The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska’s (Tlingit & Haida) Cultural Heritage & Education department officially opened the doors to the Lingít language immersion nest Haa Yóo Xatángi Kúdi on April 30, 2019 in Juneau, Alaska.

Eight children attended the first day of the language immersion nest and could be seen writing their names on formline-shaped name cards, holding hands and singing in a circle, and listening intently during storytelling time – all of which was done using only Lingít as the spoken language for communication in the classroom.

Haa Yóo Xatángi Kúdi is Tlingit & Haida’s first Lingít language immersion program and is a pilot project funded under a three-year grant (Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance Esther Martinez Immersion) through the Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

The language immersion nest is facilitated by lead Lingít Language Instructor Mary (Daaljíni) Folletti with two other full-time staff, Nae Brown and Mallory Story. Although the immersion nest is currently on Summer break, it will resume in the Fall with exploratory curriculum, storytelling, quiet time and other special activities.
Nearly 70 youth participated in a summer Youth Employment Services (YES) camp held June 12-13, 2019 in Juneau, Alaska. The camp brought together youth from around Southeast Alaska to participate in a CareerWorks seminar that focused on helping the youth navigate the world of employment. During the two-day camp, youth explored topics such as developing interviewing strategies, résumé writing, applying for jobs and more.

It wasn’t all work for the youth though – evening activities included a movie night, hanging out in the Hub to shoot pool, lounge, play a friendly game of foosball, ping pong or air hockey, and a closing dance. The camp also offered drum, paddle and beading workshops.

The YES program runs June 1st - August 31st and helps students discover career/education pathways while developing employment skills and teaching self-sufficiency. There are so many directions to take in life and we hope these students continue to discover their education pathways to reach their career goals!

Thanks to a new partnership with the Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) Southeast Alaska and the Association of Alaska School Boards’ (AASB) Supporting Transitions and Educational Promise (STEPS) grant, Child Development training is on the rise in Southeast Alaska.

The number of people attending child development sessions has doubled in Juneau according to Lisa Arehart, AEYC and Thread Professional Development Coordinator. “We are seeing new faces of people that have never attended training before, and they are so excited to be learning how to support children’s growth and development in the best way possible.” shared Lisa.

“Tlingit & Haida is a community partner committed to being a part of the solution to increase quality child care in Southeast Alaska so more parents can enter the workforce and provide for their families,” said Tlingit & Haida Child Care Manager Alice Bagoyo.

The increased interest in child care can be attributed to the partnership working together to remove barriers, getting the word out and providing a welcoming experience. Committed to partnership, Tlingit & Haida is providing space at its Vocational Training and Resource Center for the weekly trainings, dinners prepared by Smokehouse Catering, and onsite child care. Registration fees are also covered by Tlingit & Haida for those that pre-register by calling the AEYC office at 789.1235 or registering at www.threadalaska.org.

An $1,800 early educator award is available for individuals that attain a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or complete university classes in early childhood. For more information, contact Joy Lyon (jlyon@aeyc-sea.org) or Alice Bagoyo (abagoyo@ccfhta-nsn.gov).

The Tribe’s Business & Economic Development department continues to work hard to expand Tlingit & Haida’s social enterprises — Sacred Shine Auto Detailing, Smokehouse Catering, Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall and Sacred Grounds Café! We’re pleased to share that in addition to meeting the internal needs of the Tribe, these social enterprises are providing employment opportunities for our tribal citizens and offering a wide variety of services to the community!

For the latest on promotions, follow our enterprises on social media... @SacredShineAK • @SmokehouseCateringAK • @JuneauEPHall • @SacredGroundsAK

Gunalchéesh/Háw’aa for supporting our tribal youth and their higher education goals!

The Tribe’s Business & Economic Development department continues to expand its social enterprises in Southeast Alaska. Tlingit & Haida’s social enterprises include Sacred Shine Auto Detailing, Smokehouse Catering, Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall and Sacred Grounds Café. The initiatives are focused on creating employment opportunities for tribal citizens and offering a wide variety of services to the community.

**Help Support Alumni Scholarships**

This time of year, we are cheering on our tribal citizen youth who have graduated from high school and are setting their next educational goals. You can help us hold them up by making a donation to our Alumni Scholarship Assistance program!

The Alumni scholarship fund is administered by the Tribe’s Cultural Heritage & Education department and has provided nearly $500,000 in scholarships to over 1,500 students. The fund was established over 20 years ago to provide supplementary scholarships to tribal citizens who apply and are currently attending or plan to attend an accredited college or university.

The Alumni Scholarship application period runs July 1st through September 15th annually.

To help support the Alumni Scholarship program, please consider making a donation via PayPal (www.paypal.me/CentralCouncil), Square (https://cash.app/centralcouncil), or a personal check can be made payable to Tlingit & Haida. Checks may be mailed to:

Cultural Heritage & Education Attn: Alumni Scholarship 3239 Hospital Drive Juneau, Alaska 99801

Gunalchéesh/Háw’aa for supporting our tribal youth and their higher education goals!
Being Good Relatives Gathering Held

“When Natives are fighting each other, someone else is winning” was one sentiment shared during the Being Good Relatives Gathering held April 16-18, 2019 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska.

“When Natives are fighting each other, someone else is winning” was one sentiment shared during the Being Good Relatives Gathering held in Anchorage, Alaska last November where tribal and corporate leaders identified shared areas of opportunity and a desire to continue working together on issues.

“This gathering was long overdue and I couldn’t be more proud of the leaders who came together to make this happen,” shared President Peterson. “One of our greatest tribal values is to help one another and I feel that we’re really learning to incorporate that value into our organizations, not only in the ways we treat our citizens and shareholders, but in how we treat one another as well. I’m confident that this is just the beginning – a new beginning – and I hope to see even more tribes and corporations at our future gatherings.”

“The idea to provide smaller regional gatherings stemmed from a statewide Being Good Relatives Gathering held in Anchorage, Alaska last November where tribal and corporate leaders identified shared areas of opportunity and a desire to continue working together on issues.

“Helping people grow while building on strengths is at the heart of what we do in the Business & Economic Development department,” said Emily Edenshaw, Business & Economic Development Director. “Melissa started as a barista and now manages 13 staff, three cafe locations and two mobile coffee carts. We are so proud of her and can’t wait to see what the future holds for both Melissa and our Sacred Grounds enterprise!”

Melissa Jensen Promoted

Tlingit & Haida congratulates tribal citizen Melissa Jensen on her recent promotion to Sacred Grounds Café Manager. Melissa joined the Sacred Grounds team in 2018 as a barista with years of experience in the café community.

In her new position, Melissa will oversee the hiring and training of new baristas and work toward establishing a drive-thru location, developing an inventory management system, and expanding food service and menu options at all locations. She will also provide training and employment opportunities to tribal citizens participating in the Yak'iiyi Gu'sit Yinaadei Hit Reentry Transitional Housing program.

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The Sacred Grounds Café maintains a Native hire rate of nearly 100%. In addition to offering barista training, Sacred Grounds continues to partner with the Tribe’s 477 programs to provide work experience opportunities to tribal citizen clients.

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“I’ve always loved making coffee, and I’m thrilled to be a part of Sacred Grounds’ growth and success,” shared Melissa. “As manager, my goal is to contribute to the strength of our foundation, train our tribal citizens and support the growth potential that comes from the long-term success of our social enterprise. Not only are these my favorite coffee shops, but this is where my family, my friends and my home are. I am thankful for the opportunity and look forward to bringing our team to the next level.”

Follow Tlingit & Haida on Social Media

Tlingit & Haida’s social media presence is growing! We are pleased to share that the Tribe’s official Facebook page has over 11,000 followers, Instagram has surpassed 1,600 followers and Twitter has hit 342 followers. Social Media has proven to be a valuable tool for sharing current information on Tlingit & Haida’s programs, services and activities with tribal citizens and friends. Please help us continue to grow and expand the Tribe’s social media reach by “liking” and “sharing” our posts!

facebook.com/ccthita
instagram.com/lingithaida
twitter.com/lingithaida

Melissa is the daughter of tribal employee Marilyn Joslyn, granddaughter of Gloria Johns and great-granddaughter of Phyllis Varelam. She is Tlingit and Na’vaju and from the Kaagwaantaan clan of the House with Two Doors. During her free time, Melissa enjoys the outdoors, reading and working on her bead loom.

