



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Third Annual Tribal Assembly
April 18-20, 2018
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 18-15

Title: Support of Tlingit Language Instructional Pathway and School

By: Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Tlingit & Haida is to promote and protect the health, education, economic and general welfare of the members and of their children; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2016 passed the Alaska State Legislature in 2014 making all Alaska Native languages the official language for the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health of our languages and the health of our children are permanently and undeniably tied to one another; and

WHEREAS, there are only a few known speakers of Tlingit remaining in the world; and

WHEREAS, there have been no known birth speakers of Tlingit created in the last fifty years; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no public space where the Tlingit language is the primary language of that space; and

WHEREAS, the American school system has failed our people and our children since bringing us into it, resulting in cultural assimilation, emotional damage, shame, and widespread language loss; and

WHEREAS, public education systems in Alaska echo that failure with Alaska Native graduation rates around 50% and curriculum that does not offer equity in terms of content and culturally safe atmospheres; and

WHEREAS, language immersion schools in Hawaii, New Zealand, Mohawk Country, and Ojibwe Country have reported 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Third Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation conveyed in Juneau, Alaska on April 18-20, 2018, hereby requests Tlingit & Haida to identify and pursue resources from all sources to develop a Tlingit Language Immersion Pathway School expanding language instruction to teach Tlingit to youth preschool to high school; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida considers itself a full partner in this initiative, and stands in full support of the life and health of our languages, and the success and well-being of our tribal children.

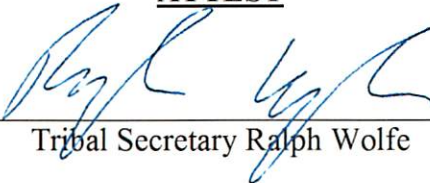
ADOPTED this 20th day of April 2018, by the Eighty-Third Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe