

## Introducing *AthenaHealth*



In March we signed the contract with AthenaHealth for a new electronic health record. Switching from our current health record system to AthenaHealth will allow us to dramatically improve quality of care, care coordination between our health care system and our partners, increase our ability to manage referrals to other providers, improve efficiency in our workflows, improve data reporting, and improve management of our revenue cycle. Our providers will have

improved access to full patient health records, enabling them to provide more thorough medical care. AthenaHealth will also provide patients with an online portal to allow them to access their health record, request appointments, and communicate with their providers, among other things. AthenaHealth will allow us to connect

‘ATHENAHEALTH  
WILL ALLOW US TO  
BETTER CONNECT  
WITH PATIENTS’

with our patients in ways we have not previously been able. For example, patients will be able to have convenient and timely access to important health information such as test results and medications. They will also be able to print immunization records any time they need it. We are very excited about this transition, which is

planned to occur before the end of the calendar year.

## TCC Offers a *Medical Minute*

Tanana Chiefs Conference's Communication Division has developed a series of videos aimed at educating our tribal members and patients.

This series covers topics that the Medical Staff at Chief Andrew Isaac Center feel could benefit their patients.

Several videos have been completed thus far including topics from "Preparing for your Appointment" to "The Importance of Colorectal Screenings" and "Immunizations."

To view the video series you can Subscribe to our Tanana Chiefs Conference YouTube page or "Like" us on Facebook.



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## MISSION STATEMENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

## VISION

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

## TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Donald Honea Sr./Ruby  
*1st Traditional Chief*

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village  
*2nd Traditional Chief*

Victor Joseph/ Tanana  
*Chief/Chairman*

Julie Roberts-Hyslop/Tanana  
*Vice President*

Pollock 'PJ' Simon, Jr. /Allakaket  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

William "Chaaiy" Albert/Northway  
*Upper Tanana*

Nick Alexia Sr./Nikolai  
*Upper Kuskokwim*

Nancy James/Fort Yukon  
*Yukon Flats*

Eugene Paul/Holy Cross  
*Lower Yukon*

Frank Thompson/ Evansville  
*Yukon Tanana*

Norman 'Carl' Burgett/ Huslia  
*Yukon Koyukuk*

Peter Demoski/Nulato  
*Elder Advisor*

Isaac Ticknor/Anvik  
*Youth Advisor*

## CHIEF'S REPORT

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,



During this year's TCC Annual Convention, our youth shared powerful stories of their experiences with sexual assault, abuse, and addiction that resonated with all of us. That same day I said that we can't continue to let this happen and made it my personal mission to see what we can do to reduce this in our communities. It's not okay to continue to let this happen and it must stop. In my position on the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council, I have expressed the need for us to do more to stop sexual and physical abuse from happening, and I have also brought the issue to the Alaska Federation of Natives to push for a statewide effort.

Several TCC tribes and staff have attended the Leadership for Results training, which helps participants acknowledge and create community-based solutions to issues stemming from historical trauma, such as domestic violence, substance abuse, tobacco prevention, suicide prevention and more. Through the training, the communities of Circle, Huslia, Nenana, and Tanana stepped forward and developed projects and events that address these issues. This is one of the many ways that TCC is working towards healing our tribes and tribal members.

Additionally, during this year's Denakkanaaga Elders & Youth Conference, TCC staff will debut the plan for the Reclaim Our People initiative, formerly known as the War on Alcohol and Drugs. The goals of the initiative include perpetuating cultural identity within the interior as a means to prevention, coordinating/creating opportunities for personal healing and community wellness, to combat public health barriers to wellness in the interior, and to support Interior Tribes to protect their communities. More information on this initiative will be available after the debut.

An important component of protecting our women and children is our Village Public Safety Officer program. There are a number of VPSO positions throughout the region that need to be filled. TCC has been looking at ways to improve recruitment and retention. We want to promote a public safety program that better meets the needs of our tribes and tribal members.

If we are really going to have an impact, we will have to work together for our vision of *Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes*.

**Ana Bassee',**  
Victor Joseph  
*Chief/Chairman*



# Preparing for *Wildfires* in your Community

Fires are a natural part of the environmental cycle, but each year wildfires threaten to destroy property and resources around rural communities in Alaska. Last year's fire season impacted many Interior communities with heavy smoke and widespread fires near villages.

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) can provide supplies and support during times of need by coordinating with both state and federal agencies. TCC has always been willing to assist our tribes during emergency situations. Preparation before wildfires begin will ensure life and property are protected and health and safety are maintained.

