



ANHB gets environmental waste grant

by the Alaska Native Health Board

The Alaska Native Health Board has received a three year grant totalling \$150,000 from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for the purpose of assisting Alaska Native communities to begin dealing with hazardous material problems.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, already active in Alaska environmental issues, will provide financial support for ANHB to establish a Community Hazardous Material Management Program, pilot toxic waste management project, in five of Alaska's 12 Native regions over the

next three years.

Past actions of industry, military and governments have left a haunting legacy of toxic wastes that are poisoning Native lands and subsistence foods. Arsenic and mercury have been left in waterways from gold mining; PCBs have been left from World War II and D.E.W. Line military sites; asbestos covered buildings survive from old fishing industry canneries; and, radioactive strontium and cesium lingers from atmospheric atomic blasts.

While the ANHB/Mott Foundation effort cannot hope to solve all of

Alaska's rural toxic waste problems, it is hoped that enough can be learned from this pilot effort to guide the future actions of communities and governments in that direction.

The Alaska Health Project, an Anchorage-based environmental and occupational health agency, will have major responsibility for providing ANHB with scientific and technical expertise during the course of the three year project.

In the first year, one Native region will be selected for a major Regional

(Continued on Page Five)

• ANHB gets grant

(Continued from Page One)

Action Meeting in order to lay out an appropriate information and knowledge base for local residents. A community will then be identified within that region where toxic waste management efforts will begin.

In the process, community leaders will have a major role in determining priorities and project actions. During the following two years of Mott Foundation funding, as many as four more Native regions will be added to the overall project.

ANHB, designated by the Alaska Federation of Natives as its Standing Committee on Health, has not, up to now, had the resources to be active in environmental health issues. The Mott Foundation project will be their first venture in that direction.

Native communities or regional Native provider agencies wishing to learn more about CHAMP can call Karen Wood at the Alaska Health Project's toll-free number hot-line, 800-478-2864, or Dennis DeGross at ANHB.