
The meeting served as an opportunity to review the progress being made under the compact one year into the process. Reviewing the benchmarks and goals, as outlined in the three-year strategic plan developed jointly with Alaska tribes and tribal organizations, will allow the State of Alaska to better identify opportunities and funding needs moving forward.

Since the compact was signed, 14 of the 18 Alaska tribes and tribal organizations, including Tlingit & Haida, received funding for fiscal year 2018 and 2019 to support startup activities.

Continued on page 10
Conditional Use Permit Approved for Reentry Transitional Housing

The City & Borough of Juneau’s (CBJ) Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve Tlingit & Haida’s application for a conditional use permit to develop a reentry transitional housing program, Yak’iyyi Kusti Yinaadei Hit, in the Waterfront Commercial zoning district (1255 W. 9th Street) in Juneau, Alaska.

Yak’iyyi Kusti Yinaadei Hit means “going towards the good life house” in Lingit and will provide sober, supportive housing to men released from incarceration and transitioning back into society. Tlingit & Haida has been working closely with community partners to develop the framework for the reentry housing program which will be modeled after the Delancey Street project, a nationally-recognized and vetted model of peer support in the San Francisco area that uses employment, training and housing to produce an estimated 75-90% reentry success rate.

Yak’iyyi Kusti Yinaadei Hit will provide 16 beds in 8 units with a full-time manager on site and deliver comprehensive and culturally responsive services for participants with direct channels to workforce development, training and supportive employment.

With the conditional use permit approved, Tlingit & Haida will now focus on securing funding, building partnerships and staffing for Yak’iyyi Kusti Yinaadei Hit. The transitional housing program is expected be in operation in 2019.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa (Thank You) to all who supported Yak’iyyi Kusti Yinaadei Hit and have been instrumental in moving this project forward: Alaska Department of Corrections, Alaska Judicial Council, Alaska Native Justice Center, AWARE, CBJ Housing Office, Family Promise of Juneau, Haven House, JAMHI Health & Wellness, Juneau Coalition on Housing & Homelessness, Juneau Housing First Collaborative, Juneau Reentry Coalition, Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, Lemon Creek Correctional Center, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, The Glory Hall, The Learning Connection, University of Alaska Southeast, United Way of Southeast Alaska, and community members Melody Millard and Patty Ware.

To read the full release, visit: www.ccithita-nsn.gov/info/press.

Keenan Sanderson Receives UAF Award

Congratulations to tribal citizen Keenan Sanderson who was recently recognized as the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences’ Outstanding Senior.

Keenan was selected for the distinguished award based on his outstanding academic performance and exceptional GPA during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Keenan is the son of 4th Vice President Rob Sanderson Jr. and served as the Tribe’s Emerging Leader from April 2017-2018.

Please join us in congratulating Keenan on this inspiring accomplishment and wishing him the best in his future endeavors!

Correction: On page 11 of the 2018 Q4 newsletter, Rob Yates was incorrectly identified as the person who created the Haida genealogy chart. The author of the chart is Robin Wright.
I had the privilege to attend the annual National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Winter Session held February 11-14, 2019 with Tlingit & Haida’s Vice Presidents (VP) Will Micklin, Rob Sanderson Jr. and Catherine Edwards; President Emeritus Ed Thomas; and Chief Justice Michelle Demmert. We joined tribal leaders from across the nation to advocate for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Environmental Protection Agency accountability, tribal consultation regarding the Clean Water Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The conference took place in Washington, D.C. where many members of Congress were able to attend. Tribal leaders had the chance to meet with House Representatives and Senators on the hill throughout the week. Indian country’s honorable congresswomen, Deb Haaland and Sharice Davids, checked in and shared their current work and committee assignments with tribal leaders. This session was also the first time the NCAI Youth Commissioners made their presence permanently on stage sharing the table with the NCAI Executive Committee for the duration of the conference.

