



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 18-21

Title: Declaration of Linguistic Emergency of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Languages

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, in recognition of this crisis the Alaska State Legislature is considering House Concurrent Resolution 19 (HCR 19) calling on governor and Legislature to adopt "legislative and policy measures" to "prioritize the survival and continued use of Alaska Native languages."; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Languages Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks recognizes 20 distinct Alaska Native languages. One has no fluent speakers and another has only one who is over age 90. All of the languages are considered threatened; and

WHEREAS, according to University of Alaska professor, Lance Twitchell, the number of remaining Tlingit fluent speakers is estimated to be sixty (80); the number of remaining Xaad Kíl (Haida) fluent speakers in Alaska is estimated to be two (2); and the number of remaining Sm'alyax (Tsimshian) fluent speakers in Alaska is estimated to be six (6); and

WHEREAS, despite the concerted efforts of tribes, regional and local heritage organizations and educational systems, the number of intermediate high fluency speakers is estimated to be around 25 and Native language classes in elementary and secondary schools throughout Southeast Alaska is sporadic and not available in all classes and communities; and

WHEREAS, studies have consistently found that the integration of Native languages into schools promotes the academic achievement and retention of Native students; and

WHEREAS, the survival of Alaska's indigenous languages enriches the larger society by ensuring the perpetuation of cultural and linguistic diversity in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian language and culture are the basis of our sovereignty and stand for the perpetual direction of our people. Support of education in the language and culture within our organization will be incorporated into the services Tlingit & Haida delivers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Third Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 18-20, 2018, hereby declares a linguistic emergency of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Languages and hereby:

- Call upon the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor of Alaska to work with tribes to seek policy measures and funding to prioritize the survival of Alaska Native languages and their promotion into preschool, elementary, high school and secondary education.
- Call upon the federal government to increase the amount of funding available for language revitalization efforts.
- Encourage the State of Alaska to utilize Native languages as required in election materials.
- Petition governmental agencies to use Native language and names on public facilities including street names.
- Encourage use of data that demonstrates education achievement with the inclusion of culturally relevant curriculum and language programs
- Support efforts to coordinate language education programs to ensure limited resources are spread efficiently and effectively
- Encourage school districts to increase salaries for Type M Certificate for Native language teachers' to that paid to senior level teachers and not as first teachers.

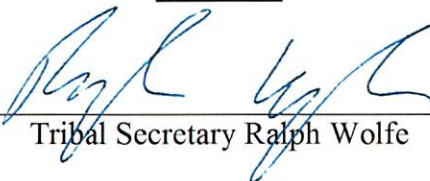
ADOPTED this 20th day of April 2018, by the Eighty-Third Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe