

# the council

Vol. 43, No. 1

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

January 2018

## TCC to Launch *New* Patient Travel Program



Tanana Chiefs Conference is pleased to announce that we are starting a new program in late winter and early spring. We will be opening our own Patient Travel program. Although as patients you may be familiar with patient travel by visiting our Travel Coordinators at CAIHC and working with our Health Aides and Sub regional Clinics, we hope that this new program will benefit you with shorter wait times, improved access to travel



resources, and a much more pleasant and less frustrating experience.

In an agreement with the State Medicaid Office, TCC Patient Travel will take over the role of the state in coordinating and approving travel internally. Patients should see no changes to the way their travel is handled, except that we hope that it will be easier, faster and stress-free. It is our goal to provide the best patient travel experience

possible.

We will be rolling out the new services over time to make sure that we have everything working smoothly. If you are in Fairbanks or a larger village or sub region, you may see improvements sooner than later. Smaller villages will see these benefits later on. Your health aides will be notified well in advance of your particular village start date, and we will be communicating progress routinely as we start this exciting new program.

## 2017 CHILD ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

TCC Foster Care & Adoption Specialist, Niisha Walsh, received the 2017 Child Advocate of the Year award at the BIA Provider's Conference. Niisha was nominated by several unknown peers.

**Here are a few excerpts from her nomination that was read at the BIA conference:**

"Through her efforts in finding good safe homes for children; she is a true advocate. She goes the extra mile to find the best possible placement for children 0-18 years of age, working with tribes and families to ensure that the child is safe from further trauma."

"In her first year the program for which she works under; TCC Client Development set a goal of licensing just one foster care home with the State of Alaska. Not only did Niisha get one home licensed that year; she worked tirelessly to bring that number up to 60+ licensed foster care homes."

"Niisha inspires other to reach for the stars in their personal goals; she works fulltime, while also attending the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to become a professional Social Worker in their BSW program."



*Congratulations Niisha!*

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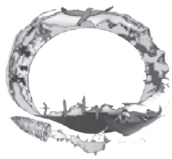
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone continues to have a safe and happy holiday season! I wanted to share a few updates as we close out 2017 and TCC prepares to kick off the New Year!

At the beginning of December, I attended the Upper Kuskokwim Subregional Meeting in Anchorage. These subregional meetings are extremely valuable for TCC, as they allow for meaningful discussion on current issues, and provide an opportunity for tribes and tribal members to voice their needs and concerns to TCC staff and leadership.

On December 13-15, the Executive Board held its quarterly meeting, and also participated in board governance training with the Health Advisory Board. During the board meeting, the directors received reports from other organizations, including Doyon, UAF and Denakkanaaga'. The directors also review and approve departments/division reports as well as discuss important issues regarding upcoming events and ongoing issues.

I will be attending the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council (GTAC) and the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). GTAC consists of 11 members representing tribal interests in wildlife and fisheries, transportation, housing, subsistence, public safety, justice, language and culture, economic development, energy and natural resources, healthcare, and education. GTAC provides input on these topics and encourages the Alaska State Administration to work collaboratively with the tribes to seek opportunities for state development.

STAC signals a new level of attention to Government-to-Government relationship between HHS and Indian Tribal Governments. STAC's purpose is to seek consensus, exchange views and information, provide advice and recommendations on interaction related to intergovernmental responsibilities or administration of HHS programs. This mission is accomplished through meetings and conversations between Federal officials and elected Tribal leaders. Tribal leaders from our nation are represented on STAC.

TCC and other tribal leaders continue to demand increased public safety for our people. TCC has spent hundreds of hours on various initiatives on the state and federal level that will give our tribes opportunities for local law enforcement and court authority. We will be providing a comprehensive report on all of TCC's efforts to address public safety at the annual convention in March.

Lastly, I recently authorized two new positions for fire services within TCC. The positions will be open and available for applicants in mid-March. Both positions will assist the Alaska Fire Service with Borough of Land Management (BLM) on facilitating the RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training in the Lower Yukon, Yukon Koyukuk, and Yukon Tanana subregions. TCC continues to advocate for fire services and training opportunities. Currently, we are developing training plans for 12 villages in preparation of the 2018 fire season.

I hope you have a wonderful New Year! TCC continues to work with our tribes and tribal members to support and develop our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes throughout 2018.