In the final days of the Winter Session, 6th VP Edwards and I joined Chief Justice Demmert and representatives of the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center in the Senate halls for the Task Force on Violence Against Women’s VAWA Reauthorization briefing. We also met with Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) and her staff, and Senator Patty Murray’s (WA) staff to discuss VAWA Reauthorization, the Family Violence Prevention Services Act, SURVIVE Act and related issues impacting Alaska Natives in Alaska and the large urban populations outside of Alaska. On the last day we crossed paths with recently announced presidential candidate, Senator Bernie Sanders, and shared VAWA information and resources with his office.

Sacred Grounds Café is pleased to announce it has opened a new location in Juneau! If you’re in downtown Juneau, please stop by the first floor of the Sealaska Plaza (One Sealaska Plaza) and order your favorite espresso drink!

The new location is open Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Deliveries are available within a two block radius of the shop. To place your order for delivery, call 907.463.7772 and don’t forget to mention your government employment, military or senior citizen status for a discount.

For the latest promotions, make sure to check out Sacred Grounds Café on Facebook: https://facebook.com/SacredGroundsAK

Submitted By: Stephanie Masterman
On February 22, 2019, President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson had a chance to sit down with U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan while he was in Juneau, Alaska to deliver his annual address to the Alaska State Legislature. Not missing an opportunity to showcase one of the Tribe’s newest social enterprises, the two met for a cup of coffee at Sacred Grounds’ Sealaska Plaza location. During their meeting, they discussed the development of a Public Safety/Criminal Justice Summit in DC, the Opioid Bill which includes funds earmarked for tribes, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act as it relates to sea otters. President Peterson also extended an invitation for Senator Sullivan and his staff to receive a tour of the Tlingit & Haida’s Tribal Court and Business & Economic Development department to learn more about the programs and services being offered.

Richard Bean Sr. served in the South Pacific during the war and was instrumental in the United States’ victory, helping to save countless lives through the use of the Tlingit language. He was originally from Hoonah, a lifetime member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and an elder in the Presbyterian Church. “My grandma Bean didn’t even know about his service as a code talker,” Krissy shared regarding her grandfather’s service. “It’s a big deal that this is happening and they’re finally being recognized.

Because the missions were considered highly classified, it’s not known exactly how many code talkers were Tlingit. The five known Tlingit Code Talkers (Richard Bean Sr., Robert (Jeff) David Sr., George Lewis Jr., and brothers Mark Jacobs Jr. and Harvey Jacobs Sr.) were all acknowledged in the House and Senate recognition ceremonies along with their surviving family members.

During the Senate signing, Senator Jesse Kiehl noted the significance that the same language many of these men were punished for speaking while growing up, was the language that helped to save lives and win a war on behalf of their country and their people.

Tlingit Code Talkers Recognized

Senator Sullivan Meets with President Peterson

On March 6, 2019, the Alaska Legislature signed a citation recognizing the contributions of Tlingit Code Talkers during World War II. The citation, which was proposed by former Representative Bill Thomas, was signed on both the House and Senate floors with reverent speeches from Representatives and Senators alike. Both signings were attended by President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson, Tlingit & Haida employee Krissy Bean who is the granddaughter of Tlingit Code Talker Richard Bean Sr., Bill Thomas and representatives from Sealaska Heritage Institute.

Pictured L-R Front Row: Verna Adams, Krissy Bean, Jodi Mitchell, John David; L-R Middle Row: Marcello Quinto, Bill Thomas, Ozzie Sheakley, James Lindoff; L-R Back Row: Richard Peterson, Rosita Worl

Dan Sullivan and Richard Peterson

Submitted By: Office of the President
Tlingit & Haida Head Start’s five classrooms (Gastineau, Mendenhall River Community School, Salmon Creek, Taashuka I & II) recently had the opportunity to participate in SEARHC’s pirate themed, “Treasure Your Smile” Children’s Dental Health Fair. The goal of the fair was to promote preventative care and good oral hygiene practices at home and school through proper nutrition, daily tooth brushing and regular dental visits.

