Key management staff from Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) recently traveled to Haida Gwaii, British Columbia in Canada to meet with the Council of the Haida Nation and Gwaii Trust Society.

The visit to Haida Gwaii provided an opportunity for President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson to meet with Haida Nation President Peter (kíl tlàats ‘gaa) Lantin. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed fisheries, citizenship, transboundary mining, the Haida watchmen program and Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly. President Peterson also extended an invitation for members of the delegation of the Council of the Haida Nation to visit Tlingit & Haida in the very near future.

“With potential threats to our ways of life like transboundary mining in Canada, it is important that we strengthen our mutual nationhood,” said President Peterson.

President Peterson and staff also met with Gwaii Trust Society representatives which included a tour of the Haida Heritage Centre in Kay Llganaay. It was during the tour that President Peterson made an emotional connection to a tunic in the museum’s collection that belonged to Chief Son-I-Hat of Kasaan.

Continued on page 15
Tlingit & Haida is pleased to welcome Sarah Dybdahl, Heather Gatti and Grace Hawkins to its management team! Sarah accepted the new Cultural Heritage & Education Manager position in July, Heather began serving as the Special Assistant to the President in August, and Grace was promoted to Employment & Training (E&T) Manager on September 1, 2017.

In her new position, Sarah will oversee the coordination of Tlingit & Haida’s cultural activities and develop cultural programs in collaboration with tribes and other Native entities. The newly created Cultural Heritage & Education department will incorporate ancestral knowledge to strengthen our languages, arts and cultural practices for the well-being of our people and government.

Sarah grew up in Klawock, Alaska and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from Southern Oregon University. Her Tlingit name is Aanshawatk’i and she is from the Taakw.aaneidi clan. She is the daughter of Linda and Arthur (Mac) Demmert Jr. and granddaughter of belated Virginia and Arthur Demmert, Sr. She is married to Travis Dybdahl and is mother to three children – Michaela, Orion and Elias.

As Special Assistant to the President, Heather will coordinate all intergovernmental activities, serve as a liaison to the Delegates and Executive Council, and directly supervise the support staff in the Office of the President.

Heather was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She is of Haida and Tlingit descent and from the Yahkw ’Láanaas clan (Raven/Shark House). Heather is the granddaughter of Franklin Demmert Sr. and Frances Peele Demmert; daughter of Mark & Jiji Gatti and Victoria Demmert Gatti; sister to Sarah Kooy, Dennis Demmert, Joy Demmert, and Jodie Gatti; and proud auntie to Ayuq, Gracie, and Emma.

As the E&T Manager, Grace will provide oversight of the department’s personnel and administer the Burial Assistance, Employment Services, General Assistance, Job Placement, Training Services, and Youth Employment Services programs. She has worked for the Tribe for over 18 years and has previously held interim manager positions for both the TANF and E&T departments.

Grace is from the Kaagwaantaan clan (Takdeintaan yadi) and Wolf House, her Tlingit name is Saigee. Although She grew up in Juneau, her family originates from Hoonah. Grace is the daughter of Royal Hill and the late Laura Williams (Robert Williams), and granddaughter of Rosabella and Ira Stevenson and Assunta and Roy Hill. She is married to John Hawkins and is mother to two children – Cherie and John.

To read the full press releases on Sarah, Heather and Grace, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/press.
U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell Meets with Tlingit & Haida

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington met August 23, 2017 with President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson, Executive Management team members and other staff during her Alaska visit. Senator Cantwell’s visit was a great opportunity to share information on our clan and family structures, some history of the region and discuss key topics on Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Title IV-E funding, and Tribal Courts.

“Recognizing that Tlingit & Haida has enrolled tribal citizens in Washington state that are also her constituents, I really appreciate Senator Cantwell taking the time to meet with us to identify areas where we can work together,” said President Peterson. “Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa Senator Cantwell for reaching out to Tlingit & Haida and building that relationship to explore opportunities to better serve our tribal citizens in Washington.”

Senator Cantwell was the first chairwoman for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, has extensive knowledge on tribal issues and has been a friend to tribes in years passed.

“The Secretary of the Interior must be committed to upholding our trust and treaty obligations for our country’s 567 federally recognized tribes. That secretary must be committed to recognizing tribal sovereignty and self-determination; to protecting tribal lands, waters and mineral resources; and to supporting adequate resources for tribal education, social services and infrastructure.”

- Senator Maria Cantwell (March 2017)

Training on VAWA & Tribal Code Writing

A Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) training for Southeast Alaska tribes will be held September 25-26, 2017 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska. The training is designed to build community capacity for addressing domestic violence in Southeast Alaska’s communities. The target audience for the training includes tribal council members, tribal judges, tribal administrators, program staff and community members who serve or work for a Southeast Alaska tribe or Native organization. Travel and training scholarships are available for up to three representatives from each Southeast Alaska community under a grant received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Tribal Justice Support, Office of Justice Services.

BIA will also be hosting a Tribal Code Writing workshop September 27-29, 2017. The workshop will assist tribes in developing tribal laws, codes, ordinances, court rules, and policies & procedures. College credit is available for $45. VAWA training attendees can extend their travel to participate. Additional training costs, hotel and per diem will not be covered by VAWA scholarships.

Travel Request Deadline: September 15, 2017

To request travel or for more info, contact the Office of the President at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7379 or deptfob@ccthita-nsn.gov.
Back to School Backpack Fair and Annual Southeast Distributions
Submitted By: 477 Division

Tlingit & Haida’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) department hosted a successful Back to School Backpack Fair on July 29, 2017 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, AK. The fair, which offered morning and afternoon sessions, has been held every year since 2004 and is not only a great way to gear up for the school year, but marks the start of Tlingit & Haida’s annual distribution of backpacks in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. This year over 1,800 backpacks were distributed with starter school supplies such as binders, notebook paper, pencils, crayons, calculators and erasers.

2017 Miss Alaska USA Alyssa London was this year’s motivational speaker. She spoke to students on a variety of topics, but most importantly conveyed the importance of school and encouraged students to be confident and to set goals. At the end of each session, Miss Alaska USA responded to questions from the participants and made herself available to students who lined up for a photo opportunity with her at the Glacier Photo Booth.

A special Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to the Service and Learning Together (SaLT) student group from Chicago, IL for assisting with the assembling of backpacks and serving food at the fair, and to Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council for partnering again and making this a successful event for the community!

Best wishes to the students for another great school year!

Client Success Story:
Alexandra McGraw

Tlingit & Haida congratulates Alexandra McGraw on completing the Penn Foster Dental Assistant certificate program!

“My name is Alexandra McGraw and I was born in Sitka, Alaska. I’m enrolled with Sitka Tribe of Alaska and am Eskimo and Tlingit. I have always been interested in learning more and bettering myself so that I could find full-time employment. After I had my son Osiah a year and a half ago, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) department really helped me. When I heard there was an educational opportunity, I wanted to experience it. The Dental Assistant program was challenging at times, I studied online at home while my son was sleeping and even still kept at it through a job. My plan is to be a dental office receptionist at a pediatric office. This training has prepared me for starting college this fall and just receiving that certificate was a pretty amazing feeling. Thank you to my caseworker Chaix Johnson, for the opportunity to succeed and for pushing me along!”
Approximately 40 educators from 10 communities throughout Southeast Alaska traveled to Juneau for Tlingit & Haida Head Start's annual preservice held August 21-25, 2017. The preservice was held at the Vocational Training & Resource Center for four-days of intense training accruing approximately 15.5 hours of professional development.

Based on research that has shown improving one’s social/emotional skills vastly improves success in school and even in life, Head Start dedicated an entire day to focus on young children's social/emotional literacy and self-regulation skills. Tammy Goddard, a trainer from the Devereux Center for Resilient Children, presented FLIP-IT (Feelings, Limits, Inquiries, and Prompts) a strength-based intervention tool for teachers. Not only was this training applicable to students but for Head Start staff too!

This year Head Start was fortunate to be invited by Sealaska Heritage Institute’s (SHI) Education Director Jackie Kookesh to a day at the Walter Soboleff building which included access to their Alaska Mask exhibit. While there, the Baby Raven Reads program provided a refresher to our Second Step curriculum led by Karen Larson and culturally-based literacy activities led by Pauline Duncan. Veteran teacher Jennifer Scott also presented some helpful kinder-ready tips to our teachers. All of the trainings were conducted in the clan house, Shuká Hit (Ancestors’ House), which ended the preservice in a very appropriate setting that emphasized the power of culture in education.

Though the journeys were far and the training days were long, teachers enjoyed learning and celebrating Head Start’s successes together:

- We welcomed seven new staff members
- LeAnn Bryner obtained her CDA credential over the summer
- Both Kori Kness and Jennifer Crider participated in a two-week summer intensive at UAF—completing two early childhood education college courses

As we look forward to the upcoming year, we acknowledge that our success is only possible through the parents and community partnerships as well as the support from organizations like Community Connections, Goldbelt, Juneau Youth Services, SHI, and Sitka Tribal Association.
Sacred Grounds Café Grand Opening

Tlingit & Haida held a grand opening ceremony on July 21, 2017 for its new coffee shop, Sacred Grounds Café. Sacred Grounds is located downtown in the Andrew Hope Building at 320 W. Willoughby Avenue in Juneau, Alaska.

There was a tremendous community turnout for the event which included a ribbon cutting ceremony, catered light refreshments, fresh brewed coffee on the house and an all-day $2 special on all espresso drinks.

Sacred Grounds offers an inviting atmosphere with an industrial vibe created by high ceilings and exposed ductwork. The coffee shop also features a unique roasted coffee blend supplied by Skya'ana Coffee Co., a Native-owned coffee roaster in Klawock, Alaska. The coffee shop is open Monday thru Saturday from 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM and offers great everyday community discounts: Military (15% off), Government Employees (Federal, State, & Municipal - 10% off), and Senior Citizens (65 & older - 10% Off).

Morning Jolt, Mud, Java, Cuppa Joe, Caffeine Infusion, whatever you call it...for a quiet setting and free Wi-Fi, stop by to enjoy a cup of coffee and relax in the ambiance of Sacred Grounds.

To receive notice of special discounts and other promotions, make sure to visit Sacred Grounds' official Facebook business page: www.facebook.com/SacredGroundsAK.

Don't forget to also visit Sacred Grounds' other location (3239 Hospital Drive - Juneau, Alaska) in the Vocational Training & Resource Center.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’ta to everyone who joined us for our Sacred Grounds Café grand opening!
Mark Your Calendars

**September Events**
- 5: First Day of school for T&H Head Start Students – SE Alaska
- 6: New Motherhood Is Sacred™ Sessions Begin – Juneau, AK
- 5-8: Southeast Environmental Conference – Wrangell, AK
- 7: Client Service Informational Fair – Saxman, AK
- 7-8: Entrepreneurial Empowerment Workshop – Juneau, AK
- 16-17: T&H Washington Chapter’s 9th Biennial Southeast Alaska Native Culture Fair (South Seattle College) – Seattle, WA
- 19-21: Southeast Conference – Haines, AK
- 21: New Fatherhood is Sacred® Sessions Begin – Juneau, AK
- 22: Executive Council Teleconference
- 25: Client Service Informational Fair – Haines, AK
- 25-26: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) training – Juneau, AK
- 27-29: Tribal Code Writing Workshop – Juneau, AK

**October Events**
- 3-5: Wellbriety Training Institute’s Medicine Wheel & 2 Steps for Youth – Juneau, AK
- 5-7: ANB/ANS Grand Camp Convention – Portland, OR
- 9: Indigenous Peoples Day (Offices Closed)
- 11: Client Service Informational Fairs – Hydaburg & Craig, AK
- 12: Client Service Informational Fairs – Kasaan & Klawock, AK
- 13: Executive Council Teleconference
- 13-17: Sharing Our Knowledge Clan Conference – Sitka, AK
- 20: Anchorage T&H Delegates Reception – Anchorage, AK
- 19-21: AFN Convention – Anchorage, AK
- 23: Client Service Informational Fair – Wrangell, AK
- 24: Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance Symposium – Anchorage, AK

**November Events**
- 2-3: Executive Council Meeting – Juneau, AK
- 6-9: Enrollment Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
- 10: Veterans Day Observed (Offices Closed)
- 11: Veterans Day Ceremony hosted by the Southeast Alaska Native Veterans – Juneau, AK
- 14: Dr. Walter Soboleff Day (Offices Closed)
- 16: Native American Heritage Month Celebration “AWAKE, A Dream from Standing Rock Documentary – Juneau, AK
- 23-24: Thanksgiving Day and National Native American Heritage Day (Offices Closed)
- 27-12/1: BIA Provider’s Conference – Anchorage, AK

---

**Child Care Providers Are Needed**

If you enjoy caring for children and are interested in opening up your home as a child care or day care facility, Tlingit & Haida’s Child Care program can help!

**Who should apply?**
- Age 18 or older
- Tribally enrolled or interested in caring for tribally enrolled children
- Must be able to pass suitability:
  - Criminal background check. Must be free of any convictions (i.e., charges of crimes against people, narcotics, sexual abuse of a minor (SAM) assault, or driving while intoxicated are not eligible)
  - Skills & knowledge in handling infants & toddlers
  - Three references

**Tlingit & Haida can help pay for the following:**
- Criminal Background Checks
- Business License
- Training in Pediatric CPR/First Aid
- Health & Safety Equipment (fire extinguishers, safety gates, locks, etc.)
- Age appropriate toys & books

You do not need to be Alaska Native or American Indian to apply.

For more information, contact the Child Care department at 800.344.1432 ext. 7140 or deptcc@ctthita-nsn.gov.
Tlingit & Haida would like to encourage all Community Councils to actively seek young leaders in their community to nominate for the Emerging Leader position on the Executive Council. The position provides young adults with opportunities to acquire important knowledge about Tlingit & Haida, its processes and organizational structure, and valuable hands-on leadership experience.

The Emerging Leader position was created to enhance the leadership skills of our tribal youth.

As an Emerging Leader, he/she has all rights of attendance at all Executive Council meetings but does not have voting privileges. He/she may speak on any business that is before the Executive Council.

To view a list of past youth leaders, please visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/government/council/youth.

Election of our next Emerging Leader will take place during the 83rd Annual Tribal Assembly in April 2018.

Tlingit & Haida would like to announce the upcoming 2018 Delegate Elections. Per the Rules of Election, the apportionment of Delegates is one (1) Delegate for every two hundred (200) enrolled tribal citizens per community or fraction thereof. An official report on the apportionment of Delegates will be issued on December 22, 2017.

Elections will be held in each of Tlingit & Haida’s 21 registered communities in March 2018.

Tlingit & Haida’s registered communities include:

- Anchorage
- Angoon
- Craig
- Haines
- Hoonah
- Hydaburg
- Juneau
- Kake
- Kasaan
- Ketchikan
- Klawock
- Klukwan
- Metlakatla
- Pelican
- Petersburg
- San Francisco
- Saxman
- Sitka
- Seattle
- Wrangell
- Yakutat

Delegates will serve a two-year term and attend the annual Tribal Assembly to conduct business including the election of the President, Vice Presidents, and Emerging Leader.

Tribal citizens must be 18 or older to be nominated and/or vote in the Delegate Elections. Because the apportionment of Delegates is based on the number of enrolled tribal citizens in each community, Tlingit & Haida encourages all tribal citizens to update their enrollment record contact information. To do so, please complete the online form at: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/overview/forms/form-update-contact or contact our Program Compliance department at 800.344.1432 ext. 7359 or 907.463.7359 and they will be happy to assist you.

