

Panels explore aspects of AFN theme

The theme for the 1989 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention — "Restrengthening Native Families and Communities" — was developed in response to a 1988 convention resolution, according to AFN.

The theme reflects the growing movement in Alaska Native communities and organizations to promote healthy, positive lifestyles, according to AFN President Janie Leask.

The Alaska Native Blue Ribbon Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, which also was created by the 1988 convention, will be officially launched Thursday afternoon.

Four panels, scheduled for the convention, explore various aspects of the theme. They include:

- "Maintaining Values in Changing Times," which will examine the critical way traditional values and customs affect how Alaska Natives view themselves.

- "Our Families — Our Future," which will include panelists who represent urban and rural families, single parents, traditional two-parent families and a teacher who teaches parenting classes for high school students.

- "Restrengthening Native Families and Communities," which will focus on today's youth.

- "Celebrating our Communities' Successes," which will take a look at how Angoon, Chevak, Kiana, Nondalton and Tanana have been successful in different areas of development.

A summary of panel discussions and findings will be given Friday afternoon by Morris Thompson, president of Doyon Ltd. and former AFN co-chairman.