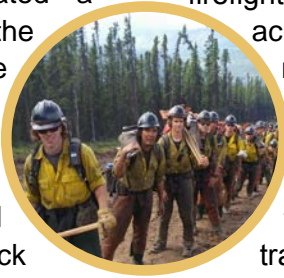
Ana Bassee,  
Victor Joseph  
Chief/Chairman



# TCC IMPLEMENTS *New* FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING PROGRAMS

By Will Putman  
Forestry Director

Tanana Chiefs Conference is engaging in two new efforts to enhance wildland firefighter training for our tribal members. TCC Forestry has successfully negotiated a funding agreement with the BLM/Alaska Fire Service that will enable TCC staff to administer RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training and Work Capacity Testing (pack test) for EFF crews at 12 villages in the Lower Yukon, Yukon Koyukuk and Yukon Tanana subregions. That training will occur in March and April 2018, and will be conducted by qualified members of the TCC Type 2 IA Fire Crew, led by James Ludecker, TCC Fire Crew Boss and



Lead Instructor. In another effort that is an excellent example of TCC staff working across Divisions, Ludecker will also be working to develop other firefighter training opportunities across the region using funding resources provided by TCC Employment and Training. These opportunities will be directed at both crew training and single-resource training. The first sessions planned are for chainsaw training sessions in several subregions, but other opportunities and sessions will be planned as training needs are identified and the logistical issues of planning the trainings are dealt with.

## ALASKA ADVANCED WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER ACADEMY TRAINING

MAY 14-31, 2018  
MCGRATH, ALASKA

APPLICATION IS DUE AT YOUR  
LOCAL WILDLAND FIRE DIVISION  
OF FORESTRY OFFICE NO LATER  
THAN MARCH 15, 2018



For more information, contact James Ludecker at [james.ludecker@tananachiefs.org](mailto:james.ludecker@tananachiefs.org)  
or Clinton Northway at [clinton.northway@tananachiefs.org](mailto:clinton.northway@tananachiefs.org) or call 907-452-8251

## AthenaHealth

LAUNCH DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2018

### What is AthenaHealth?

AthenaHealth is an Electronic Health Record system that will allow patients to have easier access to their health information, more ways to communicate with their care team, and better care coordination with our partners, such as the Alaska Native Medical Center and the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

- ✓ Better Communication
- ✓ Better Patient Care
- ✓ Easier Access to Health Information

### Expert Patient Engagement Services

Through automated messaging, live operators, and a convenient patient portal, the AthenaHealth patient service helps engage patients in their care. With our new health record, our patients will receive:

- **Automated reminders:**
  - Patients can receive automated reminders for appointments, and preventive care and follow up care through email, text or phone.
  - Choose to be alerted when test results are in the patient portal.
- **Live operator service:** AthenaHealth live operators act as an addition to the TCC team, accessing the same information as the staff, so they can help cancel or reschedule appointments, pay bills, leave messages for their care teams and more – all after hours.
- **Online patient access:** Patients will be able to engage in their care using the new portal to review their health history, sign forms, and more. The portal is mobile accessible, giving patients 24/7 access anytime, anywhere from any device.

# GWICHYAA ZHEE GWICH'IN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

(Formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)

P.O. Box 126

Fort Yukon, AK 99740

Phone: (907) 662-2581 | 1-800-478-NVFF

Fax: (907) 662-2222 | [www.fortyukon.org](http://www.fortyukon.org)

## JOB POSITION OPENINGS

### Executive Director

Qualifications: This position requires an individual with strong leadership, management and organizational skills to work with the Tribal Council, state and federal agencies and other tribal governments as well as the tribal constituency.

- B.A. in Tribal Management, Business Management, Public Administration or related field and/or administrative/management/supervisory experience. A combination of experience, education and training may be considered in lieu of degree requirements.
- Excellent communication skills and advanced writing ability.
- Exceptional people skills.
- Familiar with ANSCA, ICWA, NAHASDA, P.L. 63-938.
- Experience working with other professionals associated with public agencies, private entities, community organizations and consortiums.
- Experience working, reviewing, developing and establishing goals and long range planning.
- Knowledge of social, economic and cultural issues of the Yukon Flats region and Gwich'in people in particular.
- Can meet a high standard of integrity, objectivity and sensitivity to the needs of the Tribal Government and its interactions with its constituents.
- Ability to multitask and to maintain an organized filing system a must.
- Regular attendance and dependability required.

### Environmental Coordinator

Qualifications:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent.
- Valid AK Driver's License is required.
- Good oral and written communications skills.
- Knowledge of Fort Yukon, people, traditions and culture.
- Some travel required.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Word & Excel and willing to be trained in grant reporting.

