Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska’s (Tlingit & Haida) 477 Division hosted another successful Back to School Backpack Fair on July 28, 2018 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska. The fair is an annual event that helps to ensure our tribal youth get their school year started off right.

477 Director Will Martin opened the fair and introduced President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson who provided welcomes at both the morning and afternoon sessions. This year’s motivational speaker was tribal citizen and Team Counter Strike Boxing and MMA coach Randy Willard. Randy shared his personal story of hardship and struggles with attendees and his road to recovery and success through discipline and working hard towards his goals each day. He is the manager of Counterstrike MMA, a team of fighters he trains for competition.

More than 900 backpacks filled with starter school supplies were given away at the fair with another 1,100+ delivered to Southeast Alaska communities in partnership with local village tribes.
Are You Registered to Vote?

Voter registration is available in Juneau every Sunday at Sacred Grounds Café!

As part of the Get Out The Native Vote (GOTNV) effort, the League of Women Voters has partnered with a few of Juneau’s Native entities to offer voter registration at the Sacred Grounds Café (320 W. Willoughby Avenue).

Can’t make it this Sunday? There’s still plenty of time to register to vote in the General Election on November 6th! Stop by Sacred Grounds Café between 10AM and noon ANY Sunday through October 7th. A League of Women Voters volunteer will be on hand to help you through the registration process. Did we mention - there will also be free freshly brewed coffee to all who register!

For more information throughout the election season, visit the Get Out The Native Vote - Southeast Alaska Facebook page (facebook.com/GOTNVSoutheastAlaska), and don’t forget to “like” and “share” the posts.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa!

Spruce Root Basket Donated from Private Collection

Tlingit & Haida was recently donated two baskets – a Tlingit spruce root basket (shéiyi xaat kākgu) estimated to be over 100 years old and a small basket with a whale motif made by a member of the Makah tribe of Washington. The baskets were a part of a private collection belonging to Maxine Gresset, the late mother of Marie Kauffman of Camp Verde, Arizona.

Marie shared that her desire to return the baskets was simply based on a feeling that it was the right thing to do.

“My mother would be pleased to know the spruce root basket has returned to its place of origin,” said Marie.

Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections for the Alaska State Museum, identified one of the baskets as being Tlingit spruce root in the “ginger jar” form based on Chinese pottery containers.

Basket making is one of the oldest Tlingit art forms and our Southeast Alaska indigenous people produced some of the finest examples of the two-strand twining weaving method. Spruce root baskets were water-tight vessels that typically exhibited bold geometric designs.

“Although the lidded basket is a bit faded, it’s still in very good shape,” said Cultural Resource Specialist Harold Jacobs. “Tlingit weavers used their incredible skills to imitate many complex shapes in spruce roots… teapots, bottles, even dolls with arms and legs. In this case, the shape of the basket imitates the lidded pots from China called ginger jars.”

“The spirit of our ancestors and culture flow through this basket,” said President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson. “It is always a good feeling when an item returns home.”

The spruce root basket will be a part of the permanent collection of Tlingit & Haida and will eventually be available for study by those interested in weaving or Tlingit art forms.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa (Thank You) to Ms. Kauffman for thinking of Tlingit & Haida and returning the Tlingit spruce root basket to its homeland!
VP Micklin Attends the EMRIP in Geneva

Third Vice President (VP) William Micklin traveled to Switzerland in July to attend the 11th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in Geneva. A pre-meeting of Indigenous Peoples representatives, funded by the IP Voluntary Fund and a meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Global Caucus took place prior to the session in order to discuss Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in relation to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

UNDRIP was adopted by the United Nations general assembly in September of 2007 and “establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world,” according to the UN website. Although there are six references to the concept of FPIC within UNDRIP, as VP Micklin reports, there is “no substantive right established in any meaningful sense.”

VP Micklin and a cohort of other Indigenous leaders from around the world will be working to develop a national plan of action for meaningful UNDRIP implementation.

President Peterson Meets with Yukon Chief

On June 8, 2018, Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek along with Chief Operations Officer Nathan Wright of the Chiefs of Ontario, met with President Richard (Chaylee Éesh) Peterson while in Juneau, Alaska for Celebration 2018.