**To report an Alaska wildland fire** call 1-800-237-3633 or 911.

## Protect Yourself & Your Family

Preparing for fires now can help save time and property later. TCC recommends the following guidelines for protecting your loved ones and your home during this wildfire season.

- Have your emergency kit ("go-bag") ready if you need to shelter in place at your home or move to a different area in your community. Remember to include food, water and medications.
- Limit your exposure to smoke

by staying indoors whenever possible with windows closed. Use air conditioners if possible, to limit smoky air in the home.

- Know your community's emergency plans, and follow the plan guidance. Find out if your community has a "clean room" for sensitive groups during severe smoke events.
- Plan to stay at home unless an evacuation is called for. Have activities on hand to occupy children and books or movies to keep adults entertained for long periods indoors.
- Remember to plan for visitors who might be in your village during wildfire season.
- N95 or similar respirators/masks are designed to filter out particles in the air. Using a mask will reduce airflow and can make breathing difficult, so use with caution.
- If it is too hot to stay indoors with the windows closed and you do not have an air conditioner, seek shelter elsewhere.
- Check out local air quality reports or visibility guides. AK Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Division



of Air Quality publishes Air Quality Advisories. The Fairbanks North Star Borough publishes an Air Quality Index with information about smoke, cautionary statements and health statements. You can also monitor local village visibility by consulting the FAA Aviation Weather Cameras.

## Protect your Property, Protect the Land

- Before wildfire seasons begins, clear out dead vegetation and other flammable items within 30 feet of your home and outhouses, garages or sheds. This includes stacked wood and propane tanks. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house or other buildings.
- Dry grass and brush are fuel for wildfires. Cut it down.
- Know your community's plans for working with fire response agencies so you will know what to expect during a wildfire.
- Follow any instructions given from local leadership or fire response personnel about property management during wildfires.

For other resources visit our website: [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org).

## TCC's Guide to **NATURAL MEDICINE**

### Some Healing Properties of Alder

**Symptoms:** Childbirth, impetigo, fever, colds, flu, tuberculosis, sores

**How to use:** Boil, use bark or sap, chew, switch, bath

**Fever:** Boil inner bark in water for tea to drink

**Colds/Flu:** Use leaves or bark in boiling tea to drink

**Sores:** Use inner bark to apply to soars to alleviate pain/spreading

*\*\*Always be sure to consult your physician before making any medical or dietary changes.*





# Ruby Food Gathering: Food Sovereignty

## *Past, Present, Future*

In April, Ruby hosted a Spring Food Gathering in conjunction with the Health Fair. This event was a team effort to celebrate Ruby's rich food history, and discuss important issues about food security and sovereignty.

TCC Tribe's Extension Agent Heidi Rader led a seed-starting workshop for the youth at the school and for interested community members. TCC Hunting & Fishing Advocate, Brooke Wright, Ruby Tribal Natural Resource Coordinator, Ed Sarten, and UAF Community Partnership for Self-Reliance Coordinator,

Krista Heeringa led discussions on Ruby's food history, current food security and food sovereignty challenges and opportunities.

First Chief Mike Simon, from Stevens Village shared bison and reindeer meat with the community of Ruby and talked about the opportunities and challenges of a running bison and reindeer farm operated by Stevens Village Tribal Council.

Ruby, in collaboration with TCC Hunting, Fishing

Task Force and UAF Community Partnerships for Self-Reliance, has been working on a food sovereignty assessment.

The assessment takes into account Ruby's historical food practices, the current food system, current barriers to food security, and strategies to strengthen food sovereignty.



*Article by: Heidi Rader, Tribes Extension*



## LEGACY OF OUR ELDERS

LUKE TITUS, MINTO

Tanana Chiefs Conference has launched a series of documentary videos entitled, "Legacy of our Elders." As a part of this series the Communications Division has been interviewing and documenting the life stories of several elders from all over the TCC region.

The videos are compiled into volumes that have a DVD movie as well as an accompanying book and written story version. The books and DVDs will highlight the elders and the stories that they want to share.

These videos are available on our website and also will be sent to our tribes and schools for oral history.

Each month, we will feature an elder from the series in The Council Newsletter.

This month, Luke Titus of Minto,

is our featured Legacy Elder. Luke shares an emotional story of his life and the struggles he faced both as a small child and adult and how he came to where he is now. Luke speaks powerfully and emotionally about the struggles of alcoholism and dealing with his emotional trauma after being sent to a boarding school in his youth.