***Application Instructions: Cover letter, resume, GZGTG employment application and two professional references need to be received at the Tribal Office.***



# Resolution Deadline

TCC's Annual Convention resolution process has been improved to provide for more tribal notice and dialogue.

**Resolutions will be due on February 16th, 2018.**

Please submit resolutions to Keith Rueben, [Keith.Rueben@tananachiefs.org](mailto:Keith.Rueben@tananachiefs.org).

If you'd like assistance in writing resolutions please contact the relevant department:

**Health:** [terri.cadzow@tananachiefs.org](mailto:terri.cadzow@tananachiefs.org), ext 3141

**Tribal Client Services:** [Amber.Vaska@tananachiefs.org](mailto:Amber.Vaska@tananachiefs.org), ext 3110

**Administration/other:** [joyce.roberts@tananachiefs.org](mailto:joyce.roberts@tananachiefs.org), ext 3178

We look forward to an awesome convention.

## \$50 Million Set Aside for tribes through Volkswagen Emissions Settlement

By Dave Pelunis-Messier  
Rural Energy Coordinator

In September of 2016 Volkswagen (VW) and the US Environmental Protection Agency came to an agreement on the terms of a settlement with VW to mitigate the effects of

a fraudulent computer program that had been tricking regulators into believing that many VW diesel engines were in fact releasing lower levels of NOx than what the engine control modules (ECM) were reporting. The final settlement amount that VW had to pay was roughly \$15 billion. Of that settlement, \$50 million has been set aside for tribal entities in the lower 48 and Alaska to use for reducing diesel emissions in tribally owned diesel engines, **including Diesel Generators**. There are many factors that go into the decision to purchase a new diesel engine, one of those factors is how complicated the controls on the engine are,

another is the approximate age of the engine. As many of our community members have seen with new snow machines, pieces of heavy equipment, cars and trucks shipped out to the village, when there is a problem that occurs with a new engine they sometimes need a factory trained representative with the proper computer program to be fixed. This can be a challenge for many of our villages where freight and passenger air fare is very expensive and sometimes a dealer's representative is days or weeks out. The same is true with many of the new diesel engines that can be purchased under the new VW settlement. Although the new engines release less emissions into the air, their reliability is not always as good as an older engine. All that said, for communities who do wish to upgrade equipment engines or diesel generators they should prepare an application

or ask for assistance from the TCC Energy Department or the Northern Arizona Institute for Tribal Energy Professionals (ITEP). More information on the settlement and forms to apply can be found here:

<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/volkswagensettlement/>

The first round of application is due by January 2nd 2018, **Please contact Dave Pelunis-Messier 907-452-8251 x3479 with any questions regarding the settlement and options for your community!**

DUE  
JANUARY 2ND  
2018



# Holy Cross Culture & Wellness Camp



The Holy Cross Culture and Wellness Camp was held September 12th-14th at Albert's Lake in Holy Cross, Alaska. It took place at an established camp that was started several decades ago.

72 people attended the camp including; children as young as four years old, teenagers, adult families, and Elders from Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.

The Holy Cross camp's cultural focus was on language, culture, moose

hunting and traditional protocol, meat cutting and processing, fishing, Spirituality, and listening to stories told by Elders.

Wellness activities included gun safety, life skills, making good choices, substance abuse, grief, dental, diabetes, boat safety, and tobacco prevention, healthy parenting, families, and healthy relationships were a part of the wellness portion of the camp.

Tribes throughout the region continue to host Culture and Wellness Camps funded through Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Administration for Native Americans. Two camps will be hosted in each subregion for the next five years.



For more information on upcoming camps, visit our website at [www.tananachiefs.org/culture-and-wellness-camps](http://www.tananachiefs.org/culture-and-wellness-camps)







## 2018 TCC Culture & Wellness Camps:

### YUKON TANANA

- TBD
- TBD

### YUKON FLATS

- July 9th-13th in Chalkyitsik
- Venetie - Date TBD

### LOWER YUKON

- TBD
- TBD

### UPPER KUSKOKWIM

- Nikolai - March 19th-23rd
- TBD

### YUKON KOYUKUK

- TBD
- TBD

### UPPER TANANA

- Northway - Date TBD
- June 9th-13th - Tetlin



# How Our Tribes Determine the *Priorities* and *Direction* of TCC

By Natasha Singh  
General Counsel

There are several avenues through which TCC receives its direction and determines its priorities and positions. TCC takes direction from our member tribes in all strategic planning and service implementation including how we approach local, state and federal land development. There are three official ways in which tribes have access to impact TCC positions.

## 1. The TCC Full Board Annual Meeting and Resolution Process

Recently, the TCC Full Board changed the resolution process mandating proposed annual resolutions are due a month before convention. This will provide the tribal councils time to meet and consider each resolution and bring a vetted tribal position to convention to inform and impact the resolution discussion. It is vital, each tribe

uses the annual convention to insert the tribal position because the TCC staff will act on these resolutions. If your tribe would like to take a position please draft a resolution and submit before the deadline.

## 2. The Executive Board Meetings and Resolution Process

The Executive Board meets around six times a year and staff presents updates on TCC initiatives including resolutions.

## 3. The Subregional Advisory Board Meetings

The Subregional Advisory Councils meet at least twice a year and during this time tribes are able to discuss local development issues and take positions to forward to the Executive Board and Full Board.

An example of this would be in 2014, at the Annual TCC

Convention, the TCC Full Board of Directors passed the resolution 2014-54 to oppose “current plans to build the Ambler Road...” TCC has acted on this resolution to ensure village positions are inserted in the Environmental Impact Statement and the ANILCA Title XI reviews as part of the National Environmental Policy Act process as well as arranged for meetings with high level State officials. Through the administrative process meetings, BLM has heard some Interior villages are not opposed to the Ambler Road. Some member tribes have questioned why TCC is taking the lead in opposition of the road. Again, TCC takes direction from the resolutions passed by the tribes. We ask TCC tribes take a serious look at the resolution process and ensure your tribal voice is heard.



## DAISY DEMIENTIEFF, ANVIK

This month's Legacy elder is Daisy Demientieff of Anvik, who was featured in Volume Three of the Legacy of Our Elders series.

Daisy was born in 1935 four miles above Anvik on the Yukon River. “It was called Four Mile Fish Camp,” Demientieff says. After the death of her father, Demientieff's mother met a man named John Deacon. After they married, the family moved to Holikachuk to be with him. “It was a pretty good-sized village,” she recalls.

Demientieff's mother taught her the importance of good behavior, traditional and subsistence way of life, and respecting Elders. “In the Native way women and girls are supposed to behave. Always with humility and respect for other people. She was very proper,” she says.

Daisy attended school in Holikachuk until she was old enough to attend the boarding school Mount Edgecumbe. In was a big shock coming from a small village. There were three hundred boys and three hundred girls at the school. Demientieff began to make friends and that helped with her homesickness.

After Demientieff left Mount Edgecumbe she met her husband, her friend Betty's brother. “Mom was very happy about it because she knew his mother Frances,” she continues. “Mike was happy, so happy I didn't say no!”

Daisy contributed to her family by making different crafts, something she is known for and that she gives credit to her mother for teaching her. “I've been making baskets for many, many years,” she says, “and I never get tired of it. Never.”

*To hear Daisy's full story, visit [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)*

TCC's Legacy of our Elders series documents the lives and stories of Athabascan elders throughout the TCC region. Their interviews are compiled into volumes that include a DVD movie as well as an accompanying book. The books and DVDs highlight the elders and the stories that they want to share. These videos are available on our website at [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)

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



# TCC SOBERING CENTER HOPES TO SAVE *Lives*

By Shirley Lee  
Housing First Project Director

In the winter of 2007-2008, seven people froze to death in Fairbanks. Six of them were known to be homeless. Some were members of TCC tribes. Richard, Julie, Carleen, Suzy, Cheryl and Jeff died because there was no available shelter for them. There are gaps in the in array of services for people with alcohol addiction, including the lack of an emergency shelter. This is not a new problem or just a problem for Fairbanks. People are still freezing to death across our region.

Before the creation of the Housing First program, Fairbanks community leaders were investigating the creation of an emergency shelter for those who had been drinking. Eventually, it was decided the Housing First model created a permanent solution to housing the homeless with alcohol addiction. But there is still a need for an emergency shelter.

We know this because currently there are some 400 homeless persons with applications to Housing First, a program with only 47 units. All applicants are screened and almost all qualify for Housing First. A disproportionate number of the applicants are Alaska Native.

Even with the creation of Housing First, the community still looked to develop an emergency shelter for homeless, chronic inebriates.

Without such a shelter, many people were being placed at the Fairbanks Correctional Center or misusing emergency services to obtain shelter even for a few hours. This does nothing to break the cycle of misuse or connect them to services such as treatment.

A community partnership came together several years ago, meeting regularly, to try and address the ongoing issue. Meeting together were representatives from the Fairbanks Native Association, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Fairbanks Correction Center, City of Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of North Pole and Tanana Chiefs Conference. In 2017, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services put out a grant notice, funding three year projects to address emergency shelter or opiate addiction. The group decided to apply and eventually asked TCC to take the lead, given our work experience with Housing First. This grant was funded and all partners are still involved in making this a sustainable project. The Hospital Foundation donated \$100,000 to the Sobering Center. The City of Fairbanks has pledged to coordinate the

services of the Community Service Patrol with the center, providing transports to the center. Fairbanks Native Association has pledged to coordinate Detox services with those exiting the Sobering Center. Together, the community is creating a stronger network of support to help get people off the streets into a safe place to sober up. Once sober, guests may work with staff to be screen for other services.

The TCC Sobering Center is required by the grant to be modeled after the Bethel Sobering Center, a program that has been successfully operated for some time. Their model works. TCC has also worked with others, most notably Fort Yukon tribal leaders, to see if we can't develop something that will work for our entire region.

As TCC President Victor Joseph stated to the Council in December 2017, the Sobering Center is a part of the Reclaiming Our People initiative. **Its mission is to do just that – save lives.**

*This is not a new problem or just a problem for Fairbanks,*

*Its mission is to do just that – save lives.*





**July 2017**

Youth Survivors Culture & Wellness Camp was held at a reestablished camp at 6 Mile Fort Yukon



A YEAR IN



**January 2017**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reaches an agreement with Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon. Tribes celebrate land-use pla



**March 2017**

Communities across the region participated in the Alcohol Free Weekend.



**March 2017**

Allakaket celebrated the opening of their new clinic.



**June**

Acting IHS Director Buchanan visits Rampart alongs Leadership.



**October 2017**

Jody Potts selected as AFN Keynote Speaker.



**October 2017**

Three health aides became the first to graduate CHA Level 4 through TCCs Community Health Aide Training Center.



**October 2017**

Jerry Isaac of Tanacross chooses not to run for re-election as Alaska Area Vice-President for the National Congress of American Indians.



**October**

TCC held a Special of Director meeting theme "Building Opportunities"





**2017**

Director Chris Allakaket and  
side TCC



**June 2017**

The Denakkanaaga Elders and  
Youth Conference is held in  
Holy Cross.



**June 2017**

Fred John ends his annual Walk  
for Tcuse at the Chief Andrew  
Isaac Health Center in  
Fairbanks.



**July 2017**

TCC Leadership and staff meet  
with Tribal Leadership in  
Takotna.



**er 2017**

Special Full Board  
meeting with the  
ing Workforce



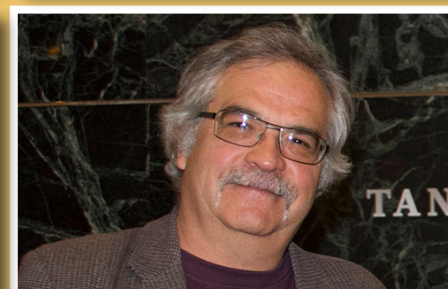
**November 2017**

Ruby celebrated the opening of  
their new Tribal office.



**November 2017**

TCC Celebrated the opening of  
their new Sobering Center.



**November 2017**

Don Shircel, former Client  
Development Division Director,  
retires after 34+ years of work-  
ing at TCC.



# YUKON KOYUKUK BOROUGH MEETING *Re-Cap*

By Edward Alexander  
Education Manager

On October 25th, TCC hosted a special meeting to discuss the Yukon Koyukuk School District (YKSD)'s proposal to form a borough.

**Tribes Position:** Tribes rejected the proposal at the meeting as a group. There were individual tribal members who spoke in favor of the proposal, and there were many individual tribal members who expressed a great deal of concern about the proposal and the possible taxation of residences and secondary areas of use like camps and trap-line cabins and so forth.

**Follow-Up:** A Tribal Leader from Allakaket expressed interest in joining the Northwest Arctic Borough, or the North Slope Borough, in a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner article on the subject. The TCC Education Dept. has reached out to the YKSD about the proposal, and its current status, but there hasn't been a comment from the YKSD yet.