The meeting was informal and provided an opportunity for President Peterson to reaffirm the Tribe’s commitment to building a strong relationship with our Canada relatives.

During their meeting, transboundary mining, tribal citizenship/enrollment, Jay Treaty, climate change and subsistence/traditional food harvesting were discussed. Developing a collaborative working agreement was also discussed with strong interest to formalize a partnership. President Peterson made the commitment to serve all Tlingit and Haida tribal citizens, wherever they may be, by building these relationships with our relatives in Canada and First Nations along the coast and interior.
Tlingit & Haida has been awarded a $1 million, three-year Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance-Esther Martinez Immersion grant through the Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans (ANA) to establish and operate a Tlingit Language Immersion Nest (Haa Yoo X’atángi Kúdi). As the Cultural Heritage & Education Manager, Sarah Dybdahl will administer the grant and oversee the development of the Haa Yoo X’atángi Kúdi.

The Haa Yoo X’atángi Kúdi will serve as a pilot program and model to expand and create language immersion programs for Xaadas Kil and Sm’algyax. During the three-year grant, the Haa Yoo X’atángi Kúdi goals are to create an environment for tribally-enrolled children ages 3-5 to be immersed in the Tlingit language, provide training and development opportunities for language instructors, and ensure families are supported and provided the resources needed to be on this language journey with their children.

“Our vision is to see our children fully fluent in their indigenous language,” said Sarah Dybdahl. “It has been a long-term goal to have a language immersion nest in Juneau and this is just one of many exciting initiatives Tlingit & Haida is working on to support our Southeast Alaska indigenous languages. While this language immersion nest is focused on Tlingit, we are committed to fostering partnerships that support language preservation efforts. During this year’s Tribal Assembly, we raised nearly $45,000, of which $15,000 was donated to both the Xaadas Kil Kuyaas Foundation and Haayk Foundation to support the Xaadas Kil and Sm’algyax languages.”

Language immersion schools in Hawaii, New Zealand, and within the Mohawk and Ojibwe tribes have seen great success with graduation rates as high as 100%, college placement as high as 100%, and have achieved some of the highest test scores in standardized testing in English while their children achieve total fluency in their indigenous language.

“Our languages are in a state of emergency and it’s undeniable that the health of our children is directly tied to our languages,” said President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson. “We must do everything we can to perpetuate our languages and cultures, and I hope to one day have a full language immersion tribal school for all Southeast indigenous languages.”

Mission of the Haa Yoo X’atángi Kúdi


English: We are not going to walk away from it. Our language is like a tree root, and upon it Our Language Nest was built. In the shelter of a tree we love one another through Our Way of Life. On Our Land we will forever hear the voices of our grandparents, and then we will still be holding each other’s hands with strength of spirit.
During the month of July, the Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) department sponsored several traditional food harvesting field trips and processing classes. Tribal citizen and former Miss Tlingit & Haida, Rose Anna (Jinkasee.ee) Willard, led the field trips and classes to help provide wellness information and promote cultural activities that bring families together.

Participating families took field trips to collect beach asparagus, goose tongue and fireweed, and to fish for salmon. After families collected traditional foods, TFYS hosted classes to make fireweed jam and process the salmon. Goldbelt Heritage Foundation’s Family Culture Club co-hosted salmon processing at Tlingit & Haida’s Vocational Training & Resource Center.

“As we come together for traditional harvesting, we celebrate good food, good company, and good memories,” said Nancy Keen, group participant and Navigators Program Aide.

“I loved how the Traditional Harvest Groups supported family members teaching their children how to harvest and process traditional foods. Perhaps more inspiring was seeing children teaching their caregivers how to make fireweed jam,” said Will Kronick, Family & Community Engagement Specialist for TFYS.

For more information on TFYS’ traditional harvesting field trips, contact Will at 907.463.7168 or wkronick@ctthita-nsn.gov.

Sixth Vice President (VP) Catherine Edwards was pleased to represent Tlingit & Haida in August at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Violence Against Women Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation in Sioux Falls, SD.

Catherine provided powerful testimony informing DOJ on what needs to be done to remedy the epidemic of violence and stated, “during the flag ceremony we need to add a red flag to recognize the missing and murdered indigenous women who represent a disproportionate rate in this area just as we represent our Veterans through the POW flags.” She also shared actions that Tlingit & Haida is taking to stop the violence against women and children.

For information on the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women, visit: www.niwrc.org/resource-topic/missing-and-murdered-native-women.
Promoting Cultural Activities

The Child Care department continues to promote cultural activities to help enrich the lives of our tribal youth. Over the summer, Child Care supported culture camps in six communities. The camps saw a great turn-out with over 400 youth participating (Angoon-63, Haines-32, Hoonah-136, Hydaburg-56, Juneau-59 and Kake-60).

A variety of cultural activities were offered at the camps (learning the Tlingit language through song, dance and storytelling, and harvesting and preserving of traditional foods like berries, gumboots, devils club, Hudson Bay tea, beach asparagus, halibut and Dungeness crab). The camps also shared information about the environment and the value of traditional knowledge, leadership and teamwork.

Child Care is proud to support before-school, after-school and cultural programs. The department also strives to increase the availability of affordable quality child care in Southeast Alaska.

For more information on Child Care services, contact:

477 Child Care
Toll Free: 800.344.1432 ext. 7141
Direct: 907.463.7141

Tlingit & Haida Awarded Institute of Museum & Library Services Grant

Tlingit & Haida is pleased to announce it has been awarded $66,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through its Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services (NANH) grants program. The grant funds will be used to complete a storage assessment and improve ongoing collection care of objects of cultural patrimony, sacred objects and funerary objects. Project activities will support the long-term stewardship of these objects by improving the storage, access, preservation and security of the collection through the purchase of museum quality storage units.

Upon completion of the project, objects will be stored or on public display at Tlingit & Haida’s Edward K. Thomas building located at 9097 Glacier Highway in Juneau, Alaska.

“The repatriation work of Tlingit & Haida is vital to the survival of our cultures,” said President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson. “As we continue to see more and more objects come home, it is especially important that we increase our infrastructure to caretake the items for clans and owners. With this project, we want to be very clear that the items will only be on display with approvals in place from clans and owners.”

Tlingit & Haida’s Cultural Heritage & Education department will administer the grant funds that will also be used to evaluate and create repatriation policies in line with the traditional tribal values.

“This grant award will allow us to take measures to ensure that Tlingit & Haida is fulfilling its role on behalf of clans and communities to be the steward of repatriated items with our cultural values as the foundation of our work,” said Cultural Heritage & Education Manager Sarah Dybdahl.

Since 1993, Tlingit & Haida’s Cultural Resources program has been successful in repatriating numerous artifacts on behalf of tribal communities through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The Cultural Resources program’s focus is to seek the return and protection of all objects and to provide technical assistance to communities and tribes throughout Southeast Alaska in the implementation of NAGPRA and the National Museum of the American Indian Act (NMAIA). To date, Tlingit & Haida has successfully repatriated more than 150 objects with several repatriation requests still pending as reported by Cultural Resource Specialist Harold Jacobs.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grant # MN-00-18-0004-18). IMLS’ grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.
Elders Wellness Group Whale Watching Tour
Submitted By: Tribal Family & Youth Services

On Monday August 20, 2018, members of the Tribal Family & Youth Services’ Elders Wellness group went on a whale watching tour that departed Auke Bay Harbor, cruising north through Favorite Channel. The end of summer outing was planned by the Elders Council which meets once a month. The council was formed to address any issues our Tlingit & Haida elders face in the community and to provide feedback and ideas for the larger Wellness program.

A total of 62 elders were present on the tour, accompanied by family escorts as well as members of Tlingit & Haida staff. The group enjoyed the sights and added some of their own sounds by sharing traditional songs and dances throughout the sunny morning outing.

For more information on the Elders Wellness program, please contact Justin Jones, Wellness Coordinator, at 463-7163 or jjones@ccthita-nsn.gov.