All too common for our elders, is the story of their struggles with schools and the loss of their language and identity. Luke's story is no different. He speaks about how he struggled with speaking or singing in his native language after the severe punishment he would endure for doing so.



Luke's story also focuses on the power in sobriety and how he got there. In that "miracles do happen" says Luke.

His story is an emotional and inspiring one for youth across our region and everywhere to hear. It encourages people to really embrace their culture and be proud of who they are.

Through song and dance, Luke triumphs over all of the struggles he has endured and his story is touching. We thank Luke and all of our elders for sharing their stories with us.

For his full story, and to view our other Legacy Elders, you can visit our website, [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org).

*Funding for Legacy Project made possible by TCC & The National Park Service*



## Boating Safety Tips

Now that summer is here, people throughout the region will be travelling and working on the rivers. Before you head out on the river, here are some safety guidelines that everyone should review in order to safely navigate the water;

- Wear your life jacket
- Know the water conditions
- Bring Food
- Bring a First Aid Kit
- Know where you are going
- Be aware of others
- Carry ID
- Stay in the light
- Don't drink and drive!



## Preparing for Emergency Situations

- Have a plan for your family in case of emergency. Include emergency contact numbers in case of evacuation.
- Have an emergency kit available for your family. Go to [www.ready.alaska.gov](http://www.ready.alaska.gov) for their "Building a 7 Day Emergency Kit" document which outlines how to economically build a kit over 3 months.
- Secure your heating fuel tanks (and propane tanks) with straps so they don't float away and spill fuel.
- Disconnect the fuel lines and close them so the fuel will remain contained.
- Follow other recommendations for Residential Heating Oil Tanks from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Spill prevention and Response.
- Gather your other barrels and smaller fuel jugs. Put those in a large container and cover. This will keep your fuel jugs together and prevent them from getting wet.
- Turn off the electricity to your house for overall safety if you evacuate.
- Be sure all household hazardous wastes are moved and properly stored to prevent them from opening and leeching.

## An Inside Guide to Community Plans

As a part of a series of videos by the Tanana Chiefs Conference's Communications Division, the Inside Guide provides a look into services provided across our region.

Each Inside Guide provides insightful and useful information that can help our tribal members best utilize our services.

This month's Inside Guide focuses on creating Community Plans. Community Plans are an important aspect and a very useful tool. Village Planning and Development at TCC helps our communities to put in place a community plan that can be a guide for each of them to grow. Each year two temporary positions are awarded to a tribe that commits to making a plan for

their communities. TCC's Village Planning and Development then helps that tribe with technical assistance and grant writing.

Renee Linton says, "A community plan is a way to help build a map and to really envision goals and what your future looks like." They are important as they also help to provide outsiders a look at the community and where they are going in the future. The topics could range from creating a community garden to combating alcohol and drug use.

Several TCC Region Villages have successful plans in place. But several others are in need of them. Tribes who complete a Community Plan can generate more rural jobs for their

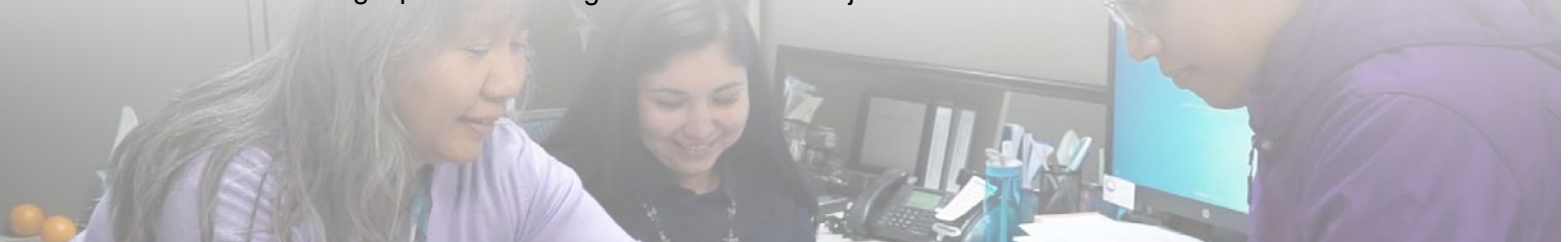


residents and other opportunities that those without them may not have access to.