For questions regarding Tribal Assembly, please contact:

Heather Gatti  
Special Assistant to the President  
Office of the President  
9097 Glacier Highway, Juneau AK 99801  
Toll Free: 800.344.1432 ext. 7103 • Direct: 907.463.7103  
Email: hgatti@ccthita-nsn.gov
Delegate Election Target Dates

Election of Delegates to the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Appoint Local Election Officials........................................................................................................ By November 1, 2017
Local Election Officials will be appointed by the Local Community Council by November 1, 2017. Rule 4, Section 1A.

Notice of Enrollment Requirements .................................................................................................. By November 15, 2017
A notice stating the enrollment process and deadline must be published by November 15, 2017. Rule 7, Section 1.

Post Official Voting List................................................................................................................. December 11, 2017
The Local Election Officials shall post the alphabetical list of persons eligible to vote in the community by December 11, 2017. Rule 6, Section 1.

Challenge Voting List ................................................................................................................... December 11-16, 2017
Written protest must be submitted to the Local Election Official between December 11-16, 2017. The Chairman shall notify Tlingit & Haida of its decision by December 21, 2017. Rule 6, Section 2-3.

Delegate Allotment Established.....................................................................................................As of December 22, 2017
Delegates per community shall be determined based on voter registry as of December 22, 2017. Rule 3, Section 2.

Notice of Delegate Election ...........................................................................................................No Later Than February 1, 2018
Each Local Election Official shall publish a notice of Delegate Election before February 1, 2018 specifying the date of Delegate Election, location and hours for polling, nomination of candidates, and procedures for voting including those for absentee voting. Rule 7, Section 2.

Nominations.................................................................................................................................... January 15 through February 5, 2018
Nomination lists must be submitted to Tlingit & Haida by February 5, 2018. Nominations shall be made in regular or special meetings called for that purpose. Rule 8, Section 1B.

List of Nominated Candidates .......................................................................................................February 12, 2018
A complete list of nominated candidates will be published by February 12, 2018. Rule 7, Section 2D.

Absentee Voting............................................................................................................................ By Delegate Election Day - Third Thursday in March
Ballots must be returned in time to be counted along with the other ballots on Delegate Election Day (March 15, 2018). Rule 9, Section 3.

Submit Delegate Election Report ................................................................................................No Later Than Third Friday in March
A written report will be posted as soon as results are known or no later than close of business the following work day. Rule 11, Section 1.

Challenge Delegate Election .......................................................................................................COB Monday Following Delegate Election
Candidates may challenge the election in writing to the President of Tlingit & Haida and/or the Chairman of a duly constituted Election Committee of Tlingit & Haida no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Monday following a Delegate election. Grounds for protest must be listed and substantiating evidence must be included. Rule 13, Section 1. All written challenges must be addressed to:

President, Tlingit & Haida
320 W. Willoughby Avenue, Suite 300
Juneau AK 99801

For questions regarding Delegate Elections, please contact Program Compliance:
Toll Free: 800.344.1432 ext. 7359 • Direct: 907.463.7359 • Email: vhillman@ccthita-nsn.gov
The Second Chance Reentry program was recently awarded funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission to partner with the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) and Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc. (JAMHI) to develop and implement a non-incarceration response to habitual shoplifting. The Juneau Avert Chronic Shoplifting (JACS) program, which is a one-year pilot program, anticipates receiving referrals from city prosecutors by October. Recognizing that shoplifting is often committed as a symptom of underlying mental health, substance use, or other co-occurring disorders, the program looks to address the problem from a three-pronged approach:

**JAMHI**
JAMHI will provide integrated assessments, follow-on treatment & cognitive behavioral therapy (with a certified shoplifting prevention program).