Tlingit & Haida Welcomes Jesse Parr

Tlingit & Haida is pleased to welcome Jesse Parr as the Tribe’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Manager. As the TANF Manager, Jesse oversees the management of the TANF department which provides financial assistance to families while emphasizing work participation, education, family stability and responsibility to increase self-sufficiency and gainful employment for Alaska Natives and American Indians in Southeast Alaska. He is also responsible for budget development and monitoring, preparation of required financial and narrative reports, implementation of policies and procedures, and the successful use of the Tribal DTM client data management system.

Jesse previously worked for the State of Alaska’s Department of Health and Social Services for over eight years in several TANF-related positions. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Tourism and Commercial Recreation from Georgia Southern University and a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast.

“I’m both honored and excited to join Tlingit & Haida’s TANF team,” said Jesse. “I am looking forward to working alongside new colleagues and continuing to serve families in need.”

Jesse was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska. He is the son of Chip and Sandy Parr, and the grandson of Charlie and Karen Parr of Fairbanks, Alaska and Curtis and Dorthy Slette of Albert Lea, Minnesota. When he was just a baby, he was given the Tlingit name Káatdaa (spelling not confirmed) by Cyril George who was a close family friend of his father. Jesse also has twin younger sisters, five nieces and nephews and a dog named Carolina.
Tlingit & Haida was pleased to host a music video launch party for seven amazing tribal citizen youth who directed, rapped and produced the music video *Ixsíxán, Ax Kwáan* (I Love You, My People) that illustrates their love for their culture and indigenous life in Southeast Alaska.

The youth (Jacob Brouillette, Marcel Cohen, Bradley Dybdahl, Arias Hoyle, Keegan Kanan, Geri Rodriguez and Kenndra Willard) created the music video in less than two weeks with technical support from Second2NoneSound (Josh Laboca), as part of a week-long music video camp sponsored by Tlingit & Haida’s Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) department through its Native Connections program. The music camp, which was held July 16-20, 2018, focused on providing space for the youth to develop culturally-based social, emotional, mental, and spiritual skills to become healthy and resilient students.

The lyrics composed are in Tlingit and English while the scenes in the music video depict vignettes of our traditional tribal values as well as the history of Juneau and Southeast Alaska. As part of the process, each youth participated in writing exercises to help create the lyrics and collaborated to develop the video’s aesthetic. Outdoor activities were coordinated throughout the week to provide the students with the opportunity to capture video footage to illustrate the lyrics for their music video. By the end of camp, students learned how to create lyrics, shoot videos to illustrate the lyrics and produce a short music video.

“My experience with camp has been admirable and productive,” said Arias Hoyle, the lead rapper and lyricist for the camp. “We embraced the culture with our rap. I am just excited that Alaska Native youth can make something like this. In our town, where people know us for our languages dying, it was cool to make something to be proud of.”

“I am so proud of the students in *Ixsíxán, Ax Kwáan*,” said Will Kronick, a camp advisor. “They worked really hard to weave a compelling audio and visual narrative. *Gunalchéesh/Háw’aa* to the students for teaching Justin Jones and I so much and to the many partners who made this project possible.”

*Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa* (Thank You) to our partners for your support and contributions to our tribal citizen youth in their music video project: Second2NoneSound, Vocational Training & Resource Center, Alaska Marine Highway System, One People Canoe Society, Goldbelt Heritage Foundation and Sacred Grounds Café.

The launch party was sponsored by the TFYS department under the Native Connections program. The event flyer and program material was developed under Grant # 6H79SM063465-02M001 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

For those not able to attend the launch party, the *Ixsíxán, Ax Kwáan* (I Love You, My People) music video is available to view on Tlingit & Haida’s YouTube channel: bit.ly/IxsíxánAxKwáan.
Mark Your Calendars

September Events

4: Head Start’s First Day of School – Southeast AK
6: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK
8: Saturday Vendor Market – Juneau, AK
10-12: Tribal Self-Governance Strategy Session – St. Paul, MN
12-13: NCAI Annual Tribal Unity Impact Days – Washington, DC
12-14: Southeast Conference Annual Meeting – Ketchikan, AK
15: Alumni Scholarship Application Period Closes
17-20: ATNI Fall Annual Convention – Worley, ID
18: GOTNV Native Issues Forums – Juneau, AK
20: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK
25: GOTNV Native Issues Forums – Juneau, AK
27: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK
29: San Francisco Tlingit & Haida Community Council Harvest Festival – Isleton, CA

October Events

2: GOTNV Native Issues Forum – Juneau, AK
4: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK
8: Indigenous People’s Day (Offices Closed)
9: GOTNV Native Issues Forum – Juneau, AK
11: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK
13: Saturday Vendor Market – Juneau, AK
15: Deadline for Teen Speak Applications
18: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK
15-17: FAI Elders & Youth Conference – Anchorage, AK
15-20: 106th ANB/ANS Grand Camp Convention – Ketchikan, AK
17: Tribal Citizen/Shareholder Reception – Anchorage, AK
18-20: Alaska Federation of Natives Convention – Anchorage, AK
21-26: NCAI’s 75th Annual Convention & Marketplace – Denver, CO
25: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK

November Events

1: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK
5: Teen Speak Part 1 Session Begins – Juneau, AK
8: Fatherhood Is Sacred® Session – Juneau, AK
11: Southeast Alaska Native Veterans’ Day Ceremony & Luncheon – Juneau, AK
12: Veterans Day Holiday Observed (Offices Closed)
14: Dr. Walter Soboleff Day (Offices Closed)
22: Thanksgiving Day (Offices Closed)
23-25: 5th Annual Holiday Market – Juneau, AK
23: Native American Heritage Day (Offices Closed) – Juneau, AK
TBD: 28th Annual BIA Providers Conference “Embracing Change” – Anchorage, AK

GOTNV Native Issues Forums

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for special Get Out the Native Vote (GOTNV) Native Issues forums. GOTNV is a non-partisan effort between Tlingit & Haida, Sealaska, Goldbelt, Huna Totem, Kootznoowoo, Juneau Radio Center, Sealaska Heritage Institute, SouthEast Alaska Native Health Consortium, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, and community volunteers to engage Alaska Natives, shareholders, and tribal citizens in voter participation during the 2018 elections.

GOTNV Forums

Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall
320 W. Willoughby Avenue
Juneau Alaska

September 18th

Two GOTNV forums will be held Tuesday, September 18th:

- 12PM Lunch Forum (Mayoral candidates)
- 5PM Evening Forum (Assembly candidates)

September 25th

Two GOTNV forums will be held Tuesday, September 25th:

- 12PM Lunch Forum (District 33 & 34 candidates)
- 5PM Evening Forum (District Q & 35 Assembly candidates)

October 2nd (Tentative)

A GOTNV forum is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 2nd (Governor & Lt. Governor candidates).

October 9th

Ballet Measure 1 is the topic of discussion at the Tuesday, October 9th lunch hour GOTNV forum.
TFYS Staff Give Presentation in DC

Tribal Family and Youth Services’ (TFYS) Wellness Coordinator Justin Jones and Suicide Prevention Specialist Will Kronick recently travelled to Washington, D.C. to present on TFYS’ Native Connections program.

The program’s funding agency, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), invited the team to present on TFYS’ culturally-based suicide prevention program at the National Council on Urban Indian Health. Justin and Will received helpful feedback on how to improve the Tribe’s wellness promotion, crisis intervention and postvention support for the coming year.

Senator Lisa Murkowski’s Office also invited the team to present on their program. They shared information on the services offered to youth and their families through TFYS. The Senator’s Office expressed interest in the Tribe’s Native Connections programming and support for Tlingit & Haida’s efforts to secure ongoing funding.

Alaska Native Markets

Submitted By: Michaela Demmert

Alaska Native Markets

Tlingit & Haida and Goldbelt, Inc. partnered over the summer to host Alaska Native Markets to help support our local Native artists. The markets provided artists space to display and sell their work.

The partnership successfully hosted several markets with a total of 23 vendors offering a variety of products, including: devil’s club and cedar medicine, silver and copper engravings, seal skin products, cedar weavings, sewn objects, bead work and jewelry made of diverse mediums to name few. Other vendors offered homemade foods, face painting, or shared their knowledge of a traditional practice.