Children were greeted by SEARHC’s friendly staff dressed in pirate costumes, and a dental clinic decorated in a pirate theme including a large cardboard pirate ship. Staff created a familiar and comfortable environment for children to view a puppet show, participate in fun hands-on activities and tour a dental exam room, explore dental tools and sit in a dental chair.

This dental fair created positive experiences and opportunities for children to learn about oral health care and how to care for their own teeth through daily tooth brushing at home and school to prevent cavities. Within this comfortable setting, children explored and asked questions about caring for their smile and received a treasure bag with tooth brushing supplies to take home with them.

Over 100 Head Start children, staff and family members attended this successful event, and it would not have been possible without the generous support from Dr. Kim Hort who arranged for bus transportation for the classes.

Head Start extends a heartfelt Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa (Thank You) to SEARHC’s staff and Dr. Kim Hort for providing this wonderful learning opportunity!

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Tribal Court Roundtable Held

Tlingit & Haida’s Appellate Court held a Tribal Court Roundtable December 13-14, 2018 in Juneau, Alaska to provide technical assistance and resume discussions with village tribal representatives on how to build tribal court capacity through developing individual, inter-tribal and regional court systems in Southeast Alaska.

Roundtable discussions included:

• Funding Appropriated for Tribal Justice Support
• Future Tribal Court Funding
• Steps for Developing a Tribal Court Justice System, and
• Tribal Court Options.

Representatives from the Alaska Court System and village tribes of Hoonah, Kake, Kasaan, Ketchikan, Skagway and Yakutat attended the two-day meeting. During the roundtable, an overview of the Tribe’s court system was also provided along with work taking place to develop culturally responsive justice models such as alternatives for dispute resolution and restorative justice models like circle sentencing, civil diversion and healing to wellness.
The Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) department is proud of Ashley Anderson’s achievement of securing a full-time position in the Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) department.

Ashley came to TVR with a hearing loss diagnosis. She first noted hearing loss in 2013 and by 2018 she’d had several surgeries and further hearing loss. The 2018 surgery prompted her to apply for TVR services, hoping to receive assistive technology (AT) hearing aids.

Ashley is a TFYS Family Caseworker who provides direct services to families in need. For Ashley, hearing conversations with coworkers in meetings and when working with clients is critical to her job. Due to her surgeries and deteriorated hearing, the need for specific AT hearing aids was recommended by her audiologist. With assistance from TVR, she was determined eligible for services and received new hearing aids.

Ashley is extremely happy and reports that she hears much better in a variety of situations that she’d struggled with in the past.

“I am thankful for TVR’s services,” shared Ashley. “Their support has changed my daily life and helped reduce my stress and anxiety. I enjoy being able to hear again!”

The Boys Run I Toowú Klatsen team (Team Harborview) celebrated the end of their 2018 season with a 5k fun run in the Dimond Park Fieldhouse. The boys and their volunteer support runners zoomed around the indoor track 26 times and were cheered on by family members and community volunteers.

Tlingit Elder Leona Santiago started the festivities with a pre-race pep talk and the runners were motivated by three wintery characters (penguin, polar bear and snowman) that paced them throughout the race. All of the boys felt proud of finishing their 5k and each runner received a t-shirt and medal.

Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) employees Will Kronick and Justin Jones coached the Boys Run I Toowú Klatsen team during the fall semester at Harborview Elementary School. The 10-week program, in partnership with AWARE, taught 3rd to 5th grade boys social-emotional lessons along with cross-country running training.

The Boys Run I Toowú Klatsen raised over $100 to donate to the Juneau Animal Rescue organization (formerly known as the Gastineau Humane Society). The fundraising was an end-of-season community project for the AWARE and Tlingit & Haida collaborative program. The boys opened a lemonade and hot cocoa stand at Juneau-Douglas High School and hosted an origami sale at Harborview Elementary School. The students voted on where all of their proceeds would be donated and prepared all of the goodies for the stand. The boys were then treated to a tour of the Juneau Animal Rescue where they met four kittens and a puppy. The lead veterinarian was thrilled with the donation and said the money would be used for pet food. The boys were excited to play with so many furry friends!
Tlingit & Haida is pleased welcome Janae Franklet and Helene Bennett to its management team!

As the Tribal Child Support Manager, Janae will oversee the Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) which is a federally-funded and approved Tribal IV-D child support program that establishes paternity; locates absent parents; establishes, enforces, and modifies child support orders; and collects and distributes child support payments.

Prior to her promotion, Janae served as TCSU Specialist (2010-2019) where she prepared cases for court and testified for purposes of establishing paternity and child support obligations.

Janae’s Tlingit name is Gaylteen and she is Eagle/Wolf from the Yanyeidi clan. She was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska and is the daughter of Judy (Gooxkuwadzeed) Franklet (Nelson) and George (Gunnaeistli) Franklet and is a graduate of Juneau-Douglas High School. She holds Bachelor’s degree in Business Management from the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS).

Helene was promoted to Tribal Operations & Self Governance Manager in January 2019. In this capacity, she will provide administrative support to and oversight of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Self Governance programs, support to communities included in the BIA compact, ensure compact communities are in compliance with applicable regulations and fiscal policies, and oversee the day-to-day administrative functions of the Tribal Operations department. Helene will also serve as the lead Tribal Assembly coordinator in collaboration with the Office of the President.

Helene first joined Tlingit & Haida’s workforce in 2010 with the Head Start department and later transferred to the Native Lands & Resources (NLR) department before accepting an Administrative Assistant position with the Tribal Operations department in 2014.

Helene’s Tlingit name is Khaá T’eix’ and she is Kaagwaantaan of the Eagle Nest House. Her parents are Bert Bennett Sr. and Vicky James and she is a graduate of Juneau-Douglas High School.

The Tribal Court is pleased to announce the hire of Trinidad Contreras as Magistrate. Trinidad hears and decides judicial matters and enters judgments and orders on paternity, child support and enforcement of child support orders, as well as other matters.

He is a member of the Juneau Bar Association and National Native American Bar Association. He received his Master’s in Law (LL.M.) from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), School of Law; Master’s degree and Juris Doctorate in Federal Indian Law and Policy from the University of Arizona, College of Law; and Bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Berkeley in Native American studies, as well as molecular and cellular biology.

Trinidad is a citizen of the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel and a descendant of the Pala Band of Mission Indians. He was recently adopted into the Teikweidi clan and given the name Kir’jein. He is married to Madeline Soboleff Levy and they have three children, Sofia, Guillermo and Rocio.
Sixth Vice President Catherine Edwards attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians’ (ATNI) Winter Convention in Portland, Oregon. ATNI was formed post-World War II during the Termination Era to create a united front of tribal entities in the Northwest region and stand against the multitude of threats to tribal sovereignty.

While attending the convention, Catherine participated in the Get Out The Native Vote committee meeting which discussed the establishment of equitable voting districts and the importance of the 2020 Census to ensure tribal citizens are counted to maintain existing funding levels for tribal services.

She also attended the Natural Resources committee meeting which centered discussions on protecting salmon habitat and Northwest coastal waterways and a session on trauma-informed care where participants discussed how to decolonize community healing.

She heard several reports on Brackeen vs. Zinke, a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the 2016 ICWA regulations. Efforts to attack tribal sovereignty, as in this case, serve as a reminder that we must remain vigilant in our stand to protect and uphold ICWA.

“As the 6th Vice President and a Seattle Delegate, I was proud to attend ATNI’s convention,” said Catherine. “I believe that it’s of the utmost importance that we uphold our relationships with other Northwest area tribes as our history, as well as the promise of our future, is deeply linked.”

