

the council

Dena Nena Nenash • Our Land Speaks

Vol. 46, No. 02

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

February 2021

TCC Continues Vaccine Distribution To Villages

Tanana Chiefs Conference is continuing the roll out of vaccines to the village as Health Services coordinates with tribal leadership to set up vaccine clinics in their community.

On January 14th, Health staff travelled to the village of Rampart where they administered 35 doses of the Moderna vaccine to community members.

"I would like to encourage others to get the shot in other villages and around the state so that we can all get back to some normalcy and get back to living our lives," said Charlie Wright after receiving his vaccine, "Protecting our elders and our children is mainly what I'm worried about. Protecting our future generations and getting back to a normal life here on the Yukon."

At the time this publication went to print (1/27/21) 1,898 vaccines had been administered in 24 rural communities including Galena, Evansville, Tanana, Nenana, Northway, Tok, Huslia, Hughes, Eagle, Kaltag, Chalkyitsik, Stevens Village, Koyukuk, Healy Lake, Allakaket, Alatna, Circle, Rampart, Manley, Minto, Tanacross, Tetlin, Lake Minchumina, and Anaktuvuk Pass.

Continued on Page 4-5

2021 TCC ANNUAL CONVENTION

AND FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 17-18, 2021

**In This
Issue:**

**E-Board Spotlight
Charlene Stern**
Page 3

**TCC Vaccine
Distribution**
Page 4-5

**Customer Experi-
ence Program**
Page 8-9

**Winter
Home Tips**
Page 12-13

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



TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Donald Honea Sr./Ruby
1st Traditional Chief

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village
2nd Traditional Chief

PJ Simon/Allakaket/Galena
Chief/Chairman

Charlene Stern/Arctic Village
Vice President

Jerry Isaac/Tanacross
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit/Tanacross
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

Jolie Murray/Beaver
Youth Advisor

CHIEF'S REPORT



Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

Next month TCC will be celebrating our 2021 Annual Convention, which will be taking place March 17th-18th at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.

The theme for this year is **Resiliency and Renewal**.

This past year both TCC and the tribes throughout the region have demonstrated resiliency while navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking forward to an era of renewal with new leadership, and with the COVID-19 vaccines being successfully rolled out across Alaska.

This year's convention will be a hybrid meeting and delegates will be able to participate virtually or in-person. The meeting will be closed to the public, and all delegates and TCC employees will be required to have a negative COVID-19 test prior to attending in-person. The public will be able to watch the convention live on our Facebook page or on our website at www.tananachiefs.org

This year there will be several important seats up for election on TCC's Executive Board. The seats include Secretary/Treasurer (currently held by Jerry Isaac), the Upper Kuskokwim Representative (currently held by Nick Alexia, Sr.), and the Lower Yukon Representative (currently held by Eugene Paul). For more information on this year's elections see pages 18-19 of this newsletter.

I am looking forward to a successful 2021 TCC Annual Convention as we continue to strive towards our vision of *Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes*.

Anaa Baasee,

PJ Simon

Chief / Chairman

Tanana Chiefs Conference

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2021 FIRE SEASON

APPLY ONLINE: WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG/CAREERS

CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Timothy Troxel • 452-8251 ext.3069 • timothy.troxel@tananachiefs.org

Gilbert Frank • 452-8251 ext.3069 • gilbert.frank@tananachiefs.org



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference



Meet Our Executive Board Charlene Stern - Arctic Village

Charlene Stern is the daughter of Florence Newman of Arctic Village and Peter Stern of Fairbanks; the granddaughter of the late Rev. James and Maggie Gilbert, and the late Alfred and Barbara Stern. Charlene is a tribal member from Venetie Village, and is currently serving a three-year term (2019-2022) as the Vice President of TCC.

She is passionate that the Tribes are in control of their overall development which include food security, energy, health care, and housing. She is a strong advocate for maintaining a subsistence lifestyle with hunting and fishing rights, as well as the protection of women and children through the Wellness Courts and the tribal programs that seek to meet the needs of women and children.

As the Vice President, she has contributed along with the Tribes, Board of Directors, Chief/Chairman and staff, on the healthcare for the interior. She has been engaged with the Cultural Committee on the expansion for CAIHC, and is very passionate about it. She says, "The idea of creating a space, which is not only going to grow the medical services to our tribal members, but to create a space that is very much our own, and reflects our culture and our people and our values. It's something that is very important to me." She voices, "And not just in Fairbanks, but thinking of the potential for creating those types of experiences in our village clinics as well. I've been really involved in that project since I started my term."

Charlene explains that it's been a privilege and an honor to serve in her role as the Vice President. "TCC's pathway forward, should absolutely be informed by what our tribes see as the vision, and our job is, once they set that vision—then we keep the organization on track towards it." Her purpose has always been to serve her people, and right now her job is to make sure that there is a continuum of this present moment, and where the future leaders will be. She wants to make sure that there is continued and shared knowledge of culture, traditional knowledge and values so that even a hundred years from now, "No matter how much change is around us, there's still that stable foundation of who we are as Tribal people from the interior."

JOIN THE MOVEMENT • QUIT TODAY! WHAT DOES SMOKING DO TO YOUR *heart?*

It increases the buildup of fatty plaque in blood vessels

It damages the lining of your arteries

It can quickly affect the heart and blood vessels, causing heart rate to rise almost immediately

Carbon monoxide in tobacco smoke reduces your blood's ability to carry oxygen, causing your heart to work harder

It causes thickening and narrowing of your blood vessels

It makes blood sticky and more likely to clot, which can block blood flow to the heart and brain

It can raise triglycerides and lower "good" cholesterol

ALASKA'S TOBACCO
QUIT LINE
1-800-QUIT-NOW
IT'S FREE. IT'S CONFIDENTIAL. AND IT WORKS.