Renee Culp (Tlaagunk), a Tlingit artist of the Eagle Moiety and Chookaneidi clan, has been a vendor at the market since the beginning. She is one of the owners of Sugar Bear Alaskan Treasures and has shared the impact the market has made for her as an artist:

“Being an Alaska Native woman, having opportunities like this is something that I’m always seeking,” said Renee. “It brings us home rather than out there. Being connected to Native markets, for me, is more meaningful than other craft fairs. The jewelry and things we make are all representative of Southeast Alaska Native artwork and so we fit into a Native market better than the other pop up markets we’ve tried. This has made a positive impact on our business, we have done good business every time.”

Renee tells visitors that they’re not only seeing Alaska Native goods at the vendor booths, but are seeing the actual artists who create the beautiful work before them. The purpose of creating the Alaska Native Market was to recognize the artists in the community, they give back by sharing their knowledge and creativity so why not give back to them by providing them a platform to show off and support their work.
Tlingit & Haida and the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Juneau Campus formalized their commitment to expand communication, collaboration, and mutually beneficial partnerships through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was signed August 6, 2018 by President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson and UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield during a regularly scheduled UAS Juneau Campus Advisory Council meeting.

“Partnerships and building areas for collaboration have been a key area of focus for me,” said President Peterson. “There are a lot of areas of overlap between Tlingit & Haida and UAS, for example our Vocational Training & Resource Center and UAS’ Technical Education Center, so it was very natural to develop this agreement. We must continue to broaden our ability to work together to strengthen our effectiveness to serve our tribal citizens and for the wellbeing of our community and our region.”

“UAS and Tlingit & Haida have common interests in areas such as employment training, student scholarships and support, indigenous languages and arts, teacher education, tribal management, and tourism,” said Chancellor Caulfield. “Working together, we can only improve the services for Tlingit & Haida’s tribal citizens and for UAS students. I’m grateful to President Richard Peterson for his commitment to collaboration and to UAS Vice Chancellor Joe Nelson who will provide UAS leadership in this effort.”

As part of the first steps under the MOA, Tlingit & Haida and UAS will designate representatives to serve on a MOA Steering Committee that will meet at least twice annually to identify and implement action steps on shared goals and objectives, and communicate at leadership and program levels to deliver higher education and community outreach services. The committee will establish ad hoc working groups to advance the MOA’s scope, goals, objectives, and implementation steps under each program area exploring potential areas of collaboration.

Menominee Nation’s Tribal College President Meets with Tlingit & Haida

One of Tlingit & Haida’s long-term goals is to establish a tribal college in Southeast Alaska and visiting with Dr. Trebian was very inspirational in that regard. His work and that of existing tribal colleges throughout the nation reiterate the fact that our cultural history, traditions, and worldviews are of equal value and worthy of pursuit in the world of academic achievement.

We envision our future tribal college as the instrument to bridge traditional knowledge with the present and provide a space for our people to embrace our cultural values while preparing to compete and participate in modern Western society.
Tribal Consultations Held

Submitted By: Office of the President

Tlingit & Haida hosted the Department of Interior (DOI) for a series of tribal consultations which were held at Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau August 1-2, 2018. The consultations covered the topics of the proposed DOI reorganization plan, legal authority for the Secretary of the Interior to take land-into-trust in Alaska, and the Alaska Indian Reorganization Act (IRA).

Five members of the Executive Council and President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson were in attendance to represent Tlingit & Haida at the consultations. Some of the other tribes present included the Chilkoot Indian Association, Douglas Indian Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, Organized Village of Kasaan, Wrangell Cooperative Association and Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

The proposed DOI reorganization would establish 13 unified regional office boundaries across all of DOI’s current Bureaus. Various tribal leaders in attendance raised concerns that a consolidation of regional offices across the United States could result in shifts in funding and the authority structures which exist within the agency. They further noted that such shifts have potential to affect the tribes who work in conjunction with them and effectively change the face of local tribal program services.