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Presentations to House Tribal Affairs Committee

Tlingit & Haida President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson and former Chief Operating Officer Corrine Garza were invited to present to the Alaska House of Representatives’ new Tribal Affairs Committee on March 12, 2019. Presentations covered the importance of tribal consultation, compacting/contracting with tribes, indirect rates and impacts of indirect rate caps.

The Tribal Affairs Committee, which convened for the first time on March 7, 2019, aims to advance relationships with tribes and tribal organizations and explore ways that the state might further partner in areas where both the state and tribe provide services.

The initial meetings of the new committee, which is chaired by Representative Tiffany Zulkosky, provided context to lawmakers with overviews provided on tribal governance, Alaska Native history, and current issues covering topics such as rural public safety and child welfare.

To view a full recording of the presentations, visit: https://bit.ly/2O0rrlG (President Peterson’s presentation can be viewed at 1:09:14 and Corrine’s presentation can be viewed at 39:07).
Mark Your Calendars

April Events

1: Application Period Opens for Summer YES Program
6: Wear Blue Friday (National Child Abuse Prevention Month)
7-8: Executive Council Meeting – Juneau, AK
8: Finance/Audit Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
8: Enrollment Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
8: Judiciary Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
9: Violence Against Women March – Juneau, AK
10-12: 84th Annual Tribal Assembly – Juneau, AK
12: President’s Award Banquet & Language Fundraiser – Juneau, AK
16: Linking Generations By Strengthening Relationships® Sessions Begin – Juneau, AK
23-25: Prince of Wales Island-Wide Mining Symposium – Craig, AK

May Events

1-31: Foster Care Appreciation Month
5: Missing & Murdered Native Women and Girls National Awareness Day
15: Deadline to Apply for Summer YES Program
15-16: Train the Trainer: Tribal Court Peace Circle – Yakutat, AK
18-19: 10th Biennial Southeast Alaska Culture Fair – Puyallup, WA
27: Southeast Alaska Native Veteran’s Memorial Day Ceremony – Juneau, AK

June Events

1: Sparks from the Embers Youth Conference – Juneau, AK
3-5: Enrollment Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
23-26: NCAI 2019 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace – Reno, NV

Save-the-Date

84th Annual Tribal Assembly
April 10-12, 2019
Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall
Juneau, Alaska

For questions regarding Tribal Assembly, please contact:
Helene Bennett, Tribal Assembly Lead Coordinator at 907.463.7306 or TribalAssembly@ccthita-nsn.gov

The Tribal Family & Youth Services’ (TFYS) Elders group recently finished their first semester in the classroom by handing out snack bags during finals week at Thunder Mountain High School. A group of 10 Elders joined teenagers during their lunch breaks every week over the first semester to tell stories, teach the Tlingit language, share laughs, and enjoy yummy meals in the comfy Indian Studies/Tlingit Language classroom.

The Elders put together snack bags (hot cocoa, apple cider, candy canes and an orange) for the students with TFYS employee Will Kronick and Indian Studies employee Kyle Worl.

The Elders are excited and ready to teach (and learn from the youth) next semester!
Congratulations to Francine Eddy Jones who was one of four women selected to receive this year’s AWARE Women of Distinction Award!

Francine was selected to receive an award based on her work as Tlingit & Haida’s Tribal Family & Youth Services Director, tribal child and family advocate, and implementing the spirit and tenets of the Indian Child Welfare Act in Alaska.

The AWARE Women of Distinction Award honors women whose contributions have increased safety for women and children, and the community as a whole. The honorees were recognized at a gala held in Juneau, Alaska on March 9, 2019.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’a’a to Francine for the work she continues to do on behalf of our people, especially our children and families!