For more information on

how your community could begin a Community Plan or to view our Inside Guide on this topic and many more from TCC, you can visit our YouTube Page or "Like" us on Facebook.

You can also contact Village Planning and Development Directly at TCC to inquire about the two temporary positions that are offered at 452-8251 ext. 3598.





# Tanana Chiefs Conference Leads the fight for *Regulatory Relief of Village Generator Sets*

Article by: Dave Pelunis-Messier

TCC has been leading the fight for Regulatory Relief over the Diesel-fired Generator Sets that keep our village lights on year round.

In the Interior nearly 100% of the electricity used in our villages is supplied by imported Diesel-Fuel. Many of our villages rely on diesel generators that are between 10 and 30 years old, but these systems do not last forever and many small utilities are looking for ways they can purchase new generator sets to improve efficiency and reduce the maintenance costs of worn out engines.

Under a recent EPA ruling, all new generator sets installed in Rural areas of Alaska that are not connected to the federal highway system must install Diesel Particulate Filters (DPF) on their new engines. Not only does a DPF decrease the reliability of these engines, it also decreases the fuel efficiency, increases maintenance requirements and nearly doubles the

cost of a new engine. All of this will lead to increased electric rates for our tribal members, schools and elders.

After extensive lobbying, the marine industry was able to avoid the restrictions specifically because DPF systems are expensive and unreliable. Rural Alaska however did not receive this same type of exemption. Under the new administration TCC lobbyists and staff are working with inter-tribal organizations from around the state and our congressional delegation to argue for a change in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 60.4216.

This change will increase reliability, help reduce costs and keep the lights on across Rural Alaska and the interior for years to come. In early May 2017, TCC staff attended the National Tribal Energy Summit in Washington DC and explained the issues to staff with

Senator's Sullivan and Murkowski as well as Representative Don Young's office. Currently the only solution for rural utilities who want to purchase a new-generator set and stay within the confines of the EPA regulations is to purchase a used engine that was manufactured prior to MY 2014.

For the past few years communities requiring new generator sets have been doing this but we are requesting regulatory relief now with the knowledge that these older generator sets will be much more difficult to find in the future. If your community would like to help TCC advocate on behalf of eliminating these regulations please contact staff from our legislative delegations offices and ask them to review CFR 60.4216 and work on behalf of Rural Alaska to help us keep their lights on!



## Tribal Advocacy to Protect Our Way of Life

In April the Hunting and Fishing Task Force teamed up with the UAF Tribal Management department, the Alaska Center, First Alaskans Institute, and Native Movement to host the "Tribal Advocacy to Protect Our Way of Life" session at the Interior Alaska Campus in Fairbanks.

The session was held to strengthen tribal advocacy skills related to hunting and fishing rights, and to provide an arena for advocates to network at the grassroots level. Over 30 participants from across the state attended and shared, representing various organizations.

Second Traditional Chief, Dr. Trimble Gilbert led the session with his wife Mary of over 50 years. Dr.

Gilbert grounded the session in traditional knowledge, storytelling, and spirituality.

Professors Jessica Black and Carrie Stevens of the Tribal Management program led the session. Participants spent a great deal of their time learning from guest speakers and working in small groups to build an advocacy campaign plan on issues critical to them and their communities.

Task Force Director Ben Stevens briefed participants in the Task Force Strategy and accomplishments. He stressed the importance of serving as a strong advocate, of building partnerships and relationships, and of holding one another up. Participants were fired up to act!



Campaign plans were built on strengthening moose management state recognition of Tribal Governments, protection of critical habitat, Alaska Native salmon management, and Alaska Native management of Alaska Native lands. The session concluded with students presentations of their campaign plans, they were moving and inspiring. The class was powerful in building a movement and identifying allies and strategies.

Article by: Carrie Stevens



# The need for a fair & complete Fiscal Plan this year

Article by: Natasha Singh, General Counsel

Alaska is facing a 3 Billion dollar budget shortage-which is more money than most of us can imagine. We simply can't get to a balanced budget by cutting the budget alone. We also can't raise \$3 billion with only one revenue source, right now oil. We have heard some ideas to generate some deen'gah, by imposing a fuel tax, hunting tax, lottery, sales tax, but these sources would only produce tiny fractions of what we need to fund the state.

In the past Alaska has been rich off of oil revenue. Alaskans are used to well-funded schools, infrastructure, social-services, public safety and health care; unless you've lived in rural Alaska where we have still managed to be funded at a subpar level in the height of state wealth. The legislature has cut spending levels almost in half from 2013. We are at the bare-bones level without adequate services for the elderly, addicts, and children in foster care. In order to pay for basic government services, like education and public safety, we need \$3 billion

to magically appear.