For more information on Sacred Grounds, call 907.463.7164 or email sacredgrounds@ccthita-nsn.gov and don’t forget to follow them on social media @SacredGroundsAK to receive the latest news on promotions!

TCSU Presents “Think About It”

The Tribal Child Support Unit’s (TCSU) Financial Coordinator Amanda Blackgoat recently visited the Juneau-Douglas and Thunder Mountain high schools in Juneau to provide a “Think About It” presentation to a total of 137 students in five classrooms.

“Think About It” is an interactive discussion and short video that encourages students to think about how the life choices they make now can affect them when they get older, focusing on the potential child support issues they may encounter in the future if they have a child at a young age. The short film engages students by presenting real scenarios with a focus on child support.

Did you know...
- Alaska ranked 12th for the highest pregnancy rate out of 50 states plus D.C. in 2013.
- In Alaska, it costs over $500,000 to raise a child to age 18. This doesn’t include expenses for sports, cell phones, family vacations and video games.
- The average monthly child support payment of $385 isn’t enough to raise a child. In addition to rent, household bills, shampoo, clothes and gas for your car, let’s take a look at some of a baby’s necessities:
  » $1000/monthly daycare
  » $108/four cans of formula
  » $35/diapers (140 count)
  » $20/baby wipes

For more information, contact Amanda at 907.463.7342 or abblackgoat@ccthita-nsn.gov.
Tlingit & Haida’s 84th Annual Tribal Assembly took place April 10–12, 2019 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska. Ninety-nine of 110 Delegates were present to conduct the business of the Tribe, hear reports, discuss issues and take action on resolutions. This year, the Tribe embraced technology and replaced traditional three-ring binders with Samsung tablets – agendas, resolutions, governing documents and presentations were made available through a meeting application.

During opening ceremonies, the Southeast Alaska Native Veterans led the grand entrance with the posting of the colors followed by President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson, six Vice Presidents and Delegates dancing in with the Xáadaas Dagwíi dance group. Delegates were introduced to Tribal Host James Price and Tribal Hostess Cheryl Dodson, and received opening remarks from Alaska Governor Michael Dunleavy and special welcomes from state, local and tribal leadership.

With the theme, “Through Unity We Have Strength,” each day started in a good way with special music provided by Petersburg Delegate Nathan Lopez and a Word of the Day in Lingít Yoo Xatángi, Xaad Kíl and Sm’álgyax provided by Anchorage Delegate Shirley Kendall, Hydaburg Delegate Lisa Lang and tribal employee Alfie Price.

President Peterson delivered the State of the Tribe Address highlighting significant program accomplishments, the work of the Executive Council, and the Tribe’s business and economic development activities.

“One of the things you hear me repeat over and over again is economic sovereignty,” said President Peterson. “My vision of economic sovereignty is to build sustainability and match what we receive in federal funding through commerce. I never want to use the term again that ‘you don’t live in the service area.’ The only way we are going to do that is through economic sovereignty.”

The Tribe’s newest business startups (Smokehouse Catering, Sacred Grounds Café and Sacred Shine Auto Detailing) are part of fulfilling that vision of economic sovereignty. President Peterson also shared that the Tribe recently executed a letter of intent with Channel Construction and Shorty Tongsard for the acquisition of 86 acres of land on Douglas Island and signed a purchase agreement with Triplette Construction to acquire its building on Channel Drive in Juneau.

Reports were also heard from Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation (THTBC), Tlingit & Haida’s Chief Financial Officer, Tribal Court, standing committees (Audit, Judiciary and Enrollment), 2018-2019 84th Annual Tribal Assembly Adjourns “Through Unity We Have Strength”

Emerging Leader, the Tribe’s Language program and others. Abigail Echo-Hawk, Director of the Urban Indian Health Institute and Chief Research Officer of the Seattle Indian Health Board, provided a powerful keynote address sharing her personal journey of healing, the work of the Urban Indian Health Institute and Seattle Indian Health Board to elevate public awareness on missing and murdered indigenous women, and encouraged Delegates to challenge the culture of silence to bring healing to people and communities.

Delegates also received a special address from the Assembly of First Nations’ Regional Chief Kluane Adamek and an update on legislation for the landless communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell from Southeast Alaska Landless Corporation representatives.

