation as it now stands include:

- Extending tax protections for undeveloped Native lands beyond

1991.

- Automatically extending stock alienation restrictions on village corporation stock beyond 1991.

- Extending stock restrictions for regional corporations only by a mandatory vote of the shareholders.

- Authorizing Native corporations to include Natives born after 1971 in the claims settlement and providing special benefits to Native elders.

- Authorizing Native corporations to transfer assets to non-corporate entities.