Child Welfare Convening

On the evening of December 18th, a banquet was held to honor tribal partners who helped make the compact a reality and have contributed many years to transforming tribal child welfare in Alaska. Nicole Borromeo accepted recognition on behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), Christy Lawton was recognized for her work as Director of the Office of Children’s Services (OCS), Kristie Swanson was recognized for her work as a longtime Tribal Affairs Liaison, Frances Andrews accepted recognition on behalf of Tlingit & Haida’s Tribal Court, and Anita Fineday and Thomas Cody accepted recognition on behalf of Casey Family Programs. Title IV-E consultant Don Schmid and longtime grant consultants Annie Calkins and Joe Cushman were also recognized for their important contributions to the work of the TFYS department and the compact.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’a’a to all of those who have worked tirelessly to move tribal child welfare forward in Alaska and helped shape a better future for our children!
Tribal Child Support Unit Update

Big Benchmark Achievement
Reaching $1 million in collections was a long-standing goal for the Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) and it took a lot of work to earn it in 2018! TCSU opened in early 2007 with 24 cases. In its first fiscal year (FY), almost $32,000 was collected. Since then, the case load has steadily increased by at least 15% each year with the exception of FY 2017 which saw a drop as a result of a decrease in Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend payment rates and the Alaskan economy taking a hit.

In FY 2018, TCSU ended with a case load just over 1,300 and had a 22% collections rate which was over three times the national average of only 7%. National data reporting indicates that of the 93% of uncollected cases, 25% of those families live below the poverty line. This shows just how important child support payments are to families.

Program Improvements
TCSU staff continue to work collaboratively with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) department to provide better services to mutual clients. One TCSU staff has been permanently housed at the TANF office to meet with and answer questions from staff and clients. Both programs continue to find more ways to work together with the goal of helping more TANF clients and non-custodial parents get jobs and actively engage in their child support cases.

Two TCSU staff, Amanda Blackgoat and Carlene Nore, worked with Tlingit & Haida’s Finance department and the State of Alaska Child Support Services Division to automate the payments received from the state. Direct deposit payments cuts down on processing time as well as eliminating the risk of checks being lost or delayed in the mail.

Big Impact
TCSU’s goal has always been to increase collections. Increased collections means increased disbursement of child support money to families and less need for families to receive TANF or other public assistance. Since FY 2013, over 60% of collections have been disbursed to custodial families.

Looking forward, TCSU hopes to implement more ways to engage tribal families and improve participation with non-custodial parents. Becoming more accessible will help to increase collections to ensure families become more financially stable.

For more information on child support, contact TCSU Manager Janae Franklet at jfranklet@ccthita-nsn.gov or 907.463.7138.
Preserve our sovereignty, enhance our economic and cultural resources, and promote self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens.

Energetic Elders Exercise Everyday

The Juneau Elders program has been very busy the past year with chair exercise classes, learning Tai Chi, balance practice, chair soccer and walking around getting steps. Phew! Can you keep up with them?

The Elders program offers an exercise class four days each week. The classes, which focus on stretching, balance and having fun, are open to tribal Elders 60 years and older and take place in the Andrew Hope Building’s second floor conference room.

Kathy Washburn, a local Senior Fitness Specialist, teaches the Fall Prevention class on Mondays and Fridays and the Tai Chi class on Wednesdays. Justin Jones, Wellness Coordinator at Tlingit & Haida and a Certified Personal Trainer, teaches the group exercise class on Thursdays before the Elders’ luncheon.

“I am so impressed that I have been going to exercise classes for the past year,” exclaimed active Elder Caroline Demmert. “I have so much fun and I really enjoy our group. These classes make me very happy!”

“My legs are stronger,” Elder Lillian Hillman proudly proclaimed. “I feel more confident going up and down stairs. I really enjoy these classes!”

Smiles and laughing are a must in all of the exercise classes as the Elders enjoy giving their laughing muscles a good workout too. Stay tuned to see what awesome activity our Elders will do next.