

## Is it worth it?

Why did state commissioner Ted Mala, of Health and Human Services, use program monies to re-decorate his offices recently?

Since our re-start, we have been inundated with requests for employment. Some applicants with Masters' degrees are willing to work for experience or minimum wage. Both Natives and non-Natives, residents and non-residents are finding it tough in the real world. We've heard heart breaking stories of people of all ages, with and without children, without food, unable to buy medicine, unable to meet bills, trying to sell possessions. Others don't have blankets or furniture. They fall through the cracks and are unfamiliar in utilizing the services of state and federal programs.

Maybe the commissioner could spend a week in their shoes. What would he say, that paint or re-furbishing is more important than their day to day existence?