

"I may not agree with what you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it" —VOLTAIRE

Tundra Times



Tundra Times People's Heritage
It's Kati Nook's Turnout and Reporting

Den Nena Heneh Our Land Speaks
Younger Tundraing the Alena Speak

Yupik Kaniat in the Way Yupik's Talk

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Editorial

AFN Youth Convention

We're pleased to see that the Alaska Federation of Natives has decided to change the way it conducts its annual youth meeting. This year for the first time, the students will be attending a true convention, not just a conference.

We're also pleased to see that AFN is predicting 350 or more students will attend. A turnout of this size gives Native youth a loud voice in the political arena.

Structuring this annual meeting as a convention, and giving students a forum for their ideas and concerns is one of the best ways for them to learn about the political process.

The Alaska Native community faces a number of very serious threats these days, and the divisive 1991 issue is just one of them. What happens during the AFN convention when delegates discuss 1991 legislation now pending in Congress may set the tone for years to come.

Whatever your specific concerns are about the legislation, it must be remembered that 1991 is only a few years away. This deadline is a serious threat to continued Native control and ownership of Native lands and corporations. Once that control is lost, it will be lost forever.

Native youth are truly the leaders of the future, and giving them their own convention is a step in their education and training. It's also important that the students are meeting *before* the AFN convention. The youth will be considering 1991 resolutions, and it's possible that an innovative and united statement by the youth on this issue could have a big impact on the regular delegates.

We hope the students will work hard on these critical issues and that the regular convention delegates will take a hard look at what the youth have to say.