**Tlingit & Haida**
Tlingit & Haida will provide a caseworker to assist participants in achieving participant-identified, measurable goals.

**CBJ**
CBJ will reward participation with justice system incentives in deferred sentencing, provided the participant completes requirements and pays any outstanding restitution.

“On behalf of the Law Department, we are very excited about this collaborative project,” said City Attorney Amy Mead. “As criminal justice reform has gotten underway in Alaska, we as prosecutors have had to rethink how we approach certain cases, especially misdemeanor property crimes. There is very little data on how to best address this population of offenders so as to reduce the risk of recidivism but preliminary findings suggest motivational interviewing (such as will be provided by the Second Chance program) and Moral Reconation Therapy (as will be provided by JAMHI) may be beneficial. We are hopeful that this pilot project will serve as a model for other communities struggling with the same issues.”

**Second Chance Receives Recognition**
The Second Chance Reentry program was included in recent recognition from the Alaska State Legislature when the Juneau Reentry Coalition was presented with a Legislative Citation recognizing their combined efforts to reduce recidivism in Juneau. The Second Chance program is very active in the coalition and chairs the Alaska Native Workgroup, a subgroup of the coalition that addresses the specific needs of Alaska Natives being released from incarceration.

“It is a great honor for the program to receive recognition for the work we accomplish with our community partners but it’s also important to recognize the work we have done with our own tribal partners and programs, such as our 477 programs and BEDD (Business and Economic Development),” said Jason Wilson, Public Safety Manager. “The value of the Work Experience program and BEDD’s willingness to employ many of our participants on the Thane Ore House Project has made a big difference in the lives of many of our Second Chance clients. Our partnerships are important, both inside and out.”
Manager Highlights

Congratulations to Tribal Transportation Manager Will Ware and Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) Manager Jessie Archibald on their recent appointments!

Tribal Transportation Manager Will Ware has been appointed to serve a three-year term on the Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council. The Council was established by Alaska Governor Bill Walker in 2015 and consists of 11 members who represent tribal interest in the areas of wildlife and fisheries, transportation, housing, subsistence, public safety, justice, language and culture, economic development, energy and natural resources, healthcare, and education.

TCSU Manager Jessie Archibald has been appointed by Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice Craig Stowers to serve a four-year term as an attorney member for the Alaska Bar Association’s Area Discipline Committee. A Discipline Committee is established in each of the judicial districts and is charged with holding hearings to assess the validity of allegations of improper conduct against a member of the Association.

Sign Up for Tribal eNews

Help us reduce the Tribe’s paper consumption and print/postage costs by signing up to receive the Tribe’s eNews via email! Join other tribal citizens and friends who have subscribed to receive our newsletter, monthly Tribal Updates, and other news on the Tribe’s activities and events.

To sign up, please contact:

Communications
Office of the President
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Toll Free: 1.800.344.1432 • Direct: 907.463.7368
communications@ccthita-nsn.gov

To view past newsletters, visit www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/newsletters.

Our Tribal Millennium Documentary

In 2000, Tlingit & Haida produced a video entitled, “Our Tribal Millennium.” The video provides a great historical overview of the events that led to the establishment of Tlingit & Haida, such as the formation of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, pursuit of a land suit, and the shift of the Tribe’s role over time from that of advocacy for land claims to providing services to our tribal citizens.

The video includes wonderful interviews from former Tlingit & Haida Presidents John Borbridge and Edward K. Thomas, past Sealaska President/CEO Bob Loescher, and Tlingit & Haida’s former Self-Governance Coordinator Richard Stitt.

Watch on YouTube:
youtu.be/6hVE07kKrgM
Southeast Regional ICWA Workshop
Submitted By: Tribal Family & Youth Services

The Tribal Family and Youth Services (TFYS) department hosted an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) workshop August 8-11, 2017 in Juneau, Alaska. The ICWA workshop is held every year to enhance community partnerships, to inform partners of new Indian Child Welfare Act policies and guidelines and to enhance the courtroom skills of the Southeast ICWA representatives.

