



CENTRAL COUNCIL

*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 27, 2010

### **Central Council Announces Additions to Management Team**

The Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is pleased to announce two additions to its management team, tribal members Barbara Searls and Carrie Sykes. Barbara accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer and Carrie Sykes was selected as the new Business & Economic Development Manager.

Barbara will provide oversight to the Finance department's nine employees. The department is responsible for recording the Tribe's expenditures of nearly \$25 million per year in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Barbara brings her experience with fund accounting to Central Council. She was elected in April to serve as a Juneau delegate to Central Council, and most recently served as the Vice President of Finance and Administration for SEARHC. Prior to her employment at SEARHC, she served as the Chief Financial Officer to Sealaska Corporation.

"I look forward to working closely with the Southeast Alaska tribes. I believe my skills and abilities will be put to good use as Central Council faces its many challenges and opportunities," said Barbara.

Barbara earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles and her Master Degree in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii. Barbara has maintained a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license with the State of Arizona since 1981.

Carrie will oversee the Business & Economic Development department and will focus on building the department capacity to work on economic opportunities for Southeast Alaska tribes, affordable energy for rural communities, collaboration on training for job opportunities, and advocating for subsistence rights for our tribal members. Carrie has worked for over ten years in a variety of positions for the Tribe and is very familiar with the Business & Economic Development department and Central Council. She is very knowledgeable about the economic conditions in Southeast Alaska and brings extensive experience working with the Southeast tribes, cities/municipalities, and ANCSA corporations. Last year Carrie served as the Subsistence & Sustainable Development Coordinator for the Tribe.

Carrie graduated with honors from Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa, California with three Associate of Arts degrees (Business Administration, Marketing and Speech) and an Associate of Science in Computer Information Systems. Carrie will be continuing her education by pursuing her bachelor's degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Rural Development Program.

Carrie is very excited about her new position and stated, "I care about the Native people and want to be able to make a difference! I want a better future for my grandchildren and the next generation of our tribal members."

Central Council is pleased to welcome these new managers. Both Barbara and Carrie's offices are located in Juneau in the Edward K. Thomas Building at 9097 Glacier Highway.

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Barbara Searls



Carrie Sykes

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