Delegates reviewed and adopted proposed amendments to Statute Title 15 – Enrollment, and acted on 31 resolutions – 17 were adopted via consent calendar, 5 were adopted through committee referrals, 6 were ruled out of order, 1 was withdrawn, 1 failed, and 1 was tabled. A full listing of resolutions is available on Tlingit & Haida’s website.

After adjourning, Delegates gathered for the President’s Award Banquet & Language Fundraiser to honor a handful of those who have contributed greatly to our Tlingit & Haida people, communities and culture, and to support Southeast Alaska’s indigenous languages.
Mark Your Calendars

June Events
- 3-5: Enrollment Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
- 8: Icy Strait Point Neighbor’s Day – Hoonah, AK
- 11: Child Care Development Block Grant Public Hearing – Juneau, AK
- 12-13: Youth Employment Services Camp – Juneau, AK
- 19: T&H All Staff Visioning Session (Offices Closed)
- 23-26: NCAI 2019 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace – Reno, NV
- 24: Motherhood Is Sacred℠ Program (New 12-Week Session Begins) – Juneau, AK

July Events
- 1: Haa Yoo X’atángi Kúdi Lingít Language Immersion Nest Application Period Opens – Juneau, AK
- 4: Independence Day Holiday (Offices Closed)
- 26: Haa Yoo X’atángi Kúdi Lingít Language Immersion Nest Application Period Closes – Juneau, AK
- 26-28: Haa Kusteeyí Celebration 2019 – Carcross, Yukon
- 27: Kake Dog Salmon Festival – Kake, AK

August Events
- 1: Fatherhood Is Sacred℠ Program (New 12-Week Session Begins) – Juneau, AK
- 3: Back-to-School Backpack Celebration – Juneau, AK
- 4-8: Traditional Games & Cultural Arts Camp – Juneau, AK
- 8-9: Peace Circle Facilitator Training – Yakutat, AK
- 12-16: Tlingit & Haida Head Start Pre-Service – Juneau, AK

September Events
- 2: Labor Day Holiday (Offices Closed)
- 15: Alumni Scholarship Application Period Closes
- 21: Only Fools Run At Midnight Higher Education Fundraiser – Juneau, AK
- TBD: Sparks from the Embers Youth Conference – Juneau, AK

October Events
- 24: Fatherhood Is Sacred℠ Program (New 12-Week Session Begins) – Juneau, AK

Annual Report Published
Tlingit & Haida is pleased to share the Tribe’s 2018 Annual Report is now available online!

To learn about Tlingit & Haida’s recent accomplishments and future goals, please visit our website to download the report at: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/overview/documents.

Annual Report Contents:
- Dedication
- President’s Message
- Executive Council
- Delegates by Community
- Administration Reports
- Tribal Court Report
- Tribal Enterprise Reports
- Division & Department Reports
- Statistics by Community
- 2018 Timeline
President’s Award Banquet & Language Fundraiser

Tlingit & Haida hosted its annual President’s Award Banquet & Language Fundraiser on April 12, 2019 honoring nine incredible leaders who have contributed greatly to our Tlingit & Haida people, communities and culture.

- Dr. Marie Olson – President’s Life Achievement
- Vicki Soboleff – CultureBearer
- Arias Hoyle – Emerging Leader
- Lyle & Kolene James – Hold Each Other Up
- Jessica Chester – Inspiring Educator
- Gloria Wolfe – Language Warrior
- Diane Kaplan – Tribal Ally
- Sonya Skan – Youth Mentor

The event also raised funds to support Southeast Alaska’s indigenous languages – Lingit Yoo’ X’atängi (Tlingit), Xaadas Kl (Haida) and Sm’algyax (Tsimshian).

Although the banquet ended before all awardees could be honored due to an emergency fire evacuation, it was a beautiful gathering of more than 400 people. Tlingit & Haida would like to especially acknowledge its appreciation to the final awardees, Diane Kaplan and Sonya Skan, for their grace in light of the evacuation that did not allow us to honor them as was planned.

An overwhelming level of support for the Language Fundraiser was received from tribal citizens, community members, local businesses and partner organizations through sponsorships, monetary donations and donation of services and items. Over 200 items were donated to the auctions to raise funds for Tlingit & Haida’s Language program and other community-based language revitalization efforts.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa, T’oyaxsut nüüsm (Thank You) to our sponsors, donors, tribal citizens and community partners who supported Tlingit & Haida’s Language Fundraiser!
The invisible line that separates tribal citizens from their families was a main topic of discussion—this line wasn’t created by tribes. Border crossings can be especially difficult when a family loses a family member on the other side of the invisible line. At times, individuals have to endure lengthy screening processes and their regalia is not always handled properly during these times. Tlingit & Haida’s tribal photo identification (ID) cards have been tried at the Canadian border and cleared; tribal citizens may use them as an acceptable form of ID when traveling by vehicle through the border. If traveling by plane to Canada, a passport is still required.

For more information on the Tribal Northern Border Alliance Summit or the Tribe’s photo ID cards, contact Program Compliance at 907.463.7359 or deptthe@ccithita-nsn.gov.

Enrollment Committee Meets
Submitted By: Program Compliance

Tlingit & Haida’s Enrollment Committee met to review pending enrollment applications as well as blood quantum corrections and relinquishment requests at the Andrew Hope Building in Juneau, Alaska June 3-5, 2019. During the meeting, a total of 296 applications were reviewed by committee members which resulted in 287 newly enrolled tribal citizens. The committee also approved two relinquishment requests and processed five blood quantum corrections.

In addition to acting on enrollment applications, the committee met with the Tribe’s General Counsel, Madeline Seboelev Levy, to discuss amendments to Tribal Statute Title 15 - Enrollment that were approved during the 84th Annual Tribal Assembly. Madeline informed committee members that the codification is complete and the updated statute will be available to read and/or download from Tlingit & Haida’s website (www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/). A completed application for each child MUST be received by July 26, 2019 in order to be considered.

The enrollment application period for Tlingit & Haida’s Haa Yóó Xatángi Kúdi Lingít language immersion nest is now open! The pilot program, which is facilitated by Lingít Language Instructor Mary (Daaljíni) Folletti, will create an immersion environment for children using the Lingít language as the only spoken language for communicating in the classroom.

If you have a child between the ages of 3-5 and would like him or her to participate, please complete the enrollment application available online at: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/overview/forms.

Haa Yóó Xatángi Kúdi
Fall Session Application Period Opens

Public testimony was also heard from Abigail Echo-Hawk, Chief Research Officer of the Seattle Indian Health Board and Director of the Urban Indian Health Institute; Kendra Kloster, Executive Director of Native Peoples Action; Amber Webb, artist and activist; Marra Sanford, Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly Member; Joel Jackson, President of the Organized Village of Kake; Heidi Vantrease, Organized Village of Kake Domestic Violence Advocate; Misty Nickoli, Native Movement Operations Manager; Carmen Lowry, Executive Director of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and Julian Thibedeau of Fairbanks whose mother was murdered in 1996.

HR 10 was successfully moved out of committee and referred to the Rules Committee for placement on the calendar.

For more information or to follow the action taken on Resolution 10, visit the Alaska State Legislature’s website: https://bsl.ly/2DVGlEcP.
Back-to-School Backpack Events
Submitted By: TANF

Tlingit & Haida is gearing up for its Back-to-School Celebration and annual backpack distributions to Southeast Alaska communities in August.

Back-to-School Celebration
Saturday, August 3, 2019
Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Southeast Alaska Backpack Event
Southeast Alaska Service Area
August 2019

Backpacks filled with school supplies will be distributed to tribal youth (Head Start through grade 12) throughout Tlingit & Haida’s service area. These annual events help ensure a great start to the school year for our tribal youth!

If you have a child in preschool, public or private school, make sure to visit Tlingit & Haida’s website (www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/events) to download an application. The application period runs July 1 through August 2, 2019.

For more information on this year’s back-to-school events, please contact Julie Chapman at jchapman@ccthita-nsn.gov, 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7315 or 907.463.7313.

Head Start Awarded Extended Duration Funds
Submitted By: Head Start

Tlingit & Haida Head Start was recently awarded supplemental funding under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 to extend its operating hours for six classrooms (Juneau-3, Petersburg-1, Saxman-1 and Wrangell-1). Congress appropriated funds for existing Head Start and Early Head Start programs in 2016 to increase hours of service without having to reduce enrollment. Classrooms operating as an extended duration site will almost double annual classroom contact hours from 512 hours to 1,020 hours. In order to do so, classes will operate 7 hours per day, four days a week over a 40-week school year which is four weeks longer than non-duration sites.