For more information on the dangers of tobacco use, or enrollment in **Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line**, please contact:

TCC • Division of Wellness & Prevention • Tobacco Prevention

(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3547 • prevention@tananachiefs.org

TCC Continues *Vaccine Distribution* To Villages

AS OF: 01/27/2021

Total # of Vaccines Distributed:

1031

Pfizer Vaccine

867

Moderna Vaccine

1898

Total Vaccinations Given

DATE	VILLAGE CLINIC SITE	NO. OF VACCINATIONS
1/27/21	Galena	62
1/27/21	Nenana	75
1/25/21	Tok	80
1/25/21	Anaktuvuk Pass	120
1/21/21	Lake Minchumina	13
1/21/21	Nenana	60
1/21/21	Galena	124
1/21/21	Northway	106
1/20/21	Tetlin	Postponed
1/19/21	Evansville	24
1/19/21	Tanana	116
1/15/21	Tanacross	29
1/15/21	Manley	18
1/15/21	Minto	56
1/14/21	Rampart	35
1/14/21	Circle	38
1/13/21	Allakaket & Alatna	88
1/12/21	Healy Lake	2
1/12/21	Koyukuk	60
1/11/21	Galena	73
1/11/21	Chalkyitsik	30
1/11/21	Stevens Village	21
1/11/21	Tok	70
1/8/21	Kaltag	65
1/6/21	Nulato	Postponed
1/6/21	Eagle	50
1/6/21	Galena	58
1/6/21	Nenana	31
1/5/21	Hughes	48
1/5/21	Ruby	Postponed
1/4/21	Huslia	60
1/4/21	Tok	63
12/31/20	Northway	58
12/30/20	Nenana	27
12/29/20	Tanana	51
12/28/20	Evansville	14
12/21/20	Galena	73





WHY SHOULD I GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed - reducing chances of hospitalization and death. By getting the COVID-19 vaccine you are also contributing to your community's 'herd immunity' which would slow down the rate of infection.



COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATION & DEATH BY AGE

Those above the age of 65 are up to 13 times more likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 and up to 630x times more likely to die from COVID-19 compared to those in the 18-29 age group.

RATE RATIOS COMPARED TO 18-29 YEAR OLDS	0-4 YEARS	5-17 YEARS	18-29 YEARS	30-39 YEARS	40-49 YEARS	50-64 YEARS	65-74 YEARS	75-84 YEARS	85+ YEARS
HOSPITALIZATION	4X LOWER	9X LOWER	COMPARISON GROUP	2X HIGHER	3X HIGHER	4X HIGHER	5X HIGHER	8X HIGHER	13X HIGHER
DEATH	9X LOWER	16X LOWER	COMPARISON GROUP	4X HIGHER	10X HIGHER	30X HIGHER	90X HIGHER	220X HIGHER	630X HIGHER

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY [CDC.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE – CAN LIFE RETURN TO NORMAL?



NOT YET! Individuals who get the vaccine should continue to practice social distancing, hand washing and social distancing even after receiving the vaccine. The vaccine is 95% effective in reducing the risk of severe illness or death with COVID-19. Those who get the vaccine may still contract COVID-19 and may still be able to pass the infection on to others.

WHEN CAN I GET THE VACCINE?



Currently TCC has limited quantities of the COVID-19 vaccine and those vaccines are being allocated to those over the age of 50, healthcare workers, first responders, and TCC village residents. Once the vaccine becomes more widely available, TCC will open appointments to other age groups and categories.

ALASKA REAL ID CARD

Beginning **October 1, 2021**, the Department of Homeland Security requires your driver license (DL) or identification (ID) card be REAL ID compliant if you wish to use it as identification to board a domestic flight or enter military bases and most federal facilities.

STEP 1: ESTABLISH YOUR IDENTITY

To apply for a REAL ID card, you must present one identity document, which shows your date of birth, true full name, identity and U.S. citizenship or lawful status. Select a document that has your current true full name (first, middle and last). An original document or certified copy is required.

STEP 2: CHECK YOUR NAME

Is your current true full name (first, middle and last name) the same as the name listed on the identity document you selected in step 1? If not, to document your name change, bring documents that connect the name on the identity document you selected to your current true full name (first, middle and last name). Select the documents you will use (this can be more than one if needed to connect the name listed on your identity document to your true full name). An original document or certified copy is required.

STEP 3: CONFIRM SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Select ONE document you will use that contains your full social security number (SSN). An applicant must present any of the following genuine documents bearing the name of the applicant and their full social security number. (Example: Social Security Card, W-2 form, pay stub with full SSN)

STEP 4: VERIFY RESIDENCE ADDRESS

To establish Alaska residency, you must present two documents that verify your residence address. The document must list the applicant's first and last name and match the residence address as listed on the driver license or ID card application. One of these residency documents needs to be dated within 90 days. (Example: mortgage bill, deed or title, rental or lease agreement, IRS tax return, home utility bills, or bank statement)

To view the full checklist and see what documentation will be accepted, please visit:

<https://online.dmv.alaska.gov/REALIdChecklist>



TRAVELING WITH YOUR TRIBAL ID

According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Tribal Identifications are an acceptable form of identification at the security checkpoint today and will continue to be accepted once the enforcement of REAL ID begins. Here is what holders of tribal IDs needed to know:

- The tribal must be federally-recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- The ID must have a photo
- If the ID has an expiration date, it cannot have been expired for more than a year
- If there is no expiration date, there is no restriction beyond #1 and #2.
- If a traveler is using their tribal ID at the TSA security checkpoint and they are told it is not acceptable (this should NOT happen, but just in case), the traveler should ask to speak immediately with a TSA supervisor

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE *Spotlight*

Martina Ekada-Nulato Health Aide

By Linden Staciokas

When she looks back on her over 31 years as a health aide in Nulato, Martina Ekada cannot believe the changes---in herself and in her job. "I was without a job and had two kids to raise, so when I saw the advertisement for a health aide in 1989, I took my time to think about it. The training was hard; I had no background in science. And when I finished it and did my first on-call, where I was the only one responsible for handling any medical emergencies, I was so scared! I did not sleep at all, just waiting for something to happen. Now the job is still stressful, especially so during this time of Covid, but I take it all in stride. I have learned to accept things as they come and work through whatever is thrown at me."

"And not only have I become more confident and knowledgeable, but the job is different, too. When I first started, there were no computers, fewer medicines, and we did a lot of things by hand that are handled by machines now. Today all the charting is done on computers. All sorts of drugs have been developed to help keep people going when 30 years ago they would have been more disabled or died from things like heart disease. And the technology! We have telemedicine that allows us to consult immediately with physicians, and many ordinary tasks, like taking blood pressure, are done automatically instead of by hand."

None of these innovations has replaced what for Martina is the best part of the job, helping neighbors through

some of the physically toughest and emotionally scariest times of their lives. As the current pandemic makes clear, sometimes the patient is not an individual but an entire community.



These days Martina and her two health aide co-workers are spending a lot of time educating all residents about how to prevent or slow transmission of the virus, and getting out the truth about the vaccine.

There have been times over the years where Martina felt overwhelmed by the stress and responsibility of her career. Sometimes the only thing that kept her going was the memory of her father encouraging her through tough times, reminding her that all jobs have rough parts and that, "Once you start a job, you don't quit before it is done." Another support was her aunt, who was a health aide, too. She told Martina that sometimes the only thing you can do is to keep saying "Don't quit" to yourself until a hard time passes.

Martina also credits her mentor, health aide Pauline Peter. She is gone now, but Martina remembers all the times Pauline stood next to her, reminding her that she could do it, that the job is an important one, that hard times pass. "There were several times in the beginning when I was going to quit. But Pauline never got impatient with me. She just kept encouraging me."

Now it is Martina who tries to inspire others to enter the field. "It is a really good and interesting job. True, there is a lot to learn and it can be stressful. You may have to face things you don't

like, like seeing blood or working with needles. But you get used to things you never thought you could and eventually you become essential to people's lives. It is very rewarding."

She also points out the employment benefits of working with Tanana Chiefs. "The pay is fair, the benefits are good, you will have plenty of training and supportive bosses and co-workers, and they try to work with the needs of your personal life. This job enabled me to raise my two kids and four other children I adopted, and these days I help with my grandchildren. My mother, who is blind, lives with me now, and I have the flexibility to care for her, too."

Martina is somewhat amazed that three decades have gone by, but although she did not take that first position as a health aide intending for it to be a life-long career, she would not change anything. "I have helped my people. That is a privilege."

Darlene Bifelt, Martina's supervisor at TCC is thankful for Martina's many years of service. "Martina's served with distinction with the Community Health Aide Program. She is the longest running employee with 31 years under her belt. She has experienced many major changes throughout the years, including the roll-out from patient paper charts to electronic health records. She has embraced the various medical equipment upgrades, such as the video teleconferencing capabilities which allow patients to have virtual electronic visits with a provider while in the village, eliminating the need for travel. Martina has adapted well to the advancements in health technology."

CUSTOMER *Experience Program*

TCC's Customer Experience Program is here to assist patients and clients in navigating the health care delivery system or client services. We listen, problem solve, reach out to appropriate departments as needed, and help to close the loop so customers have the best experiences possible.

WHAT WE *Do*



Answer questions about our health systems and processes.

Manage customer grievances and facilitate responses.



Provide guidance to TCC patients, escorts and families on the ANMC campus.

Accompany patients to appointments and take notes.



Facilitate Purchased and Referred Care (PRC) Appeals.

Provide shuttle services to patients for TCC medical appointments.



Facilitate communication between patients and the clinical teams for the best outcomes.

Provide expertise to TCC employees on customer service and overall experience.



Document comment card information submitted by individuals and distribute kudos to employees.

WHAT WE DON'T *Offer*

- We are not able to escort patients to Anchorage for medical care.
- We are not able to offer shuttle services to and from individuals' personal residences or various hotels in town.

OUR *Goals*

Engaged, Self-Reliant, and Satisfied Customers:
TCC Region is well informed about services, empowered, and satisfied with services availability and quality.

- Provide excellent patient navigation and advocacy.
- Provide a high level of customer service to all customers.
- Engage patients and customers in ownership of the health system.
- Ensure effective customer surveying and feedback.

PROVIDE *Customer Feedback*

Our goal is to listen to our customers and then take steps to help facilitate improvements. Please reach out to us so we can address your concerns.

You can submit your complaints and concerns to patientconcerns@tananachiefs.org or mail it to:

Customer Experience Team

1717 W. Cowles St.

Fairbanks, AK 99701

ALL COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS WILL RECEIVE A RESPONSE WITHIN 14 DAYS OR SOONER.

MEET OUR *Team*

Please contact us at 451-6682 ext. 1918 for assistance. Our hours are M-F 8am-5pm
Our Customer Experience team is located at the CAIHC building.



LEILANI SAUER

Customer Experience Manager Patient Experience Coordinator
ext. 3143



FELICIA RODRIGUEZ

ext. 3792



SHAWNA HYTRY

Patient Navigator
ext. 3484



JENNA SOMMER

Patient Navigator
ext. 3774

TCC *Patient Advocate* LOCATED AT THE



ALASKA NATIVE
MEDICAL CENTER



KRISTY SUPSOOK

TCC Patient Advocate
907-687-9193

Toll Free 1-800-478-6682 ext. 3604

TRAVELING TO ANMC CAMPUS AND NEED ASSISTANCE?

Kristy works closely with the medical teams at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) to ensure TCC patients receive clear communication about their care, experience safe discharges and can access support if concerns arise while at ANMC.

Please reach out to our TCC Patient Advocate at ANMC. Kristy is available after hours and weekends, if needed.

TCC *Shuttle Service*

The TCC shuttle team currently transports employees to and from CAIHC to Dipper Parking Lot. They also assist patients with transportation for clinical appointments. They cater to patients who are staying at the TCC Willow House Hotel located on Cushman Street.



AMANDA BURGETT

Lead Patient Transportation Specialist
907-347-0765



THOMAS JOHNSON

Driver



MELANDA FRANK

Driver



LINDY ALEXANDER

Driver



TRAVIS NEWMAN

Driver

SERVICES AT

Paul Williams House



Tanana Chiefs Conference Behavioral Health's Paul Williams House (PWH) is a sober, safe housing unit that serves individuals diagnosed with a Chronic Mental Illness and qualify for Indian Health Services. PWH has 10 beds including one respite bed. The respite bed is utilized periodically for high risk patients with chronic mental illness whom need a safe bed for a short period of time.

In addition to supportive living at PWH, Behavioral Health provides outpatient case management services for clients whom live independently. The goal of PWH services are to support and teach clients to manage symptoms and learn life skills to live independently.

Potential patients are screened by a case manager prior to entrance. They are provided with information on inpatient and outpatient services and decide if they are ready to engage in services. If they meet the criteria and wish to move forward, we complete the intake process including an integrated assessment.

OUTPATIENT CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The assigned case manager maintains communication with clients and may provide home visits, assist with transportation to appointments and to meet daily living for clients with chronic mental illness.

Ultimately services are provided to:

- Maintain consistency with medical and psychiatric appointments.
- Teach patients to communicate their needs to providers.
- Teach the importance of medication and the consistency.
- Continue education on client's unique symptoms

Education on Adult Daily Living (ADL) Skills:

- Hygiene
- Self-advocating and coordinating
- Shopping (food and personal needs)
- Budgeting
- Well checks
- Link clients to services they may need to live successfully within the community.

INPATIENT SERVICES AT THE PWH CONSIST OF EDUCATION ON:

- Maintaining consistency with the medical and psychiatric appointments.
- Teaching clients to communicate their needs to providers.
- Education on their unique diagnosis including symptoms and management of their symptoms.

We also educate them on their Adult Daily Living Skills:

- Personal Hygiene
- Housekeeping
- Budgeting
- Shopping (food and personal needs)
- Healthy food choices
- Cooking
- Social skills
- Developing a daily routine
- Self-advocate and coordinating care

We provide case management services with other agencies such as financial service agencies, housing, medical and other services.

For More Information:

TCC • Behavioral Health • Paul Williams House

(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3352

SELF-CARE *Awareness*

Self-care is a valuable tool we can use to better our mental health. It takes courage to look within ourselves and identify what we already do, want to do, or need help with to achieve wellness. Schedule some time every day for self-care, even if its 15 minutes a day. Below are some ideas for self-care!

- ♥ Take a nature walk
- ♥ Do a fun activity
- ♥ Arts and crafts
- ♥ Unplug from social media
- ♥ Play your favorite sport
- ♥ Make a realistic to-do list
- ♥ Practice journaling
- ♥ Read a book
- ♥ Exercise
- ♥ Do something that makes you laugh
- ♥ Cook a comforting meal
- ♥ Practice Mindfulness
- ♥ Practice Gratitude
- ♥ A relaxing activity
- ♥ Make meaningful connections with friends and family

What do you do for self-care? Submit your answers to Prevention@tananachiefs.org

If you or someone you know is in crisis or having thoughts of suicide please contact:

TCC Behavioral Health 907.452.8251 • After Hours Crisis: 1.800.478.6682

Alaska Careline 1.877.266.4357 (HELP) • text "4help" to 839863 (Tuesday-Saturday 3pm to 11pm)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1.800.273.8255

For More Information on Suicide Prevention Contact:

TCC • Division of Wellness & Prevention • Zhiiniidzelt'aey Project

(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3164 • prevention@tananachiefs.org

HELEN PETERS *TANANA*

One of Helen's earliest memories was seeing her mothers long brown hair. "She didn't want me to comb her hair, but I started crying to comb her hair, so she gave me that comb," remembers Peters. "That's my first memory."

Her mother passed away during childbirth when Peters was still a toddler. "My father wouldn't talk about her," says Peters. "All he did was hold me and tears would come down his face. He was a father and a mother to me."

"Love was taught to me through my father. What he did, what he said, and how he treated his kids," says Peters.

Peters remembers that her father was very musical; dancing and singing, he would often make songs. "Every morning he would sing and I would dance," smiles Peters. In 1942, her brothers went off to fight in the war. Then, something bad really happened.

"My father drowned. My best friend drowned. My everything," remembers Peters. She didn't know what she was going to do with her life. She thought, "What is going to happen to me?"

To hear Helen's full story,
Visit www.tananachiefs.org/legacy-of-our-elders/

TCC's Legacy of our Elders series documents the lives and stories of Elders throughout the TCC region. These videos are available on our website.

LEGACY
OF OUR
ELDERS

Partners in the SKY

By Tom Moran
Alaska NSF EPSCoR

TCC teams up with University of Alaska for unmanned aircraft research

sUAS + EPSCoR = an exciting pair of TCC research projects.

TCC is collaborating with scientists from Alaska EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), a University of Alaska-based research organization, on two studies of wildfire-related impacts using small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) or drones. One study looks at vegetation regrowth in village firebreaks, and the other focuses on how fires along rivers could influence salmon habitat and growth rates.

"I want us to co-produce research that helps TCC advocate for the interests of their communities and helps them make smart, timely, and adaptive decisions with regards to wildfire and to resilience to wildfire," said EPSCoR researcher Todd Brinkman.

FIREBREAKS

In May 2020, TCC Forester Fabian Keirn traveled to the communities of Dot Lake, Tanacross and Tetlin, all of which had had preventative firebreaks put in at various times over the last 20 years. They are all "shaded fuelbreaks," in which crews had thinned stretches of woods rather than clear-cutting them. "That way when a fire is coming towards the community, the hope is that the fire will hit the break and move the fire out of the crowns of the trees and drop it down until there could be some direct suppression efforts," explained Keirn.

Keirn's job was to gather remotely sensed photos of the firebreaks using sUAS, working at dusk or dawn to minimize shadows - which can create artifacts in the imagery that interfere with analysis. He ground-truthed the

data by measuring the size and number of trees, as well as the percent cover of grasses, at a set of small circular plots of the firebreaks stationed roughly 200 feet apart. He then shipped the data to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where Brinkman, fellow UA faculty Santosh Panda and undergraduate student Irina Sweedler have been studying the imagery to see how successfully it can be used to correctly classify vegetation types.

Keirn said the data could enable researchers to examine whether firebreaks have grown back to the point where they may no longer serve their purpose, and also to look at how effective these types of fuel breaks are in the first place. "I don't think too many people have done too many studies on these shaded fuelbreaks," he noted. "Whether or not that (strategy) is working hasn't really been followed up on."

Brinkman said the project is also a proof-of-concept of the sUAS technique, which could provide organizations with a rapid, simple tool for the currently time-consuming process of evaluating firebreaks. He said the UAF researchers are concluding their evaluation of the technique and they've been generally pleased with the results, and that the next step is to share their findings with TCC and decide whether to further pursue the study.

"I'd love to put together some sort of training workshop for rural communities where they can assess their fuelbreaks themselves," Brinkman noted. "This is something that they could probably do from start to finish without us. It would be great."

TCC Natural Cultural Resources Specialist Debra Lynne gathers sUAS footage of the Chena River outside Fairbanks in summer 2020.

Photo by Debra Lynne/TCC.

TURBULENCE

Remotely sensed sUAS imagery collected by TCC also plays a major role in an EPSCoR project to study the impacts of forest fires on juvenile Chinook salmon in the Upper Chena River outside of Fairbanks. A research team led by UAF research scientist Erik Schoen spent the past summer taking measurements of fish, aquatic invertebrates, and water quality in the Chena River and tributaries to see whether portions of the river upstream and downstream of recent fire sites exhibit different characteristics that could impact juvenile salmon growth rates. Schoen said fires could affect salmon in a number of ways: for example, they can result in warmer water temperatures, which may increase growth rates; they may increase the amount of fine-scale debris in the river, which salmon mistake for insects and waste energy by chasing; conversely, vegetation like fireweed that appear after fires may produce more insects for fish to eat. "We're not sure how all these different interacting facts play out, whether it's a net positive or a net negative for juvenile salmon," Schoen said. "We're studying the river at a couple different scales here trying to understand how."

Another significant way that fires may impact juvenile salmon is by flushing more sediment into the water and thus increasing river turbidity, which may inhibit feeding and growth. To study turbidity, TCC Natural Cultural Resources Specialist Debra Lynne used a sUAS equipped with a multispectral sensor to gather both visual and multispectral imagery

of the stretches of the Chena River where sampling was taking place. The multispectral imagery was then sent to TCC Fisheries Biologist Brian McKenna, who has been post-processing the data sets and combining spectral bands from the imagery to create maps displaying the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) - an optical measure that prior studies have used to estimate turbidity. Much like the firebreak project, McKenna's next task is to compare the imagery to measurements taken directly from the river to see how well NDWI can be used to track turbidity.

"We're going to be comparing and analyzing the relationship between the in-river turbidity measurements and the NDWI values from the index maps," he explained. "We're trying to build a relationship between those two."

Also like the firebreak project, McKenna and Schoen said a major goal of the research is to test the effectiveness of the sUAS as a rapid deployment tool, especially in remote environments. "If there's a new forest fire on a salmon stream, you might be able to deploy a drone and collect some rapid assessment imagery and have some idea of whether that fire is going to be beneficial or harmful or maybe neutral to juvenile Chinook production," Schoen said.

All the researchers pointed to the mutually beneficial aspects of the TCC partnership. In the case of the firebreaks, TCC was able to use EPSCoR image processing equipment and expertise, while TCC's involvement facilitated access to villages during the early days of the COVID pandemic. And the salmon study will enable both UAF and TCC

researchers to gain knowledge about potential impacts to a significant natural resource.

"Chinook salmon are an important source of food for the residents of the TCC region within the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, and also provide an important cultural role in fish camps," noted McKenna. "We were excited about the projects because we want to better understand how climate change is impacting wild food resources, so we can better manage these resources."

Alaska EPSCoR is a National Science Foundation-funded organization currently undertaking a five-year research project entitled "Fire & Ice," which is studying climate-induced changes to wildfires in the Alaskan boreal forest, and to ecosystems and marine life in the nearshore Gulf of Alaska.

Find out more at:

<http://www.alaska.edu/epscor/fire-and-ice>.



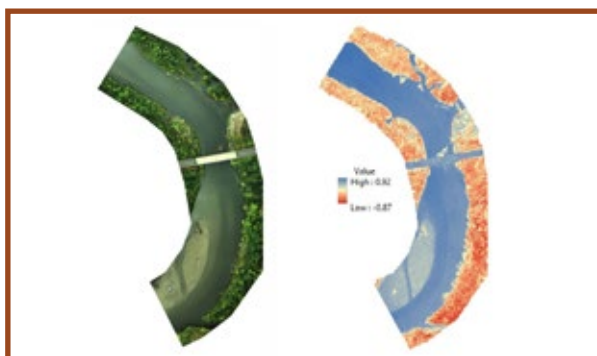
An orthomosaic of 2020 sUAS imagery of the village of Tanacross, including a firebreak running through the center of the photo.

Image courtesy Fabian Keirn/TCC and Todd Brinkman/Alaska EPSCoR.



Tanana Chiefs Conference Forester Fabian Keirn gathers sUAS footage of a firebreak in the village of Tanacross, May 12, 2020.

Photo by Fabian Keirn/TCC.



Orthomosaic (left) and Normalized Difference Water Index (right) maps of a Chena River study site at mile 37.7 Chena Hot Springs Road. The legend shows the NDWI value for each pixel within the NDWI index map.

Image courtesy Brian McKenna/TCC.



UAF researcher Michelle Quillin examines a juvenile Chinook salmon sampled from the Chena River, August 21, 2020.

Photo by Seth Adams/Seth Adams Photography.

Winter Home Tips

FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS

By Energy Assistance Program

The winter months in Alaska come with more hours of darkness and cold, and harsh weather conditions that can be tough on your home. It can be challenging to stay warm and protected from the elements. TCC Energy Assistance program has several tips that can help you not only keep warm as winter approaches, but save money by reducing the use of energy.

DO NOT COVER VENTS, FANS OR AIR EXCHANGERS

Though these appear to be leaking cool air into your home, they are in fact regulating the air flow allowing heat to be evenly distributed and preventing moisture build up. If you have concerns about the ventilation in your home, consult a professional.

SAVE ELECTRICITY COSTS BY TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS

During the darker winter months, we tend to keep the lights on for longer periods of time. It can become habit to turn on more lights than needed and forget to turn them off. Be mindful of where you are using lights and be active in turning anything off that you don't need. You can also replace the bulbs in your most frequently used rooms with more energy efficient bulbs such as light emitting diode (LED) bulbs or install occupancy sensors which will automatically shut off lights if you are not actively in the space.

UNPLUG APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS

Most appliances and electronics plugged in to an outlet still use electricity, even when powered off. Unplugging appliances and electronics including small kitchen appliances, lamps, gaming systems, and electronic device charges when you're out of the house or at night can help save money and energy. For items that are used more frequently and for longer periods of time including TVs, cable TV boxes, DVD players and computers, use a surge protector or a power strip. When you turn off the power switch on a surge protector or power strip, power to all

devices plugged into that strip will be cut off. In rural areas it can cost \$400 a year to run a fridge and \$50 a year to power a coffee maker according to the UAF Cooperative Extension Service. Kitchens are home to appliances that use a lot of energy, like the fridge, and ones that use a lot of water, like the dishwasher. The kitchen has many high use appliances and using them efficiently will help your savings add up quickly!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **USE MICROWAVE & CROCKPOTS TO COOK:** For small meals, they use less energy than the stove or oven.
- **MICROWAVE:** Keep the inside clean as it improves the efficiency. Also microwaves with digital clocks have much higher phantom loads.
- **USE LIDS WHEN COOKING:** They keep steam in and cook food more quickly.
- **DON'T LET THE WATER RUN:** When washing dishes by hand you will save on heating water.
- **USE YOUR DISHWASHER IF YOU HAVE ONE** According to Energy Star, you can save 5,000 gallons of water each year and \$120 in utility costs by using a dishwasher instead of washing by hand.
- **WASH ONLY FULL LOADS IN DISHWASHERS:** It costs the same to wash one dish as it does to wash a full load!
- **USE THE AIR-DRY OPTION ON DISHWASHERS:** It saves energy by keeping the heating element off.

WOOD HEATING

Burns best when dry and wood that is split dries faster than logs.

PURCHASE ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

These Energy Star certified clothes washers consume 25% less energy and 45% less water than the conventional ones. Some machines are far more efficient at using water and electricity. To find the most efficient machines, look for the Energy Star label. Conventional washers can use 40 gallons of water on just one load of laundry. But Energy Star-rated washers can use fewer than 10 gallons of water. They use less energy, too. They can cut utility bills by an average of \$150 per year. That's a total of \$750 saved over 5 years, less than half the life span of a washing machine (UAF CES). As for dryers they are not Energy Star rated.

The water heater is the 2nd largest energy user in most homes. The water heater accounts for about 15% of your energy bill, second only to your home's space heating system, according to UAF CES. You don't simply pay once for water. If on a municipal system, you pay one bill for the cost of the water itself, as well as the treatment and pumping of that water. If you have your own well, you pay for the electrical cost. Then you pay a second bill for the cost of heating that water. Reducing the amount of hot water you use will save money on both bills. Set the thermostat on your water heater to 120°F. It's one of the easiest ways to save.

THE CHANGE:

- Saves energy. Water is often heated to 140°F unnecessarily; turning it back will save between 6 and 10 percent on your energy bill, according to the Department of Energy.
- Prevents scalding from hotter water.
- Slows buildup of minerals and corrosion in the water heater and in the pipes.
- If you will be on vacation or out of town, turn down the thermostat even further if there is no risk of freezing.

The Refrigerator accounts for almost 7 percent of the average home's utility bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Older models cost a lot more to run. Fridges made before 1980 cost \$150 more a year to operate than new Energy Star models, according to the Department of Energy. Since this is a National average, the potential for Alaskans to save is much greater.

MONITOR MOISTURE LEVELS

Use a Hygrometer to measure the moisture levels in your home. For Alaska, it is best to stay between 30% & 50% relative humidity depending on the season & location. With levels higher than 50% there is a potential for mold growth and rotting materials. If you find mold growth in your home, consult a professional or refer to the EPA's A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture & Your Home @ <http://www.epa.gov/iedmold1/pdfs/moldguide.pdf>

INSULATE YOUR HOME

The level of insulation you should install depends on the area of your house. Such as the attic, walls, floors,

basement and crawl spaces are the five main areas where you should consider adding insulation. Insulation and air sealing work together to minimize a building's heat loss and air sealing is essential for moisture control when adding insulation. To find air leaks, look for daylight around the frames of windows and doors. You can also light a stick of incense and use it to locate leaks. Hold it in areas you think are drafty. Moving air will make the smoke waver showing you where there is an air leak. Be careful not to place the lit item near flammable materials. Running your hand over surfaces to find cold spots is also a simple effective way to locate leaks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **CAULK CRACKS AND GAPS LESS THAN 1/4 INCH WIDE:** Caulk is flexible and a good way to seal air leaks, especially around windows and doors.
- **MAN DOORS AND GARAGE DOORS:** Doors are a frequent source of heat loss. If you detect air leaks, replace the threshold or attach a door sweep. Also be sure to check seals and latches. Poorly insulated and sealed garage doors also should be evaluated.
- **REPAIR WINDOWS:** Cracks let cold air into your home. Install weather-stripping and window insulation kits (clear plastic film) if your windows have drafts. In most cases it is not cost effective to replace windows unless they are older than 1980 and are single pane or extremely damaged.
- **INSULATE YOUR WATER HEATER TANK:** Your water heater can lose heat through the walls of

the tank. If recommended by the manufacturer, install an insulating blanket. You can also insulate the pipes.

INTALL A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT IN YOUR HOME

Heating accounts for 38% of your home's energy bill – the single largest energy expense. A number of homes across rural Alaska use an oil furnace, stove or boiler as their primary heating system. These are controlled by a thermostat, which tells the system how much energy to produce, controlling the temperature of your home. They automatically adjust your home's temperature to maximize you savings. Set them between 62°F and 68°F in the winter and turn it off in the summer to save energy. Used properly, they can save up to \$150 a year, according to Energy Star. They can save even more in Alaskan households.

- Make a schedule and stick to it. Program it to set back the heat two hours before you go to bed and increase it just before you wake. Set it back in the day if no one will be home.
- Turn it down 5 degrees. For every degree you lower the thermostat you save about 2 percent on your heating bill. Turning it down five degrees saves about 10 percent. See how low you can go!
- Vacationing. When you visit family in another state, go backpacking in Denali or off to fish camp, lower the heat even more!
- Remember Health and Safety First! As you adjust the thermostat keep in mind that elders, kids, and those with medical conditions have greater heating needs.

For More Information on The Energy Assistance Program:
TCC • Tawnya Peter • Energy Assistance Coordinator
(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3457 • tawnya.peter@tananachiefs.org

Wellness & Prevention UPDATES!

DECEMBER COMMUNITY WELLNESS ACTIVITIES:

Tanana Activities:

- Youth made Christmas gifts for their family and friends for Christmas gifts
- My Grandma's House, Tanana Urban Community Members, Tanana Tribe, Doyon, and TCC Wellness and Prevention worked together to have a social distancing Community Gathering for Christmas. The youth practiced and put on a Christmas Caroling Event outside for the community to enjoy. Doyon donated stockings for the youth and the Tanana

Urban Tribal members, Tanana Commercial Company and TCC Wellness and Prevention donated stocking stuffers, Pizza and snacks for the youth.

- Tanana Tribe had a Community Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Ruby Activities:

The Ruby Tribe and TCC Wellness and Prevention worked together to have youth gatherings for:

- Christmas Ornament Decorations
- Game nights for youth at the school

REGIONAL PROGRAMS OFFERED:

- Indigenous Wellness Academy (January through June)
- Youth Wellness Warrior (January through April)
- Commit to be Fit (January through August)
- Health Ambassador program (March through April)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NEW!! Podcasts

- Old Minto Recovery
- Meth prevention and education
- Youth insight on life during the pandemic



FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

2021 Annual Membership Meeting
Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall
Friday, March 12, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

FNA BOARD ELECTION
3 seats open for election

Candidates must submit a completed application to FNA Administration before 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1. Applications can be found on our website www.fairbanksnative.org

To be eligible for the FNA Board of Directors, you must be

- A direct descendent of an individual who was/is Athabascan, Inupiat, Yup'ik, Unangan, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Cup'ik, Sugpiaq, Eyak and/or American Indian
- A resident of at least 30 days in the Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- Not employed by FNA

Submit an application by Monday, Feb. 1, by 5 p.m.

For additional information, visit our website at www.fairbanksnative.org, or call Shaylene Dublin at 907-452-1648 or email sdublin@fairbanksnative.org



**TCC Calendars
are Here!**

TCC calendars are here and have been mailed to all tribal offices in the TCC region!

Do you live outside the region or state?

Send your mailing address to Communications_Dept@tananachiefs.org and we will mail you one!

Self-Esteem

YOUR INTERNAL DIALOGUE IMPACTS EVERYTHING



What is self-esteem? It is simply confidence in one's worth or abilities. It is also self-respect. So why is it that so many of us have a have good, positive internal dialogues with ourselves? There are many reasons why we may not speak to ourselves kindly: we could have had little to no positive reassurance as children; childhood trauma can lead to negative self-image and low self-esteem; we could have been hurt by someone we loved and trusted as young adults, or even as adults, but that doesn't mean that we have to live the rest of our lives feeling low about ourselves!

Building self-esteem and positive internal dialogue takes time. We must be patient, and kind, and persistent in

our pursuit of higher self-esteem and self-respect, and even though it may seem like a lot silly work, I promise you every little bit helps. When your internal dialogue improves and becomes more loving, you will notice you mood improving, your energy levels going up, and your overall outlook on things becoming more positive. You might say to yourself "well that's just ignoring my problems!" That's absolutely not true. Being positive does not mean we do not pay attention to our issues but rather we focus on the things around us that are good and build up our self-worth by celebrating those things. If we are for example, struggling with depression or anxiety, we might celebrate getting out of bed

and brushing our teeth for the day. A small victory and a small kind word to ourselves can help us come out of that funk, but it all starts with a positive and kind self-dialogue. Try it! Check out this list of prompts to help build your self-esteem.

Are you wanting to improve your self-talk? Call TCC Behavioral Health at (907) 459 – 3800 and make an appointment with a mental health provider.

Are you a youth or young adult from a rural area, and are you between ages 16-25? Give Healthy Transitions a call at (907) 459 – 3800 and ask for a Healthy Transitions team member. We are eager to support you though anything you might need help with.

For More Information from our **Healthy Transitions Team:**
TCC • Healthy Transitions
(907) 459-3800

Now Accepting Referrals for Connections DDRC

The Alaska Center for Children and Adults (ACCA) is now accepting referrals for Connections DDRC.

What is connections DDRC?

Connections assists individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families access services through State of Alaska Developmental Disabilities programs.

How can connections DDRC help?

The Connections DDRC Coordinator serves as a first point of contact to help access and navigate the variety of disability services available, such as:

- Applying for Developmental Disability Eligibility
- Applying for and maintaining placement on the DD Registry

- Accessing other disability resources
- Submitting DD Mini-grant applications
- Referring for Waiver Care Coordination

The Connections DDRC Coordinator will help develop strategies and natural supports to help participants achieve stability and independence.

ACCA provides Connections DDRC services to the following regions:

- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- North Slope Borough
- Interior Road System
- Yukon-Koyukuk Region



Find Out More Information

For more information or to make a referral, please contact:

- Fontana Dawson, Connections DDRC Coordinator
- Phone: 907-456-4003
- Toll Free: 1-866-456-4003
- Fax: 907-456-6124
- 1020 Barnette St.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
- Connections@alaskacenter.org

Election Criteria: 2021 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting

SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subregional Positions:

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion3 Year Term (2021-2024)
Currently Nick Alexia, Sr., Nikolai
Lower Yukon Subregion 3 Year Term (2021-2024)
Currently Eugene Paul, Holy Cross

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)
- Except for the President, full-time employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as directors or officers of the Corporation. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must successfully pass (DHSS) 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 Board and Health Advisory Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to their respective spring 2021 Subregional Advisory Board Meeting, according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

TCC ADVISORY BOARDS

The TCC Regional Health Advisory Board's purpose as described in Article 4, Section 2, of the TCC bylaws is to ensure Alaska Native participation and determination in every phase of TCC's health service delivery. The Health Advisory Board, Education Council and Tribal College are advisory and make recommendations to the TCC Executive Board and Chief/Chairman. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

TCC Regional Health Board

Yukon Tanana Subregion.....3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently Andrew Jimmie, Minto/Chairman
Yukon Koyukuk Subregion3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently Walter Stickman, Nulato

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must successfully pass (DHSS) 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 Board and Health Advisory Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to their respective spring 2021 Subregional Advisory Board Meeting, according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

TCC Education Council

Lower Yukon Subregion.....3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently VACANT
Yukon Flats Subregion.....3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently Nellie Winer
Yukon Koyukuk Subregion.....3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently Gertie Sam

Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.....3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently VACANT
Yukon Koyukuk Subregion.....3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently Jenny Pelkola, Loudon
Lower Yukon Subregion.....3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently Margie Walker

Important Dates for the 2021 TCC Elections

Submit between now and February 16th:

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 4th at 8:00am

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

March 5th 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 18th:

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

FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

2021 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; the elections rules are posted on the TCC website at www.tananachiefs.org under the 2021 TCC Annual Convention information and will also be enclosed in the Official Call to the March 2021 Full Board of Directors meeting that will be mailed to TCC member tribes. A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Natasha Singh, General Counsel, at ext. 3008.

TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TCC Secretary/Treasurer3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently Jerry Isaac, Tanacross

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)
- Must successfully pass an ICPA and (DHSS) 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 Advisory Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. All candidates must take and pass a drug test one week prior to the March 2021 spring Subregional Advisory Board meetings according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

Ratify Youth Advisor to Executive Board

Ratify election of Youth Advisor to Executive Board by Emerging Leaders
Currently Jolie Murray, Beaver

IRHA Board of Commissioners

New since the 2020 TCC Elections:

Individuals must now submit a letter of intent to declare themselves a candidate for IRHA Board of Commissioners within the 30 day time frame, the same as any other candidate in the TCC elections, per the TCC Elections Rules

Seat A..... 3 year term (2021-2024)

Currently Larry Nathaniel, Circle

Seat B.....3 year term (2021-2024)

Currently Teisha Simmons, Fairbanks/Galena

- 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)
- Board of Commissioner Members are required to submit to drug testing upon election or reelection. BOC members are required to adhere to the other testing requirements of that policy, including testing on suspicion, at random and post-accident. Failure to comply shall be grounds for discipline. Newly elected and reelected BOC members shall be tested the next business day after being elected. (12/21/18 Resolution 2018-13)

*AFN Village Representative

The AFN Village Representative will no longer be elected at the TCC March Convention; it will be elected annually at the AFN convention by the TCC Region Village Corporations.

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 4, 2021 and 5:00 PM-March 5, 2021.**

Letter of intent (see example on next page) must be received by fax, mail or delivered in person **no later than 5:00 PM on March 5, 2021** to:

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

PHONE # 1-800-478-6822 ext.3118 FAX # (907) 459-3884

We recommend that you confirm the receipt of your letter of intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to 5:00 PM March 5, 2021.

We will confirm your letter of intent as it is received, but if you do not receive a confirmation, please call 1-800-478-6822, ext. 3118 prior to 5:00 PM March 5, 2021. Any questions, please contact Natasha Singh in the Legal Department at 1-800-478-6822, extension 3178.

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 16th 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 respective elections.

2021 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 after the third ballot, 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 2021 Full Board of Director's roll call.

DATE (Must be between 8 a.m. February 4, 2021 and 5 p.m. March 5, 2021).

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 16th, 2021 to allow for processing before the election. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be official candidates for the 2021 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 5, 2021.

LETTER OF INTENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference
ATTN: Norma Dahl, Executive Secretary
122 First Ave, Suite 600
Fairbanks, AK 99701 | Fax (907) 459-3884
1-800-478-6822 ext.3112



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3424

Fax: (907) 459-3884

communications_dept@tananachiefs.org

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



ENTER OUR LOGO CONTEST

RULES:

- Participants must be youth under the age of 18 from the TCC region
- Art must be 8.5"x11" (standard page size)
- Logo must say "Tribal Peace Officers partnering with TCC Tribes through public safety to create Healthy, Strong, Unified tribes."
- Include your first and last name, age, village and contact information.

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
crystal.frank@tananachiefs.org
by February 28th, 2021



LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Working toward tomorrow



Doyon
Limited

2021
ANNUAL
MEETING
of Shareholders

EARLY BIRD Deadline
FRI. FEB. 19 | 5 p.m. AKST
Vote online by the early bird deadline to be entered to win prizes totaling \$21,000!

PROXY Deadline
TUE. MAR. 16 | 5 p.m. AKDT

VOTE Online
eproxy.doyon.com

FRI. MAR. 19 | 8 a.m. AKDT
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel
Participate online at www.doyon.com

Questions?
907-459-2000
www.doyon.com

Find Your Purpose

JOIN OUR TEAM: WWW.TANANACHEADS.ORG/CAREERS

Open Positions as of: January 15, 2021

Village Vacancies

- **Alatna** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Allakaket** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Community Health Representative, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Anaktuvuk Pass** - Behavioral Health Aide
- **Anvik** - Village Public Safety Officer, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook
- **Arctic Village** - Home Care Provider, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Chalkyitsik** - Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Circle** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Family Youth Specialist
- **Dot Lake** - Behavioral Health Aide, Home Care Provider
- **Eagle** - Home Care Provider, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Evansville** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Elder Nutrition Cook
- **Fort Yukon** - Home Care Provider, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Preschool Lead Teacher
- **Galena** - Cook (EHS), Home Care Provider, Infant/Toddler Teacher, Physician Assistant - Primary Care, Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care
- **Grayling** - Preschool Assistant Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Healy Lake** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Holy Cross** - Home Care Provider
- **Hughes** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant, Family Visitor
- **Huslia** - Home Care Provider, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Kaltag** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Family Visitor, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
- **Koyukuk** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Manley Hot Springs** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **McGrath** - Family Visitor, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Minto** - Tribal Family Youth Specialist
- **Nenana** - Behavioral Health Aide, Infant/Toddler Teacher
- **Nikolai** - Home Care Provider
- **Northway** - Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Substitute Teacher/Assistant Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Nulato** - Home Care Provider, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Old Minto** - Camp Counselor, Old Minto Family Recovery Camp Traditional Counselor
- **Rampart** - Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Ruby** - Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook
- **Stevens Village** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Tanacross** - Preschool Lead Teacher
- **Tetlin** - Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Tok** - Security Officer, Tok Sub - Regional Primary Care Physician, Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member
- **Venetie** - Village Public Safety Officer, Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor

Region- Wide Vacancies

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant
- Tribal Employment Rights Officer