**Final decision:** The tribes decided against the formation of a borough and not to pursue it further.

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## TCC'S GUIDE TO NATURAL MEDICINE

### *Wild Rhubarb*



Symptoms: Colds, constipation, cough, illness, congestion

How to use: Wild Rhubarb can be dried and boiled into a tea for treatment; can also be chewed and ingested

Constipation: Cook/Boil Rhubarb

Colds: Roots can be steamed, or chewed for relief

Illness: When eaten (chewed), cooked, or brewed in tea early beliefs were it could purify one's body and blood

Most common Uses: Chewing, boiling, cooking

*\*\*Parts of this plant contain oxalic/tannic acid; although safe in moderate doses, large and frequent doses can result in digestive/kidney issues\*\**



# TCC Supports the Protection of ANWR

By Natasha Singh  
General Counsel

For millennia Alaska Native peoples have depended upon our traditional lands and waters to sustain us. We stand together if one of our villages' traditional food access is at risk of harm. The Gwich'in Nation depend on the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the calving grounds of which are within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge), at a place called, Litzhik Gwats'an GwandaiiGoodlit (the sacred place where life begins). The way of life of the Gwich'in is intertwined with the life of the caribou. If this area is opened to drilling and the caribou are driven away, the Gwich'in existence as a people will be in jeopardy.

The renewed threat of opening the Refuge for development prompted the Tanana Chiefs

Conference Full Board of Directors to recently confirm our commitment to protecting the birthing grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. In October, at the special convention, TCC took official action to reaffirm our 2015 resolution to protect the Refuge.

Given this direction from the full board, and at the request of the Yukon Flats subregion, I traveled to Washington, D.C., and met with the offices of Senators Manchin (WV), McCain (AZ), Schumer (NY), Tester (MT) and Franken (MN), Gardner (CO), Collins (ME), Flake (AZ) regarding the Arctic Refuge. Our main message was that only by Regular Order can the Senate ensure that all views are heard in hearings and floor debate. The Senate should seek bipartisan solutions regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,

meaningfully consult Alaska Native people, and take into account the Refuge's unique biological diversity and the cultural importance of its wildlife to Alaska Natives who rely upon it for wellness. The Alaska Native people deserve better than a legislative process done on the "quick and cheap" when our culture and food security are at stake.

The conference committee assembled to take up the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that includes the ANWR opening provision have reached an agreement and the final version will allow for development despite our efforts. However, the final vote has not taken place and special thanks to all the tribes of the Interior for your dedication to the protection of the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd is in order.

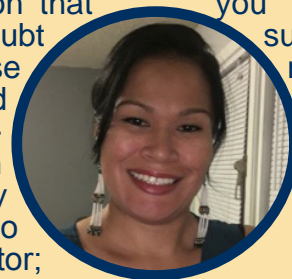


## TCC GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

My name is Yvonne Attla-Zottola and my parents are Maureen Mayo from Stevens Village, Alaska and Gary Attla from Huslia, Alaska. This December I will graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Science. I am married with three children, so this degree took a lot of sacrifice, time and dedication. It was a team effort that involved all of us. I also had a lot of support from my siblings and parents, and benefactors: TCC, Doyon, K'oyitl'ots'ina, and Bann O Yeel Kon Corporation who

all generously supported me in reaching my goals. This was not an easy degree, but the challenge has made my graduation that much sweeter. Self-doubt can derail an otherwise achievable objective and I was able to cast self-doubt aside and focus on my resolve to realize my goal. Knowing I could do it was the biggest motivator; quitting was never an option. Anyone can reach a goal if he or she is determined, willing to make

sacrifices and put in the work and time, and willing to accept support and help when it's needed. Thank you to everyone who has supported me and helped me with this achievement.



*Congratulations Yvonne!*

# Election Criteria: 2018 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting

## SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

### TCC Executive Board of Directors

#### Subregional Positions:

- Lower Yukon Subregion ..... 3 Year Term 2018-2021  
Currently Eugene Paul, Holy Cross
- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion ..... 3 Year Term 2018-2021  
Currently Nick Alexia, Nikolai

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current village director, as authorized by tribal/village resolution. (Article 7, Section 4)
- Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Members of member villages of the corporation. (Article 4, Section 1)
- Employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with exception of the President and temporary or seasonal E-Board Members and Full Board Members. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must successfully pass an ICPA and Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check. (See also Executive Board Policy 50-5003).
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. Those elected must pass a drug test according to this policy in order to serve their term.

