

# Feds show more interest: Lang

The Associated Press

Juneau -- Key leaders in the nation's capital are more familiar and sympathetic with Alaska Native issues than are elected officials in the state, the former president of the Alaska Federation of Natives says.

Roger Lang, a Sealaska Corp. board member and former federation president, said many federal officials have a better understanding of the federal

government's trust relationship with Alaska natives than do Alaska politicians.

Lang is now President of the Alaska Native Foundation.

There's a continual battle here to halt the erosion at the state level of things won in Washington," Lang said in an address to a conference held in Juneau. He spoke at the Governor's Interstate Indian Council, which includes members from most states.

Lang said former Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus "has probably been to 50 native villages in Alaska...Mo Udall, (D-Ariz.) probably has been in 100 villages.

"I'd like to do a roll call of villages to state legislators to see how many they've been to. They know more about us in Washington than they do in Juneau," Lang told the conference.

As an example, Lang cited the troubled Alaska natives are having in protecting the subsistence hunting and fishing provision included in the Alaska Lands Act passed by Congress in 1980.