“The extended duration hours will not only help to increase learning and development outcomes for children, but will also support families who work or attend school through longer quality-care hours to reach or secure self-sufficiency,” said Tlingit & Haida Head Start Director Amber Frommherz.

The boost in federal funds also creates additional jobs and training opportunities. Tlingit & Haida is actively recruiting to fill several new positions (classroom aides, bus drivers and coach) in three communities. Both new hires and current Head Start staff will be given the opportunity to attain an Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development Associate (CDA) certification under the duration funds.

Head Start is a free federal program that promotes school readiness of pre-school aged children ages three to five. The enrollment period for the 2019-2020 school year is currently open. If you have a young child and reside in Angoon, Craig, Hoonah, Juneau, Klawock, Petersburg, Saxman, Sitka, Wrangell or Yakutat, please consider applying. For more information on Head Start employment opportunities or enrolling, contact their office toll free at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7159 or directly at 907.463.7159.

10th Biennial Southeast Alaska Culture Fair
Submitted By: Office of the President

The Washington Chapter Tlingit & Haida Seattle Community Council held their 10th Biennial Southeast Alaska Culture Fair May 18-19, 2019. President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson, 1st Vice President Yodean Armour, 5th Vice President Ralph Wolfe and Emerging Leader Shawaan Jackson-Gamble joined in the festivities to help celebrate our culture with the proud tribal citizens residing in Washington state.

The first day of the fair was held at the Chief Leschi School in Puyallup, Washington where those in attendance participated in the wide range of cultural classes. Classes included cedar headband making, devils club processing, herbal tea making, cedar bracelet weaving and rope making, as well as a kid’s activity corner with button headband making, heading, and other arts and crafts. Guests enjoyed traditional foods, including salmon and deer stew, and also had the opportunity to visit with members of Tlingit & Haida’s Enrollment Committee who accepted enrollment applications and tribal citizen address updates.

The second day of the fair was held in coordination with Sealaska’s Seattle community meeting held at the Tulalip Resort Casino in Tulalip, Washington. Presentations from Sealaska Board candidates were heard in the morning and the afternoon was filled with dance group performances from Tsimshian Haayuul, Alaska Kúteeya, Haida Luas, Xaał’ay Haa Yóo Xatángi Kúdi

Continued from Cover

“Our first day went better than expected,” shared Daaljíni. “We have been told over and over again how chaotic it will be, and we were all pleasantly surprised at how well everyone did. I think a lot of that had to do with the fact that we have been doing Aratx’i Gaaawu (Lingít Toddler Time) for a few months and many of the children knew what to expect. In just one day, we have seen confidence in the children’s desire to use the Lingít language. In fact, we even received a text message from a parent who said her child prepped himself for bed in the Lingít language which she had never seen him do before. We are very excited about what lies ahead for the future of our language.”

The goal of Haa Yóo Xatángi Kúdi under the grant is to provide 500 hours of classroom time for tribal children to be immersed in the Lingít language, provide training and development opportunities to the language instructors, and hold two family events each month to ensure families are a part of the language journey with their children.
VAW Task Force Holds Awareness Rally and March

Tlingit & Haida’s Violence Against Women (VAW) Task Force held a rally and march on April 9, 2019 to raise awareness of the violence women face in our communities. The march was held after Tlingit & Haida Delegates participated in a special session in which they received an update on the task force’s initiatives and the state of violence against women movements throughout Alaska as well as the country as a whole.

The march began at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall and ended with a rally on the front steps of the Sealaska Plaza. The Woosh.ji.een dancers led the march singing the Loon Song which involves the women and men doing a call-and-response, which represented the support from one another that is needed in order to overcome issues of violence. March participants also held red dresses or signs with photos of women and girls who were lost to violence or have gone missing in various communities around Southeast Alaska in recent years.

The rally portion of the evening was moderated by 6th Vice President Catherine (Kashkaani) Edwards and included speeches from President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson, Elizabeth (La Quen Naay) Medicine Crow, Lisa (Kaailjuus) Lang, Miciana Alise, Stephanie Masterman, Lyle James and family members of missing and murdered indigenous women in the Southeast Alaska region.