### TCC Advisory Boards

The three TCC Advisory Boards make recommendations to the TCC Executive Board and President. The President has the authority to appoint all individuals to the advisory boards, (Article 7, Section 3), but the President currently allows the subregions to democratically select representatives to each advisory board. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

### TCC Regional Health Board

- Yukon Tanana Subregion.....3 year term (2018-2021)  
Currently Andrew Jimmie, Minto
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion .....3 year term (2018-2021)  
Currently Walter Stickman, Sr., Nulato

### TCC Education Council

- Lower Yukon Subregion.....3 year term (2018-2021)  
Currently Vivian Juneby, Beaver
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion.....3 year term (2018-2021)  
Currently Gertie Sam, Huslia

### Interior Athabaskan Tribal College Board of Trustees

- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion.....3 year term (2018-2021)  
Currently Jenny Pelkola, Galena
- Lower Yukon Subregion.....3 year term (2018-2021)  
Currently Margie Walker, Grayling

## FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

### AFN Village Representative

- 1 Seat .....One year term (2018-2019)  
Currently Julie Roberts-Hyslop, Tanana

\* The AFN Village Representative seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws; however, we notify villages of AFN candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate, for informational purposes.

### IRHA Board of Commissioners

- Seat A.....Three year term (2018-2021)  
Currently Larry Nathaniel, Circle
- Seat B.....Three year term (2018-2021)  
Currently Janet Woods, Rampart

\* Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors

- Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commissioners (Article 7, Section 7)

\* The election of the IRHA seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws pertaining to the declaration of candidacy requirements; however, we notify villages of IRHA candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate for informational purposes.

## FULL BOARD OF DIRECTIONS ELECTIONS

### Officer Positions

TCC Secretary/Treasurer .....3 year term (2018-2021)

Currently PJ Simon, Allakaket

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Officers must be members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1)

On March 19, 2009, the TCC full board of directors adopted Resolution 2009-30 "Barrier Crimes" directing TCC to come into compliance with federal and state background check requirements. The TCC President, Executive Board or Health Board positions will have regular and foreseeable contact with Indian children and is a full time TCC employee and therefore must pass the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (ICPA) and the State DHHS background checks. Executive Board and Health Board members also have foreseeable contact with Indian children as well as oversight of financial budgets with funds received by the State of Alaska.

Potential candidates to the Executive Board and Health Board must turn in a completed and correct background check application to Heather Rogers in Human Resources by February 10 to guarantee background checks will be completed by February 28. Individuals contemplating running for a board position should turn in a background check application now to ensure the ability to make corrections to mistakes in the lengthy application. All background check applications will be confidential and only Human Resources will have access to the application and the names of individuals. Those individuals that do not submit complete paperwork or fail to pass a background check will not be eligible candidates for the TCC President, Executive Board or Health Board positions.

## DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Individuals who want to declare themselves a candidate for any of the above seats must submit a written, signed and dated letter of intent between 8:00 AM-February 1, 2018 and 5:00 PM-March 2, 2018. We recommend that you confirm receipt of your letter of intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to March 2nd. We may not know of the submission of your letter of intent; but we can confirm the receipt of your letter of intent.

Individuals may submit a letter of intent for AFN Village Representative and IRHA Commissioner Seats but they must be nominated from the floor to declare themselves a candidate.

Letter of intent (see example on page 4) must be received by fax, mail or delivered in person no later than 5:00 PM on March 2, 2018 to:

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
ATTN: Norma Dahl, Executive Secretary  
122 First Avenue, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

1-800-478-6822 ext.3112 FAX # (907) 459-3884

2018 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; the elections rules are posted on the TCC website at [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org) under the 2018 TCC Annual Convention information and is also enclosed with the First and Official Call to Convention mailed to TCC member tribes. A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Natasha Singh, General Counsel, at ext. 3178.

## Important Dates for the 2018 TCC Elections

### Submit between now and February 10th:

The last day TCC is able to guarantee a background check will be completed in time for the required 10 day announcement of candidates before the meeting.

### February 1st at 8:00am:

The open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

### March 2nd at 5:00pm:

The open period in which a candidate may declare candidacy ends. Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing. TCC must provide a list of eligible candidates to member tribes.

### March 15th:

TCC elections held at the TCC Full Board of Directors Annual Meeting at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.



# Background Checks and TCC's Full Board of Directors Election

## ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:

The Indian Child Protection Act (ICPA), requires TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors to pass a federal ICPA background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act background check.

The TCC Executive Board has made the commitment to both comply with current laws, Board policies and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC Executive Board and Health Board candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 1st submitted to Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director. This allows enough time for the check to be complete. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the March 15, 2018 election. This process was mandated in the 2014 Presidential Election as well.

