FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2011

Central Council Purchases Andrew Hope Building Condominium Units

The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) completed the acquisition of the Andrew Hope Building’s condominium units 1, 2, 3, and 3(a) property on September 13, 2011. The Tribe purchased these units, formerly owned by ANB Camp #2 at 320 West Willoughby Avenue, from First National Bank of Alaska for a settled amount of $484,000. The Executive Council authorized the purchase of these units and the transfer of $90,000 from the Tribal Trust Fund to execute the transaction.

Central Council President Edward K. Thomas sees advantages and challenges in owning the property. “I am pleased with our ability to keep these units in Native ownership through this purchase. The hall has become a very important part of the Native Community that has historically been used for, but not limited to: Tribal Assemblies, the Native Issues Forums, workshops, conferences, and other tribally sponsored or non-tribally sponsored events,” President Thomas said. Building improvements and upgrades must be made in the very near future.

The Andrew Hope Building was constructed in 1983 after Tlingit Haida Central Council joined forces with ANB Camp #2, who had received a $1 million grant from the State of Alaska for the purpose of building a hall. Central Council has always owned the Andrew Hope Building condominium units 4 and 5, which consist of the second and third floors of the building.

Elias Duran, Property Manager, will manage the hall rental and the leasing of the newly acquired office spaces. The property management team has already laid the groundwork to replace the heating system of the Andrew Hope Building using funds awarded by the Department of Energy for energy
improvement projects. We are developing a website that will provide hall rental information, online reservations, and access to an availability calendar.

The Tribe will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:00 AM on September 22, 2011 with a light catered lunch to celebrate the property purchase. Tribal citizens and business partners are welcome to join us!

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