

# **ED of AHRC Invites Comments**

ANCHORAGE — The Executive Director of the Alaska Human Rights Commission, Robert Willard, is openly inviting comments, questions or criticism from any person (or group) as to the Commission's role in the Northwest Region.

Willard Said that his agency's seven-member Board of Commissioners will meet in Nome on April 23, 24, 25 and anyone may appear before the Commission without prior notice. The meetings are open to the public, he said, and no advance reservation is necessary.

"What we are looking for is a more effective way to deal with discrimination problems the people in the Nome area may be experiencing," Willard said in a news release from his Anchorage Headquarters.

The director said that if anyone wishes to criticize the lack of positive action by the Commission, they should do so.

He also said, "in that respect, I do not feel the people realize they may come to the Commission with complaints and that any unawareness is the fault of the Commission for not informing the people adequately."

The Commission is also seeking recommendations on how to improve its posture with the people in regards to what the Commission can do to help persons with discrimination problems.

Willard said the Human Rights Commission has statutory jurisdiction over any department of the State, and any and all employers including local government units.

If anyone feels he, or she, has been discriminated against in employment, housing, public accommodations, financial dealings or state operations, this should be brought to the Commission's attention by appearing at the meeting or writing the Commission at 338 Denali - Anchorage 99501.

Letters have been sent to Native leaders in the Nome area to inform them of the Commission meeting.