We have such a huge deficit that the PFD must be part of the solution. Using earnings from the PFD will get us over \$2 billion in revenue. However, reducing the PFD also significantly impacts low-income Alaskans including the elderly and mentally ill. A PFD cut would impact the bottom 20 percent of earners nearly 10 times more than the top 20 percent, when measured relative to family income. A PFD reduction also impacts the hard-working middle class. TCC and our partners recognize we need to use the earnings from the PFD to create revenue, but given the impact to low-income families, the rest of the deficit should be made-up with a progressive tax. The only item the Senate has put on the table for consideration is the reduction to your PFD, a steeply regressive measure, which disproportionately impacts the poor and middle class.

To balance-out the extreme regressive nature of the PFD cut,

TCC advocates for an income tax, a progressive tax. Economic studies demonstrate that high-income families, making over \$228,000 a year, would be the group most impacted by an income tax. If your family doesn't make over this amount, your state income tax will be acceptably minor. An income tax is the only way to make the rich people pay their share; because without a doubt, you will be paying your share by having your PFD reduced.

The Senate must go further than just cutting our needed programs and reducing our PFD's. They need to ensure the most-wealthy Alaskans contribute to funding the state government, just as you will.

Keep your representatives accountable. They need to act in your best interests this year.



## ALASKA YOUTH ACADEMY



*Better Choices, Brighter Futures*

The Alaska Youth Academy provides a way for youth between the ages of 14-18 to learn about the skills needed to pursue a career in public safety.

Youth will have the opportunity to earn a First Aid/CPR Certificate, learn about teen pregnancy, practice defensive tactics, firearm safety, survival techniques, solve crimes using CSI skills, and much more!

**The 2017 Academy will take place July 24th- 28th, 2017**

Applications  
to attend the 2017  
academy are due by  
**June 30th, 2017**

**CONTACT:**

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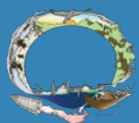
# The Council Newsletter

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Letters to the Editor, other written contributions and photo submissions are welcome. However, space is limited and program-oriented news has priority. We reserve the right to edit or reject material. Letters and opinions are not necessarily the opinions of Tanana Chiefs Conference.  
Material submitted anonymously will not be printed.



Tanana  
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## JOIN THE TCC FAMILY APPLY ONLINE

[www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)

### Village Vacancies

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (*Alatna, Chalkyitsik, Dot Lak, Healy Lake, Manley Hot Springs, Ruby, Stevens Village, )*
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (*Alatna, Healy Lake, Huslia, McGrath* )
- Community Health Representative (*Allakaket*)
- Village Public Safety Officer (*Allakaket, Eagle, Holy Cross, Huslia, McGrath, Ruby, Tanacross, Tok*)
- Behavioral Health Aide (*Chalkyitsik*)
- Preschool Assistant Teacher (*Fort Yukon*)
- VPSO-Regional Rover (*Fort Yukon*)
- Edgar Nollner Health Center Director (*Galena*)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (*Healy Lake, Holy Cross*)
- Preschool Assistant Teacher (*Huslia*)
- Behavioral Health Aide (*Rampart*)
- Behavioral Health Aide (*Tanacross*)
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or NP) (*Tok*)
- Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member (*Tok*)

### Region Wide

- Medical Coder I
- Village Public Safety Officer

### Fairbanks Vacancies

- Coordinator/Instructor Mid-Level Practitioner
- Diabetes Patient Educator and Care Coordinator
- Diagnostic Ultrasound Technologist - PRN
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or ANP)
- RN

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF MAY 12TH, 2017

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

TCC Executive Board Meeting  
June 5th, 2017 - 8:30 a.m.  
6th Floor - TCC Main Office

FATHER'S DAY  
June 18th, 2017

*Calling All Graduates!*  
Send us your 2017  
photos

Tanana Chiefs Conference would like to feature your Graduation! Please send your photos to: [TCC\\_Communications@tananachiefs.org](mailto:TCC_Communications@tananachiefs.org) with the subject "Graduate Photo." We will be using them in our July Council Newsletter. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: JUNE 15th, 2017.**  
*Please include: Name, Village, School/Program graduate is from.*



*Congratulations!* Kyle Wiehl of Beaver won the home heating fuel from our Convention Survey!