Ninety participants from the Alaska Office of Children’s Services (OCS), Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), Native American Rights Fund (NARF), Southeast ICWA representatives, and TFYS staff attended the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and TFYS-funded workshop. The training opened with a day and a half facilitated discussion by First Alaskans Institute called “Advancing Native Dialogues on Racial Equity (ANDORE).” The dialogue asked OCS staff, Southeast ICWA representatives and TFYS staff to reset and reshape the dialogue on race in child welfare. More broadly, the trainings bring people together to challenge racial perceptions through community conversations. The dialogue ultimately seeks to raise the level of awareness and healing around race and racism and to advance policy solutions towards racial equity.

The workshop also included a brief overview of the life of an ICWA case and how to negotiate adoption subsidies. Volunteer attorneys also facilitated breakout groups to enhance court room skills for Qualified Expert Witness reviews and Placement Review Hearings.

The final morning of the workshop began with breakfast with the Judges. Southeast State and Tribal Court judges engaged in a question and answer session with Southeast tribal representatives and TFYS staff regarding Qualified Expert Witness in ICWA cases, ICWA training provided to judges and tips for ICWA workers in the court room. The judges reiterated over and over the importance of ICWA representatives’ active involvement in cases. As the legal representatives of their tribes, ICWA workers have the right to call witnesses, cross examine and introduce evidence; they have the same power as attorneys for the state. The most important conclusion from the judges’ panel and the conference as a whole was the importance of tribal sovereignty in protecting our families and children. The ICWA representative, whether in person, by phone or by video, embodies the legal protections a tribe can offer to its children and thus its future.

BIA Awards $110K to Begin Water Sampling on Alsek River
Submitted By: Native Lands & Resources

Tlingit & Haida has been awarded $110,000 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to begin water quality studies on the Alsek River near Yakutat. Initial funding was received in July 2015 to compile baseline water quality data on the Taku, Stikine and Unuk rivers. The data will assist with watershed management decisions, complement other transboundary studies such as traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), and help establish a future monitoring program that can assess any potential downstream impacts from mining development in British Columbia. As of August 2017, 14 samples from the Taku River and 16 samples from the Stikine River have been collected.

For questions relating to the baseline water quality testing on transboundary rivers, contact NLR Manager Desiree Duncan at 907.463.7183 or dduncan@ccthita-nsn.gov.
This summer, Tlingit & Haida was pleased to have Dabney Meachum intern with the Native Lands & Resources (NLR) department. Dabney is Eagle, Kaagwaantaan from the Two Door House. Her Tlingit name is Kaaxditeen. She is the daughter of Freda Westman and the late Robert Meachum. Dabney holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Sociology and Human Services from Fort Lewis College, and will be starting a Master of Arts program in Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice at the University of British Columbia in the fall. She comes to Tlingit & Haida through First Alaskans Institute’s intern program.

On July 12th, Dabney participated in baseline water quality testing on the Stikine River in Wrangell, Alaska. NLR has been conducting baseline water quality testing with Kai Environmental Consulting Services on the Stikine and Taku transboundary rivers as part of a three-year study to measure the levels of dissolved heavy metals and other toxic substances associated with Canada’s large-scale mining on tributaries and headwaters that flow into Southeast Alaska. Efforts are underway to begin water quality testing on the Alsek and Unuk rivers as well.

The data collected is critical to establish future monitoring programs. NLR’s goal is to produce a comprehensive, statistically valid, and scientifically defensible baseline water quality data set to help inform regulatory agencies on impacts from upstream development and to aid in management of these rivers to protect the Pacific salmon stocks that originate from them.

For more information on Dabney’s internship activities, contact 907.463.7183 or deptnlr@ccthita-nsn.gov.

**Tlingit & Haida is Committed to Mentoring Higher Education Students!**
Classrooms Open at William Demmert Head Start Center
Submitted By: Head Start

Tlingit & Haida Head Start (Head Start) welcomed students into their new classrooms on September 7, 2017 at the William Demmert Head Start Center. The new center houses two classes, Taashuka I and Taashuka II, which were relocated from their former location at the Faith Lutheran Church. Although the classrooms started two days behind the rest of Head Start due to the renovations, volunteers worked late into the evening before the first day of school to add finishing touches to the classrooms to ensure a great start to the school year.

The next project on Head Start’s list is to create an outside play area. A municipally ordained protected wetland area is located just behind the Head Start center which has created some hurdles for installing a play area. Head Start hopes to incorporate place-based play structures, a garden with safe indigenous plants, and perhaps murals with Tlingit and Haida art. Head Start has big dreams and a blank canvas so if you are willing to share your talents for a wonderful community cause, please contact Head Start at 907.463.7127!

Special Message from Head Start Director Albert Rinehart:
“We really appreciate the patience and understanding from parents on this project. The new classrooms fulfill the Tribe’s vision of serving students onsite and everyone has shown great dedication in keeping the health and safety of our children at the forefront. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated team at Head Start who worked above and beyond to make these classrooms possible through what seemed like an endless labor of moving furniture and supplies. We also received amazing support from President Richard Peterson and Chief Operating Officer Corrine Garza. As the school year kicks off at Tlingit & Haida Head Start, I just want to express how honored we are to have parents and families send their children to Head Start. Our dedicated staff look forward to many wonderful days ahead as we provide the learning environment that nurtures children to grow. Parents are always the most important teachers in a child’s life, but we are here to do our part to help children prepare for kindergarten and reach their full potential.”
A raffle has been launched in partnership with Southeast Alaska Native Veterans to raise funds for renovations to the Veterans’ memorial park located on the corner of Warrior Street and Willoughby Avenue in downtown Juneau.

Tickets are $10 and available at the reception areas of the Andrew Hope Building (320 W. Willoughby Ave.) and Edward K. Thomas Building (9097 Glacier Highway) or by calling 907.463.7110.

**Raffle Prizes:**
- 1st Prize: $2,500 Cash
- 2nd Prize: $1,500 Cash
- 3rd Prize: $1,000 Cash
- Other Prizes: $500 / $400 / $300 / $200 / $100

Raffle drawing will be held at the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2017 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, AK (need not be present to win).

Please help us support our Southeast Alaska Native Veterans!
Preserving our sovereignty, enhancing our economic and cultural resources, and promoting self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens through collaboration, service, and advocacy.

2017 Client Service Informational Fairs
Southeast Alaska Communities (Sept. 7 - Oct. 23, 2017)

Mark your calendars! Tlingit & Haida will be holding Client Service Informational Fairs in Southeast communities beginning September 8th. The fairs are an opportunity for tribal citizens to learn about Tlingit & Haida’s programs and services, eligibility requirements, ask questions, and receive a new Tribal ID card. Join us for light refreshments and door prizes, and don’t forget to also bring a form of identification to receive a new Tribal ID!

If you are unable to attend the fair, don’t forget you can also review Tlingit & Haida’s Program Profiles booklet which provides a comprehensive list of all programs and services at www.ccthita-nsn.gov/documents/2016ProgramProfiles.pdf.

For more information on the fairs, visit Tlingit & Haida’s Events page at www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/events.

Questions? Contact the Program Compliance department at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7143 or vhillman@ccthita-nsn.gov.

2017 Client Service Information Fairs
Saxman • 9/7/2017 • Shaan Hidi Senior Center • 6-8PM
Haines • 9/25/2017 • ANB Hall • 6-8PM
Hydaburg • 10/11/2017 • Boys & Girls Club • 11AM to 1PM
Craig • 10/11/2017 • Craig Tribal Hall • 6-8PM
Kasaan • 10/12/2017 • Totem Trail Cafe • Noon to 2PM
Klawock • 10/12/2017 • School Library • 6-8PM
Wrangell • 10/23/2017 • Nolan Center • 6-8PM