

the council

Dena' Nena' Hénash • Our Land Speaks

Vol. 46, No. 06

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

June 2021

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Recommendations for the 2021 Fishing Season

By Leona Long, *Public Relations Specialist*

This summer, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) predicts a run size of 102,000 to 189,000 Chinook salmon for the entire Yukon River, which may not be enough for a full subsistence harvest and may not even be enough salmon to meet escapement goals.

According to the ADF&G, the 2021 Chinook salmon run may be as small as the runs in 2012 and 2013. Despite low subsistence harvests in 2012 and 2013, Alaska wasn't able to meet the Canadian Chinook salmon escapement goal. Meeting escapement goals help support a healthy fish population for future generations.

Because of the smaller than average Chinook run size, the fishery managers will likely implement subsistence fishing closures. Fishing will probably be closed until about the midpoint of the king salmon run for each district, as as-

essed by the Pilot Station sonar counts. Because escapement goals have not been met for the past two years and the 2021 run size is expected to be as low or lower than 2020, ADF&G is taking a conservative approach to be sure that there are enough salmon so that escapement goals can be met before allowing for any harvest. If there are not enough fish to meet escapement goals, subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon will remain closed for the 2021 season.

The ADF&G forecast for summer and fall chum salmon is expected to be below average. However, it is expected to meet escapement goals and provide for a normal subsistence harvest.

Fishing for non-salmon species with 4-inch or smaller mesh gill nets will be allowed during salmon fishing closures; however, net length will be reduced to a maximum of 60 feet at the start of

Continued on pages 4-5



Kristy Supsook - ANMC Patient Advocate

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 call Kristy if you need assistance with anything at all. Out of respect for patient privacy, Kristy does not automatically contact patients in Anchorage for care unless the patient or a healthcare provider calls requesting assistance.

907-687-9193 • Toll Free 1-800-478-6682 ext. 3604 • kristy.supsook@tananachiefs.org

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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

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CHIEF'S REPORT



Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

Now that we have entered the season of the midnight sun, I have been spending my down time outdoors – taking walks and enjoying the sunlight while we have it. I encourage everyone to spend time this month to enjoy the outdoors – spend time on the rivers and the land. Take time to appreciate all our great state has to offer us.

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officially put forth recommendations that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine could be given to youth between the ages of 12-15. If you have a child in that age range, consider taking them in to the clinic to receive the vaccine. While youth may not be at the highest risk for getting sick from COVID-19, they can still carry and pass on the virus to those that are vulnerable. The vaccination rates in the Fairbanks North Star Borough are low, which means that there is still high risk of contracting the virus.

As you can see from the cover of this newsletter, the 2021 fishing season is predicted to have a below average run size. Forecasts like this are disheartening for our subsistence fisherman who rely on the land to feed their families and I would like you to know that TCC will continue to do what we can to assist our tribes during these difficult times.

I would like to recognize TCC's General Counsel, Natasha Singh, who was recognized by the Alaska Journal of Commerce last month as one of Alaska's Top 40 under 40. This list recognizes outstanding young professionals throughout the state. Edwin Bifelt of Huslia, Tanya Kaquatosh of Fairbanks, and Sharity Sommer of Anchorage were also recognized on this year's list. Congratulations to all of you for your achievements.

Anaa Baaseé,
PJ Simon
Chief/Chairman

Meet Our Executive Board

Charlie Wright- Secretary / Treasurer

By Leona Long, *Public Relations Specialist*

Charlie Wright became an advocate to help make a difference for the land and river that raised him and to do his part to make sure that his children and the future generations would have fish in the Yukon River and animals to hunt which will help to provide for them for years to come.



Wright's journey as an advocate began about a decade ago when Wright was elected to a local advisory council. Soon after that, he got involved with Tanana Chiefs Conference's Hunting, Fishing, Gathering Task Force and other subsistence advisory councils. He has served on the board of the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and as an Alaska Salmon Fellow with the Alaska Humanities Forum.

Wright said his proudest accomplishment is being elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the TCC Executive board at the 2021 Convention.

"Being able to serve my whole region, not only in my village is, is truly an honor," said Wright, who now lives in Rampart. "Anytime I've been offered an opportunity to serve, I keep stack-

ing the responsibility on my shoulders. I'll never say no to my people. I am continuing to work hard to do what I promised to do to the best of my ability."

Wright says that his service-first mindset and commitment to empowering and uplifting those around him was influenced by the visionary leaders and great Chiefs from the Interior. He is especially inspired by the late Morris Thompson and his auntie, Georgianna Lincoln.

"I am inspired by their passion for serving our people," said Wright. "They put aside their own comfort to make sure that our people are well taken care of."

Most people outside Interior Alaska, know Wright for his starring role on the Discovery Channel's "Yukon Men." For eight seasons, viewers from around the world watched spellbound as Wright and his costars hunted, fished and trapped in Tanana.

"Yukon Men was a really good platform to bring our subsistence lifestyle and challenges we deal with to the rest of the world," said Wright.

Throughout the "Yukon Men" series, viewers were glued to their screens living vicariously as Wright overcame life or death situations that are just part of everyday life in rural Alaska. For Wright, traditional Athabascan culture is medicine and a way to help others in his community.

Throughout his life, Wright has taught men of all ages how to trap, fish and hunt. He is a mentor to youth and adults who have never had anyone at home to teach them the traditional ways.

When he lived in Tanana, Wright would have "bear parties" for the young men in the village. These meetings were a safe space for young men to express their feelings and build connections with others. Wright taught them how to trap beaver and other skills that they would otherwise never learn.

"Our way of life is directly connected to our wellness," said Wright. "Men need to feel connected to the land to feel strong, competent, and become a good member of their community. When they learn how to hunt, trap and fish from other men, they become better stewards of the land and providers for their family and community."



Recommendations for the 2021 Fishing Season

Continued from front page

the season. If there are indications that salmon are being targeted with this gear, or it is determined that there is no harvestable surplus of Chinook salmon, this gear may be discontinued.

The ADF&G will post announcements and daily test fishery counts on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/.

Fishing schedule and fish counts are also available by calling the ADF&G hotline toll free (866) 479-7387 or in Fairbanks: (907) 459-7387.

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITFC) is the voice for 28 federally recognized Tribes on the Yukon River. The commission met with ADF&G officials about the forecast and fish management plans during the annual pre-season fisheries meeting in April. After talking with their Tribes, the fish commission met again in May to discuss their recommendations for the 2021 fishing season.

The full Fish Commission met May 17-18 in Fairbanks and a quorum was established, with each sub region being represented. Fish Commissioners from the mouth of the river (Alakanuk) to the Canadian border (Eagle) were present.

During the 2021 season, the Executive Council will meet each week to review local reports, traditional knowledge, and the run assessment data from ADFG/USFWS. They will provide recommendations on behalf of the Fish Commission to the fishery managers based on these weekly meetings. Please note, however, we have no formal agreement with the fishery managers to use these recommendations in their decision-making. The Executive Council and Director will be closely monitoring the run size throughout the fishing season.

Based on the preseason forecast for king salmon, which is expected to be similar or lower than last year, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission recommends the following priorities and actions for three different run sizes:



Lower end of the forecasted run size

If the Executive Council determines that the run size is not expected to meet escapement goals, then:

- The Fish Commission will prioritize future generations by:
 - Allowing salmon to pass to their spawning grounds
 - Harvesting local fish (pike, whitefish, sheefish, non-salmon species)
 - Supporting the use of 4" or smaller mesh nets to harvest local non-salmon species
 - Harvesting fall chum salmon to supplement no or low king salmon harvest
- The Fish Commission will prioritize equitable burden of conservation by:
 - Advocating at the NPFMC for lower (zero) bycatch and increasing the observer program
 - Resolution and public testimony
 - Advocating for monitoring and enforcement of possible illegal fishing on the high seas/Bering Sea
 - Letters to US delegation
- The Fish Commission will prioritize ceremonial use of salmon during times of conservation by:
 - Supporting harvests for funeral and memorial potlatches

Midpoint of the forecasted run size

If the Executive Council determines that the run size is expected to meet escapement goals and some subsistence harvest may be available, then:

- The Fish Commission will prioritize keeping culture and traditional knowledge alive, and will prioritize taking care of elders and those most in need in our communities by:
 - Supporting shortened subsistence openers, to remain cautious but allow some small harvest of king salmon
 - Supporting use of 6" or smaller mesh size gillnets and live-release fish wheels, to harvest available chum salmon and some king salmon and to allow larger king salmon to pass through to their spawning grounds
- The Fish Commission will also prioritize ensuring equity for District 3 and District 5D by:
 - Supporting full closures in Districts 1-5abc on the first pulse to allow enough salmon to pass for both escapement and for a small harvest in District 5D
 - Supporting shortened subsistence openings with 6" or smaller mesh size gillnets and fish wheels on the first pulse for District 5D for a small harvest, while still allowing larger king salmon to pass
 - Supporting short 7.5" or smaller mesh size openers in District 3 to allow some harvest of king salmon without wasting poor quality chum salmon that would otherwise swamp out 6" nets
- The Fish Commission will prioritize ceremonial use of salmon during times of conservation by:
 - Supporting harvests for funeral and memorial potlatches

Upper end of the forecasted run size (but still inadequate)

If the Executive Council determines that a run size is expected to meet escapement goals and provide a larger – but still not a full – subsistence harvest, then:

- The Fish Commission will prioritize balancing food security with rebuilding the run to historical numbers by:
 - Supporting full subsistence fishing schedules (Table 1) with fish wheels and 6" or smaller mesh size nets to still allow large king salmon to pass, while allowing more 7.5" openers for those who do not have the 6" gear



Table 1. - Yukon Area regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule

Area	Regulatory subsistence fishing periods	Open fishing times
Coastal District	7 days per week	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
District 1	Two 36-hour periods per week	Mon 8pm to Wed 8am / Thu 8pm to Sat 8am
District 2	Two 36-hour periods per week	Wed 8pm to Fri 8am / Sun 8pm to Tue 8am
District 3	Two 36-hour periods per week	Wed 8pm to Fri 8am / Sun 8pm to Tue 8am
District 4	Two 48-hour periods per week	Sun 6pm to Tue 6pm / Wed 6pm to Fri 6pm
Koyukuk and Innoko Rivers	7 days per week	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
Subdistricts 5-A, -B, -C	Two 48-hour periods per week	Tue 6pm to Thu 6pm / Fri 6pm to Sun 6pm
Subdistrict 5-D	7 Days per week	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
Subdistrict 6	Two 42-hour periods per week	Mon 6pm to Wed Noon / Fri 6pm to Sun Noon
Old Minto Area	5 days per week	Friday 6pm to Wednesday 6pm

Note: in the Upper Yukon, fishing times are longer by regulation to help account for longer travel times and lower numbers of fish available as fish leave the mainstem Yukon River to spawn in U.S. tributaries. This schedule was altered during the 2020 season based on Chinook salmon run strength.



COVID-19 Vaccination Update

I GOT MY
COVID-19
VACCINE

By Dr. Alisa Alexander, Senior Medical Officer

Mahsi' choo to those of you who got your COVID-19 vaccination. You are helping us bring hope to all of our people for an end to the pandemic and a return to normal life.

Since late December, Team TCC has administered more than 16,000 first and second vaccination doses in Fairbanks and in the 26 rural Alaska communities where TCC provides healthcare. While about half of eligible Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center patients are fully vaccinated, more of us need to be vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccination is our most important tool in stopping this pandemic so that our lives can return to normal. Getting vaccinated protects you, your loved ones and our community. If you or your family members haven't been vaccinated, now is time to schedule your vaccination appointment.

COVID-19 vaccinations are now available to everyone ages 12 and up. Clinical studies found the Pfizer vaccine to be as safe and effective for kids 12 through 15 as it is for adults. Kids need to get both shots for the vaccination to protect them from

COVID-19.

The CDC no longer recommends avoiding other vaccines before or after your COVID-19 vaccination, so there is no need to delay your COVID-19 vaccination or any other vaccinations. In May, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued new recommendations that stated vaccinated individuals do not have to wear masks indoors and outdoors. The exceptions are for healthcare organizations like Tanana Chiefs health care clinics and public transportation such as planes, buses, and trains.

TCC has NOT changed its policy on masking and social distancing. TCC is still requiring that all employees and visitors wear a mask and abide by social distancing recommendations at all of our locations.

TCC's healthcare providers want you to understand that it is necessary and important to continue wearing a mask and continue social distancing while in public, because not enough Alaskans are vaccinated. If you are fully vaccinated you can safely gather with other people who you know are fully vaccinated. Other

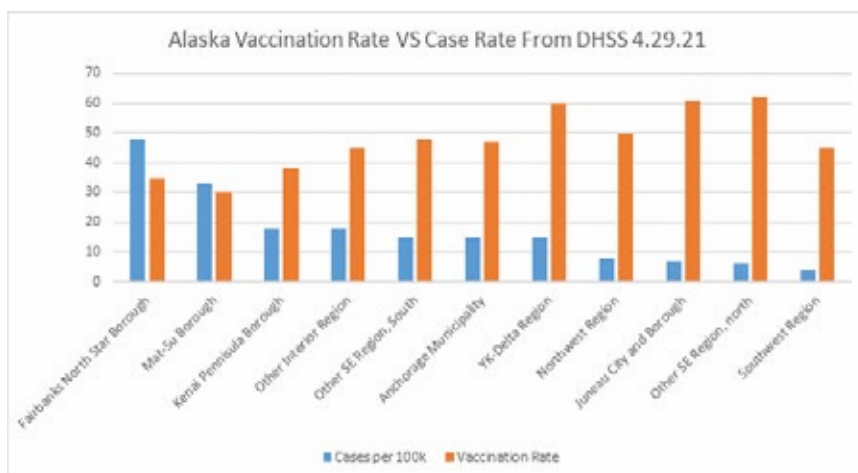
things you can do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 include washing your hands with soap and water and staying home when you don't feel well and getting tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms, even if you are vaccinated. Remember to frequently clean and disinfect surfaces like phones, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

Science has shown that the COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness which should keep you from needing treatment or needing to be hospitalized.

There are some cases that vaccinated individuals do become infected with COVID 19 but these individuals typically have only very mild illness and do not need to be hospitalized. Therefore, it is vital that everyone continue to follow masking and social distancing guidelines for the remainder of the pandemic.

Thank you for choosing to be vaccinated and doing your part to keep our community safe and healthy.

This graph shows the state levels in different districts comparing the vaccination rate vs the infection rate. The blue bars represent the rate of infection and the orange bars represent the rate of people who are vaccinated. On, April 29th, 2021, the Fairbanks North Star Borough had the highest level of cases of infection and one of the lowest rates of vaccination.



Vaccinating *The Younger Generations*

On Friday, May 14th, Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center began to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 12 and up. 12-year-old Autumn and 14-year-old Adlee Demientieff got their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. They join their father Adam and grandfather Sam to complete three generations of Demientieff's to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.



Dr. Jay a pediatrician at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center had his daughter vaccinated when CAIHC opened up the vaccination clinic to children ages 12 and up.



Angela Clark a Nurse Practitioner at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center had her son vaccinated when CAIHC opened up the vaccination clinic to children ages 12 and up.



Schedule an appointment
with the COVID-19
Vaccination Clinic

.....
907-451-6682
.....

Beneficiaries over the age
of 12 are eligible.

Benefits of Getting a **COVID-19 VACCINE**

- **Protect yourself**
- **Protect your family**
- **Protect your community, clients, and co-workers**
- **Lower risk of hospitalization if you get COVID-19**
- **Prevention of “long haul” COVID-19**
- **Less risk for using up PTO for quarantine or isolation**
- **Earlier resumption to “Normal” life – dinner/cafes/ sports/gatherings**



Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

What is it?

The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) is a program for eligible households to receive a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service, and up to \$75 per month for those on Tribal lands.



Apply Online

Fill out the online application



Apply through your Internet Provider

Find a participating provider in your area



Apply by Mail

Download and print an application

How do I sign up?

There are three ways to apply – Online, by mail or through your internet provider.

- To see if you are eligible for EBB, apply on-line and find a provider near you, visit [getemergencybroadband.org](https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers#Alaska)
- Consumers can also apply by contacting their providers and asking to be enrolled in the program. If a provider is not offering the program, consumers can get it through another internet provider. List of participating providers found here: <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers#Alaska>
- Consumers can apply by mail by printing off the application from [getemergencybroadband.org](https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-providers#Alaska) and sending it with proof of eligibility to Emergency Broadband Support Center, P.O. Box 7081, London, KY 40742

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible, a household must qualify for one of these:

- Qualify for existing internet provider discount broadband programs
- Qualify for Lifeline program (this includes households whose income is 135% or less than the federal poverty guidelines, or that participate in SNAP; Medicaid, or other federal programs)
- Have children eligible for free and reduced-price lunch or breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Have a household member who is unemployed and/or experienced a substantial loss of income after February 29th, 2020 (this includes households with a layoff or furlough notice, even if their application for unemployment insurance benefits has not been approved.)

Additional Information:

Households with unpaid internet bills are still eligible so long as they meet at least one requirement.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price.

Questions?

Help is available 7 days a week, from 5:00am-5:00pm Alaska Time by contacting:

- Phone: (888) 511-0311
- E-Mail: EBBHelp@usac.org or ashlyn@akpirg.org
- www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 provided FEMA \$2 billion to reimburse individuals and households for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020 to December 31, 2020. FEMA is now accepting applications for this assistance.

How to apply:

Call:

844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of operation:

Monday – Friday, 9 am to 9 pm EDT

For the fastest service, after you have called to apply, submit documentation online through [Disasterassistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov), or by fax 855-261-3452. Documents may also be mailed to:

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

P.O. Box 10001

Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Who is eligible?

- Death occurred in the United States.
- Death certificate indicate death was attributed to COVID-19.
- Applicant is a U.S. citizen who incurred funeral expenses.

Documentation you will need:

- An official death certificate that attributes death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows death occurred in the United States.
- Funeral expenses documents that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other resources used toward funeral costs. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits from other sources.

What funeral expenses are covered?

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance will assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation. Any receipts received for expenses that are not related to funeral services will not be determined eligible expenses. Expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation typically include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation for up to two individuals to identify the deceased individual
- Transfer of remains
- Casket or urn
- Burial plot or cremation niche
- Marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- Arrangement of the funeral ceremony
- Use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing and certifying multiple death certificates
- Additional expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances

More information can be found at:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/fema-begins-processing-covid-19-funeral-assistance-applications/>



..... Now Hiring

PATIENT NAVIGATOR

The Patient Navigator will be highly visible at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center assisting patients and/or families having difficulty navigating the healthcare system, helping to answer questions, and assisting patients with complaints and appeals. This position will provide elder navigation and support.

Apply Today: careers.tananachiefs.org



TCC Prenatal to Five Head Start

By Jill Ridenour, *Health, Nutrition & Safety Coordinator*

On May 3rd, TCC Prenatal to Five Head Start sent out 149 copies of a delightful book titled "The Last Marshmallow" by Grace Lin. Two friends, Mei and Olivia, sit down to have a cup of cocoa together. There are three marshmallows to go in the cocoa. Mei gets one and Olivia gets one, but who gets the very last one?

Without ruining the ending for you, Mei and her friend come up with a delightful solution to their "problem"!

"One for you, one for me, and one more" As Olivia and Mei discover, sometimes sharing fairly can be a challenge. If one child ends up with one marshmallow, and the other has two . . . suddenly life is "not fair", even if they cannot count yet!

Head Start purchased this book as a great way to not only teach math concepts to our preschoolers, but also teach them Athabaskan values like family relations; unity; fairness; sharing and caring, all while living Ch'eghwtsen'.

Naturally, we sent out marshmallows too! We look forward to hearing about the creative solutions our children come up with so that each person can say "sodegets'eeh" ("I am happy")!

For More Information:

TCC • TCC Prenatal to Five Head Start • Rachelle Maillard - Head Start Program Assistant
(907) 452-8251 ext. 3170 • rachelle.maillard@tananachiefs.org



Tobacco Prevention & Support Sessions

Learn more about services we can offer to your community and maintain connection with ongoing support.

**Last Wednesday of each month,
10:00am - 11:00am**

For More Information:

Frank Yaska

Tobacco Prevention Policy Specialist

1-800-478-6822 x3547

frank.yaska@tananachiefs.org

Register With
QR Code:



COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE *Spotlight*

Daphne Williams - Itinerant Health Aide

By Linden Staciokas

There are not that many of us who know from our youngest years what we want to do with our lives, but Daphne Williams is one of the fortunate ones. "Being a health aide was always in the back of my mind. My grandma, Pauline Peter, was one of the first-generation health aides, back before the Health Aide Program even started. She volunteered for 12 years, from 1956-1968, before she started getting paid and retired in 1994. She helped raise me, so I grew up hearing her work stories. She used to say, 'When you are a Health Aide, everyone you work with becomes your family. You love everybody.'"

Born in Fairbanks but raised mostly in Nulato, Daphne started her career in Hughes. "My dad was from Hughes and in 2015, I went to visit for moose hunting. I stayed for the potlatch and that was when my aunt handed me an application to become a health aide. I didn't really think I would qualify but I was selected. I went through the training and pretty soon I was back in Hughes and ready to work."

Daphne remained in Hughes for over three years before she became restless. She still loved her job, so decided that what she really needed was a change of scenery. In 2019, she moved to Fairbanks and transitioned into an itinerant health aide position. While she misses many aspects of living in a small village, especially one where she has many relatives from her father's side of the family, Daphne loves the freedom of an itinerant's life. She is able to select when she wants to work, as well as where her next placement will be and for how long. There is also an excitement and a challenge to arriving at a new placement and having to learn about new people and new office protocols.

When she is not working, Daphne enjoys travelling in and outside of



Alaska, although COVID put a stop to that last year. She comes from two very large families, which means lots of relatives to visit, and the fishing and moose hunting in Nulato always summon her home. When she has free time, Daphne's main way of relaxing is doing beadwork on moose skin and watching her favorite TV shows.

Daphne loves her job, being a lifeline for people when they are at their most vulnerable. "And I love how I have to keep learning new things, about treatments as well as about administrative tasks. But there are challenges. The hardest is the anxiety of it, always worrying about everyone. Being on call is hard, too, because it is hard to relax and have fun."

Just as for every first responder, the pandemic has made the job of a health aide more difficult. For a time, there was no travel permitted. Then, when being able to get in and out of a village was once more allowed, there was still a quarantine period involved.

Then there were all the new and evolving guidelines about how to keep herself, her patients and all the village residents safe. As scientists discovered more about the how the virus was transmitted, all of the health aides had to keep updated and translate any new information for people who had no medical training and were confused, and sometimes angry, about why the advice seemed to keep changing. While the pandemic slowed down the lives of many people, reducing job responsibilities and contact with others, for health care workers like Daphne it meant a whirlwind of increased responsibilities. And while some things are returning to normal, it is clear that her job will never be the same.

Still, Daphne would not hesitate to recommend this career to others.

"There are so many reasons this is a great job. You help people when they need it most. You have constant opportunities to learn, to stretch yourself. The pay and benefits package is great, and you can choose to live in one place or to travel as an itinerant. There is a lot of support from other health aides and supervisors. However, you do need to be prepared to establish boundaries. People think that whenever they see you, they are entitled to ask questions about their health, even if it means they are interrupting a family dinner. Sometimes it's the ones closest to you who challenge your ability to remain professional, but stick to those boundaries."

Daphne wants to be sure that her support system is acknowledged. "I want to thank those who stood by my side when the job got tough, and I needed support. I want to thank my aunts and uncles for all the breakfasts and lunches brought to me at work. I want to thank my grandparents for all their love and wisdom they shared. I want to thank my coworkers for their support, and the training center staff for all that they do. I especially want to thank my mother for being my voice when I felt like I did not have one, and for always doing anything she can to help ease some stress or make me feel good. I feel like I wouldn't have made it this far in my career, if it weren't for the amazing support system you learn to build in this community."

Jo Miller, Daphne's supervisor and thus a part of her support system, says, "It has been such a pleasure to work with Daphne over the last 5-1/2 years now. She has truly blossomed in her career as a community health aide practitioner. Without reservation, Daphne even took on an additional role on the vaccine team traveling almost daily to several TCC villages to administer much needed COVID immunizations. She is undoubtedly dedicated to improving the health of the communities she serves!"



Youth Training Opportunity: *Leadership through Arts*

Sponsored by TCC's Division of Wellness and Prevention, Partnership for Success program

TCC's Division of Wellness and Prevention Indigenous Wellness Academy (IWA) Youth Wellness Warriors (YWW) project is teaming up with the We Are Living Arts project to offer a "Leadership through Arts" training this spring for youth and young adults in the TCC region.

This training is a unique experiential program designed for youth to find their voice. Youth from throughout the region will be connected virtually and given the opportunity to work with Youth Peer Trainers along with nationally and internationally known Native artists as well as to support each other. Attendees will be divided into clans throughout the training and each clan will learn about expression and influence through several art forms. By being able to explore different artistic outlets, youth are presented with an opportunity to create, heal, and inspire at a personal and communal level. Attendees will gain skills in being solution oriented, resilient, and positive self-identity.

Our Guest Speakers

Ron (Kaboose) Wilson (Hip-Hop) is a hip-hop artist, youth mentor, basketball coach/trainer, and motivational speaker.

Rulan Tangen has a background of work in professional dance, film, television, opera, circus, powwow, which prepared her to bring to life a long held dream, to create DANCING EARTH – an Indigenous contemporary dance theater group which has created amazing opportunities for Native people onstage and backstage, touring to 8 countries and 18 states.

Sage Andrew Romero is a Tovowahamatu Numu (Big Pine Paiute)/Tuah-Tahi (Taos Pueblo) tribal member and founder of the Aka Mya Culture Group based in Tovowahamatu. Payahu Nadu (Big Pine, Owens Valley). His Company AkaMya is a culturally based group which focuses on Indigenous Dance, Song, Culture and Identity, while also utilizing multimedia (Film/Photography/Sound) mediums to raise awareness of indigenous people today.

This training will be featuring:

MOVEMENT

WRITTEN WORK

PHOTOGRAPHY

MULTIMEDIA

HIP-HOP

PROFESSIONAL
DANCE

Registration:

1. Complete our application.
2. Must have access to the internet for virtual classes.
3. Must reside in a rural community within the TCC region.
4. Must be between the ages 13-25 years old.

More Information:

The training is a one-month commitment. It will follow the four themes of Gathering of Alaska Natives (GOAN) *Belonging -Mastery -Interdependence - Generosity.*

We are seeking individuals 13-25 years old to participate. Applications will be available soon. **Apply early as space is limited!**

All attendees will receive a Certificate of Completion to add to your resume! On behalf of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) – Partnership for Success (PFS) we look forward to seeing you in class.

For more information on the We Are Living Arts
wearelivingarts.com/

For more information on TCC's IWA or YWW
tananachiefs.org/services/wellness-prevention/indigenous-wellness-academy/#more-5867

For More Information:

TCC • Wellness & Prevention Division • Autumn Cantu - Prevention Coordinator
(907) 452-8251 ext. 3056 • autumn.cantu@tananachiefs.org

RISKS FROM SMOKING

Smoking can damage every part of your body

I	B	T	V	N	B	K	K	T	J	D	P	Q	M	O
U	L	K	S	I	O	E	O	U	R	A	T	L	H	J
F	I	N	C	Q	Q	F	Z	E	I	A	G	V	L	X
G	N	X	V	Q	R	N	P	N	D	U	E	C	Z	V
Y	D	O	P	O	X	L	O	L	M	C	H	H	A	Y
G	N	W	P	F	U	M	Y	E	C	R	D	P	J	N
C	E	C	A	Y	U	O	G	R	E	I	O	F	M	Z
U	S	X	N	E	Y	S	O	V	Z	W	J	E	J	P
J	S	X	N	O	I	T	C	E	F	N	I	S	Z	T
D	H	P	S	N	C	B	S	C	M	R	W	A	L	T
R	X	V	O	T	I	R	Z	K	W	O	U	E	W	A
O	I	Y	I	G	R	X	I	G	V	Q	L	S	Q	Y
C	A	N	C	E	R	O	R	H	J	B	A	I	G	B
A	S	T	H	M	A	V	K	L	E	C	D	D	J	W
Q	W	P	V	Z	A	H	P	E	U	M	D	C	W	A

**Asthma
Gum
Infection**

**Blindness
Disease
Pneumonia**

**Cancer
Heart
Stroke**



For more information on Tobacco Prevention Services or Enrollment into Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line, please contact:

TCC Tobacco Prevention
Division of Wellness & Prevention
907-452-8251 Ext. 3547
frank.yaska@tananachiefs.org

Understanding The Alaska Native Veterans Allotment Act

By April Monroe, *Realty Specialist*

If you or your deceased family member served in the military anytime during the Vietnam War and did not already receive their own Native allotment, you are eligible to apply for Native allotment land now. Please see our frequently asked questions below for more information.