## 2018 TCC ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES

### RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED

To be elected to a position, nominees are required to receive a majority vote from the votes cast by the TCC Board of Delegates. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot provided by these Election Rules until a nominee receives a majority vote.

### RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY

1. In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.

2. Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:

The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.

If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will

proceed to the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The remaining candidates will be eliminated.

If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

If there are more than three (3) candidates tied for first highest vote, all of those receiving the first highest will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

If all but one candidate ties for second, the Election Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the nominees who tied for second. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

3. Ballots where there are three (3) nominees. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot having three (3) nominees, the Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes, and conduct a subsequent ballot. If all three (3) nominees tie for the votes cast, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot including all nominees. If two nominees tie for the fewest votes cast, the Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the two nominees who tied for the fewest votes cast on the prior ballot. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

4. Ballots with two (2) nominees. The nominee receiving a majority vote shall be elected. If neither nominee receives a majority vote, the Election Committee will prepare another ballot without elimination of the nominee receiving the fewer votes. This Election Committee will repeat this process as necessary until one nominee receives a majority vote.

\*\* Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2018 Full Board of Director's roll call.

DATE (Must be between 8 a.m. Feb. 1, 2018 and 5 p.m. March 2, 2018).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ declare my intent to run for the Tanana Chiefs Conference  
(Name) (Village/Enrolled to)

position of \_\_\_\_\_  
{Insert seat you intend to run as a candidate for. Example: Secretary/Treasurer, Subregional Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education Council or /ATC}

Signature

City, State, Zip Code

Print Name

Phone Number

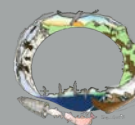
Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, 25 USC sec. 3207 provides that each tribal organization that receives funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act shall not employ individuals that have committed certain crimes when the position involves regular or foreseeable contact with Indian children. The TCC Executive Board has reviewed and passed procedures to implement the ICPA background checks and the Board requires all Executive Board of Directors, Health Board of Directors and TCC employees to pass ICPA background checks and the Alaska Barrier Crime Act, when applicable.

Nominees must fill-out a background check application. The background check application can be obtained from Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director at ext. 3095, and is due by February 1, 2018 to allow for processing before the election. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be official candidates for the 2018 Full Board of Directors' elections.

\*TCC recommends that you confirm the receipt of your Letter of Intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to 5:00 P.M. March 2, 2018.

## LETTER OF INTENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
ATTN: Norma Dahl, Executive Secretary  
122 First Ave, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, AK 99701 | Fax (907) 459-3884



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

# The Council Newsletter

122 First Avenue, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

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Fax: (907) 459-3884  
thecouncil@tananachiefs.org

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

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  
Chiefs  
Conference

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## JOIN THE TCC FAMILY

**APPLY ONLINE**

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

### Village Vacancies

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Circle, Healy Lake, Chalkyitsik, Ruby, Stevens Village, Ruby, Manley Hot Springs, Rampart, Alatna)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner – Itinerant (Dot Lake, Tetlin)
- Elder Nutrition Cook (Tetlin)
- Family Visitor (Holy Cross)
- Infant/Toddler Teacher (Galena)
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or NP) (Tok)
- Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook (Shageluk, Kaltag, Chalkyitsik, McGrath, Nikolai, Nulato, Rampart, Ruby)
- Tribal Administrator (Venetie, Rampart, Takotna)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Koyukuk, Alatna)
- Village Public Safety Officer (Huslia, Eagle, Nulato, Venetie, Grayling, Circle, Fort Yukon, Ruby, Tanana, Holy Cross, Allakaket)

### Fairbanks Vacancies

- Coordinator/Instructor Mid-Level Practitioner
- Dental Assistant I
- Developmental Disabilities Coordinator
- Facilities Technician
- Family Advocate
- Head Start Program Manager
- Help Desk Technician
- Instructor-CHAP Training Center
- Lab Director
- Lead RN
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Patient Medical Hotel Manager
- Physician - Primary Care
- Travel Coordinator
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Tech

### Region- Wide Vacancies

- Fisheries Technician
- Wellness Project Prevention Coordinator

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF November 2nd, 2017

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

TCC Closed  
January 1, 2018 - New Year's Day

TCC Closed  
February 19th, 2018 - President's Day

## Did you know?

Drinking one diet soda a day can lead to a 36% increased risk of metabolic syndrome and diabetes. Metabolic syndrome describes a cluster of conditions (including high blood pressure, elevated glucose levels, raised cholesterol, and large waist circumference) that put people at high risk for heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.