“If the BIA is truly to be successful in its role with tribes, they will need to delegate their authority over to tribes. We have the capacity to stand toe-to-toe with our peers in the federal, state, and local governments – we are a government and we should be treated as such,” said President Peterson.

The discussion on land-into-trust authority was brought to consultation after it recently resurfaced as a result of the withdrawal of a prior Solicitor’s Opinion (M-37043, “Authority to Acquire Land into Trust in Alaska”). By withdrawing M-37043, the current Solicitor General opened the door for land-into-trust acquisition validity to be questioned and thereby put all current applications for land-into-trust in Alaska on hold until a new opinion is rendered. DOI representatives present at the consultations said that the process for issuing a new opinion will take, at minimum, one year.

Follow Tlingit & Haida on Social Media

Social Media has proven to be a valuable tool in communicating current information to tribal citizens and friends on Tlingit & Haida’s programs, services and activities. We are pleased to share that the Tribe’s official Facebook page has grown to over 9,700 followers! Tlingit & Haida’s official Instagram account has surpassed 800 followers, and Twitter currently has 198 followers.

Please help us continue to grow and expand the Tribe’s social media reach by “liking” and “sharing” our posts!
Navigators Host Family Camp Night

The Navigators’ program celebrated its first family camp-night at the Thane site reserved for the future Tlingit & Haida Cultural Immersion Park! Youth and their families fished, swam, sat around the camp fire, ate s’mores, sang, played games, learned about canoes, watched a late night movie in pajamas, told ghost stories, and learned to bead.

The Navigators’ staff are grateful for all of the participants who were able to join us and for the support of the Business & Economic Development department for providing the space, Employment & Training for the use of their gear, and IT for hooking up our technology. A special shout out to our volunteers – Doug Chilton and Misty Smith for the lesson on canoes, and Joe and Nick Samaniego for the use of their poles and fishing lessons!

Navigators is a prevention and early intervention program for Native youth ages 13-18. Youth meet weekly for Compass Gathering where they build healthy relationships, learn vital life skills, set personal goals, and increase their connection to their cultures. Peer Mentor Eliza Hogue stated, “We come with our own battles and attack it together like a family.”

Other extensions of the Navigators program are White Bison’s Wellbriety program, Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth, and Teen Speak, a parent/caregiver focused workshop on communicating with teens to reduce risky behaviors.

If you’re interested in learning more, contact the Navigators program at 907.463.7752 or Navigators@ccthita-nsn.gov.

Backpack Fair

“‘It’s always such a real thrill for me when we can celebrate things, and education and our youth are such things that we should always celebrate…hold up our youth,’” said President Peterson. “‘We want to make sure they go through this new school year and start off in a good way knowing that their tribe, their family and their people support them…we want to hold up our youth every chance we get.’

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa (Thank You) to our tribal families and guest speaker Randy Willard for joining us and to our community partners (OfficeMax, STEM, SEARHC Dental & Health Patient Benefits and Zach Gordon Youth Center) for providing informational tables. A special thank you also goes out to our volunteers who worked hard to ensure the event was successful: Karen Mayeda, Jayden Beach, Jericho Bearid, Sean Tally, Chloe Lane, Jonah Lane, Tristn Lane, Landon Lane, Ana Lane, Sophia Martin, Gavin Brown, and Salty Sisters (Canoe Team).

Best wishes to the students for another great school year!
August Native Issues Forum

On August 1, 2018, Congressman Don Young was the featured speaker at a special Native Issues Forum hosted by Sealaska, Tlingit & Haida and Sacred Grounds Café.

Congressman Young provided a brief update on self-governance, subsistence, healthcare, and transboundary rivers and mining before fielding a variety of questions. Some of the questions brought forth were in regards to HR 2875 VAWA Reauthorization, trust lands, Social Security, Veterans Affairs, NRA, Farm Bill, self-governance, transportation, hydro projects, landless, drug addiction, youth opportunities and self-determination, Savanna’s Act and missing & murdered indigenous women, and boarding school policies.

President Peterson closed the forum by asking Congressman Young to fight for ICWA funding, for our children, because it’s needed.

