

# RurALCAP's Smith to join ANF study

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Tundra Times Editor

Phil Smith, executive director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RURALCap) for the past six and one-half years, has resigned that position to take a job with the Alaska Native Foundation.

Smith will head the ANF's multi-faced research project into the status of Alaska Natives as of 10 years after the passage of Alaska Native Settlement Claims Act and to do research on what might happen in 1991, when Native Shareholders stock will be available to be sold to Non-Natives.

Smith will "review the effect of the Alaska Native Settlement Claims act for the past 10 years and will review the history of federal programs in Alaska and the expenditure of federal money in Alaska," said Roger Lang president of ANF.

"The question is 'Whether the Native in 1981,'" said Lang and the study was prompted in part by a study the U.S. Department of the Interior is doing on the status of Alaska Natives for 1985.

Lang said the ANF study is being conducted on behalf of the Native profit-making corporations and the village corporations. The Tanana Chiefs

Conference is conducting a similar study for the Native non-profit corporations, he said.

The study is being paid for by a \$250,000 grant from the administration for Native Americans, a federal organization, said Lang.

Lang said he doesn't know if anyone beside Smith will be needed for the massive study but he said he doesn't expect a lot of people to become involved.

Smith was chosen "because he is the most skilled person around and he will be of good service to the ANF."

In his letter of resignation, Smith said his resignation "has been made much easier by my

certain knowledge of the organization's strength and security of Rural Cap. The competence and commitment of the staff coupled with your continued dedication to our principles will take RurAL CAP through what ever uncertainties may lie ahead. Were I not absolutely certain that we will prosper, I would not have considered leaving."

His resignation takes effect Sept. 18 and Lang said he will begin work with ANF in October.

RurALCAP was created in 1964 to serve all areas of Alaska outside the Greater Anchorage Area Borough and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The orga-

nization has since then worked to provide needed services to the Bush areas of Alaska such as counseling services and programs for dealing with alcoholism; energy programs including a weatherization program, fuel loans, research and planning and advocacy; child development programs including Head Start projects and coordination of child care services; and advocacy programs for natural resources and subsistence issues.

Smith said "the real challenge of the new job is to work out a consensus of where Alaska Natives are at and where they

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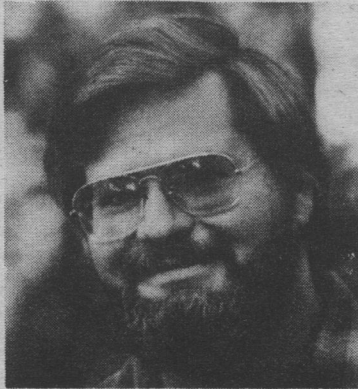
# Smith to study Native status since ANSCA

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ought to be in the next 10 years and how to get there and make sure policy decisions by the state and federal government don't obviate these decisions."

Smith said both federal and state government have the capacity to radically change the lifestyle and quality of living for Natives when decisions are made on any number of things. He cited the transportation policy.

"They could build a network of roads that could cause a



Phil Smith

horrendous impact on Alaska Natives."

"The exciting thing is that I will be able to take the time to do analysis of what's happening. It's a chance to think, to write."

Smith said he is proud of the accomplishments of the agency while he was director and mentions the agency's participation in the subsistence issue, the agency's weatherization program and the contribution the agency made toward encouraging the Native non-profit corporations.