What is the Alaska Native Veterans Allotment Act?

The Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment is a section of the John D. Dingell, Jr., Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Dingell Act) of 2019. This legislation was enacted in Public Law 116-9, Sec. 1119. This law allows any Alaska Native Vietnam veteran who served during the Vietnam War between Aug. 5, 1964 and Dec. 31, 1971, and did not previously receive a Native allotment to apply for up to 160 acres of vacant federal land.

What if I did not serve, but my deceased relative did?

Heirs of deceased qualified veterans are allowed to apply.

What if I already inherited a Native Allotment?

Veterans are entitled to their own Native Allotment. Inheriting or being gifted an allotment does not change eligibility.

Who can apply on behalf of a deceased Veteran?

Personal representatives can apply on behalf of deceased Veterans. Being named a personal representative is a relatively simple process. Most Alaskan residents eligible for this program will qualify for assistance from an attorney to complete this process through Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC). Those who do not can still utilize their self-help tools. Once a personal representative is appointed they can apply for an allotment on behalf of the deceased landowner.

Who can serve as personal representative for a deceased Veteran's estate?

Anyone can serve as personal representative. The person does

not need to be an heir, but often is. In families where there are multiple heirs it is best to have a conversation about who will serve as personal representative. Personal representatives can complete paperwork and land selections. They cannot choose or change who a decedent's heirs are.

How are heirs determined?

Courts determine who a person's heirs are through the probate process. They base this decision on a decedent's will. In instances where the person has no will the base the decision on state law. If the decedent's estate went through probate either state or federal court there will have been a decision determining who the heirs to the estate are. If the estate has not gone through probate, a personal representative for the deceased person must be assigned and probate completed to determine who will inherit the allotment.

Do I need to prove "use and occupancy?"

No. Historically anyone applying for a Native allotment had to prove they had a relationship to the land and had used and occupied it for many years. The new act removes the requirement for use and occupancy of the lands applied for, freeing applicants to apply for available lands anywhere in the state.

How much land can I apply for?

Veterans can apply for up to 160 acres of land, and no less than 2.5 acres.

Can I select land in multiple places?

No. Unlike previous allotment legislation, applicants under this program can select only one parcel.

What lands are available?

The law makes all "vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved BLM-managed public lands" available. Reserved lands are those designated for a particular use, such as National Parks and Refuges, military, or other specific federal uses. Appropriated lands refers to land that has been selected or conveyed to tribal

corporations or the state.

Can I apply for state or corporation selected lands?

Yes. Some lands in Alaska have been selected by the state or tribal corporations but not actually conveyed by federal government. The State of Alaska and some Native corporations are over-selected, meaning they have selected more lands than they can actually receive. Veterans and their heirs can apply for lands in this category, though there is no clear process. The State of Alaska or the Native Corporation who selected the land would have to agree to the transfer but are not obligated to agree. TCC is available to assist with these complex applications.

Can I apply for land within National Parks or Federal Refuges?

No.

Can I apply for an allotment without identifying my land selection?

No.

When can I apply?

Applications are already being accepted and can be submitted until December 29, 2025.

What if two applicants select the same land?

Preference will be given based on the date the application was received.

Will more lands become available?

Possibly. If Public Land Order (PLO) revocations from current resource management plans are approved, then up to 15 million additional acres could become available as soon as the end of this year. There is a proposal to make land within the refuge system available that could be approved by the Department of the Interior that would also significantly increase the available lands.

Despite the large acreage size the current land selection is very limited and far away from most of the traditional use areas for our region's tribal members. TCC has been and

will continue to advocate for better availability.

If I apply for land now and more land becomes available can I change my selection?

Only on a very limited basis. An applicant can change their land selection within 60 days of receiving a Notice of Survey. Once the land selection is changed the application is considered new for purposes of preference. It is important to choose the land applied for carefully.

How is TCC assisting Veterans?

Chief Simon has made assisting eligible Veterans a priority for the Realty Program. Eligible Veterans and the heirs of deceased Veterans have already received notifications of

eligibility and application information by mail. Beginning in May we will be contacting eligible Veterans directly with the assistance of seasonal intern staff to collect information about land preferences and assist in applying for Alaska Legal Services Corporation assistance if needed. We are serving all 42 tribes in the TCC region. We are committed to making sure our Veterans and their families receive the land they are entitled to.

How can I receive assistance?

Contact the Tanana Chiefs Conference Realty staff at (907) 452-8251 or by email at veterans@tananachiefs.org. We will help heirs apply for services with ALSC to have a personal representative appointed, and work with personal representatives and Veterans to

complete applications, select lands, and receive their Native Allotments.

What if I have more questions?

There are some helpful links for online sources at the end of this article where you can find additional information, interactive maps, and view applications. We are always happy to answer your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact the Realty Department at any time.

For More Information:

<https://www.alsc-law.org/veterans/>

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-reeley/regional-information/alaska/land-transfer/ak-native-allotment-act/alaska-native-vietnam-veterans-land-allotment>

For More Information on the Alaska Native Veterans Allotment Act, Contact:

TCC • Tribal Client Services • Realty Division

(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 • veterans@tananachiefs.org



IN LOVING MEMORY **RITA ESMAILKA** **NULATO**

Rita Esmailka was born December 15, 1920, and lived in Nulato all her life. When recalling on her memories, she says, "I tell my grandchildren, [...] about a long time ago. We had a lot of fun, but sometimes it was kind of hard..."

She explains her and her sibling's chores while her dad and mom were out trapping and hunting, "Me and my brothers, we cook supper, then we haul water for the cabin, cook for the dogs, my dad and mom come back late around 4 or 5 o'clock at night"

When her father passed away, her mother kept on supporting the family by hunting, and fishing to fill the family's cache with dried muskrat, and dried ducks. During that time, a flood came and the camp they were staying at, had to be relocated immediately. After the flood, they came back to town, and stayed in Nulato for about a month, and then they started to fish for the summer.

At that time, school wasn't a priority, and she recalls, "It was hard for me to read and write. Hard, cause I went to school only to third grade." When a public health nurse saw her potential, she says she told her, "I want you to be a midwife to help this lady, because she's getting old and she can hardly see."

This starts her journey as one of the first Community Health Aides...

Rita lived to be 100 years old before she passed away in 2020. She leaves behind an amazing legacy. See her full legacy video at www.tananachiefs.org/legacy-of-our-elders/

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.

THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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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



Find Your Purpose

JOIN OUR TEAM: WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG/CAREERS

Village Vacancies

- **Alatna:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner-Itinerant, Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
- **Allakaket:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Community Health Representative, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Anaktuvuk Pass:** Behavioral Health Aide
- **Anvik:** Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Arctic Village:** Home Care Provider, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor, 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, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook
- **Dot Lake:** Behavioral Health Aide
- **Eagle:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Home Care Provider, Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Evansville:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Elder Nutrition Cook
- **Fort Yukon:** Home Care Provider x2, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Preschool Lead Teacher
- **Galena:** Infant/Toddler Teacher, ENHC Physician, Service Desk Technician, Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care, ENHC Janitor
- **Grayling:** Village Public Safety Officer
- **Healy Lake:** Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Holy Cross:** Family Visitor, Home Care Provider
- **Hughes:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant, Family Visitor
- **Huslia:** Preschool Assistant Teacher
- **Kaltag:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
- **Koyukuk:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor
- **Manley Hot Springs:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **McGrath:** Preschool Assistant Teacher, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Minto:** Behavioral Health Aide
- **Nenana:** Behavioral Health Aide, Infant/Toddler Teacher
- **Northway:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Nulato:** Tribal Administrator -Onsite Supervisor, Home Care Provider, Village Public Safety Officer, Substitute Teacher/Assistant Teacher
- **Old Minto:** OMFRC Traditional Counselor, OMFRC Camp Laborer
- **Rampart:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Ruby:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook
- **Shageluk:** Family Visitor, Tribal Administrator -Onsite Supervisor
- **Stevens Village:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **Tanacross:** Behavioral Health Aide
- **Tetlin:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Tok:** Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member, Assistant Crew Boss, UTHC Care Coordinator, On Call Janitor, Tok Sub-Regional Primary Care Physician, Physician Assistant -UTHC, Service Desk Technician
- **Venetie:** Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor, Village Public Safety Officer

Region- Wide Vacancies

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant
- Behavioral Health Clinical Associate - Fairbanks

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF MAY 19, 2021

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

TCC*GO
GUIDANCE. EXPLORATION. OPPORTUNITIES.

High School Students:

TCC GO is offering summer internships!

Earn up to
\$2,500!

Contact Us To Sign Up!

tccgo@tananachiefs.org
(907) 452-8251 ext. 3039 or 3049

5TH ANNUAL PEER POWER SUMMIT



In Person & Virtual in Anchorage
September 24-26, 2021

Scan QR
Code to Apply:



Deadline to Apply is August 2nd, 2021!

For more Information:

Ric Nelson
907-777-0195
rnelson@thearcofanchorage.org
www.peerpower907.com