If you missed the forum, you can watch the webcast recording online at https://livestream.com/accounts/507620/events/8286300.

477 Summit

Tlingit & Haida’s management team held a 477 Summit on August 22, 2018 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska. The meeting was facilitated by Anthony Riley, Workforce Development Specialist with the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, who reviewed changes made under the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-93), which made permanent the Public Law (P.L.) 102-477 demonstration project.

Under the new law, tribes and Alaska Native entities can now integrate more federal funding for employment, training and related services into a single plan, program and budget. This provides an opportunity for the Tribe to improve efficiency in services by reducing administrative, reporting, and accounting costs.

The original law previously applied to only four federal funding agencies (Department of Education, Department of Interior, Department of Labor, and Department of Health & Human Services), but has expanded under the new law to include 12 funding agencies.

Currently, the following departments fall under the umbrella of the Tribe’s 477 Division: Child Care, Employment & Training, Tribal Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) and Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR). Tlingit & Haida’s three-year 477 Plan will request to move the Tribe’s Business & Economic Development department under the 477 Division.

“The bottom line is that we must do what is best for our tribal citizens and take this opportunity to realign and change from the top down and bottom up on how we deliver services,” said President Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson. “The federal government is finally giving us the tools to better serve our people and we need to use this time to examine how we deliver services. Our support services have the ability to change the lives of our tribal citizens and that is what we need to keep in our hearts and minds as we exercise our sovereignty and self-determination as a tribe so that we can be the best tribe and provide the best services to our tribal citizens.”

Tlingit & Haida’s management team will schedule a focus group retreat at a later date to continue to examine how best to realign services and look at funding sources that can be integrated into the Tribe’s 477 plan.
The Native Lands and Resources (NLR) department hosted their annual Southeast Environmental Conference August 27-31, 2018 at the Vocational Training & Resource Center in Juneau, Alaska. This year’s theme was “Building Capacity to Preserve Our Way of Life”. The event brings together Southeast tribes, natural resource professionals and others to learn about and address regional environmental and natural resource issues and concerns.

The conference was designed to discuss and address the environmental and natural resource concerns in Southeast Alaska. Information was presented by agencies, organizations and tribes in Southeast on their projects and programs in hopes of building relationships and possible collaborations to offset cost and share resources.

During the conference, a day was dedicated to discuss the concept of a Guardian Watchman program—a program active in British Columbia, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Ross Wilson, an invited guest speaker from British Columbia, provided a presentation on their Guardian Watchman program which brings together First Nations, the British Columbia Province and the Canadian Federal Government on co-management of their natural resources and environmental programs. A concept some tribes in Southeast feel it’s worth checking out. The conference week finished up by hosting a marine debris/trash free waters workshop and a half-day session on grants management, conference debriefing action items and future planning.

For more information, contact Raymond Paddock at 800.344.1432 ext. 7184 or rpaddock@ctthita-nsn.gov.
Tlingit & Haida is pleased to share that its Tribal Court was awarded one-time funding in the amount of $591,010 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – Office of Tribal Justice Support (TJS). The funds will be used to support the operation of the Tribal Court. In addition to paying for administrative expenses, the Tribe’s Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) related court proceedings will also be supported.

TJS provides guidance, technical support, and advisory services to tribal courts and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) courts. Funding is directed to specific needs of tribal court personnel, promoting cooperation and coordination among tribal justice systems and Federal and State judiciary systems, and providing oversight for the continuing operations for the Courts of Indian Offenses.

The Tribal Court opened its doors in March 2007 to handle custody and child support cases. Today, the court continues its work with child welfare, but has also expanded its subject matter jurisdiction to include other civil and criminal cases including: adoptions, marriage/divorce, domestic violence, guardianships and paternity establishment.

Over the course of the year, the Tribal Court has been working to develop an implementation plan for circle sentencing, civil diversion and other restorative justice models to reduce recidivism and incarceration rates for tribal citizens; implement a Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court, and provide technical assistance to Southeast Alaska tribes and communities to create individual, intertribal or regional court systems.

For more information, contact the Tribal Court toll free at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7347 or directly at 907.463.7347.