

AFN Resolutions Spark Critical Discussion on Fisheries Conservation



Last month, the Alaska Federation of Natives held their Annual Convention where Tanana Chiefs Conference submitted six resolutions – two of which focused specifically on the conservation and protection of salmon.

The resolutions were Resolution 2022-2, a resolution requesting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game support measures that decrease intercept of Chinook and Chum Salmon in Area M affecting the Western and Interior

Alaskan Salmon Crisis and Resolution 2022-3, a resolution requesting the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to address Salmon bycatch and Salmon mortality issues in fisheries of Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands affecting coastal western and interior Alaska Salmon stocks.

A lengthy discussion took place on the floor of the convention regarding these resolutions, with some expressing concern over the proposals to decrease

intercept in Area M and reduce chum and chinook bycatch. However, many tribal leaders from the Interior and throughout the state stepped forward in support of the resolution.

“I really have to take a step back here and talk about how sad I am that we have to fight so hard here to be heard to try to protect our salmon,” said TCC Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, “It’s more than just a food source – it’s our

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The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center has a new Facebook page

- Important Announcements
- Meet Our Staff
- Information about Services
- Health & Wellness Tips
- So Much More!



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Mission

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

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village
1st Traditional Chief

Andy Jimmie/Minto
2nd Traditional Chief

Brian Ridley/Eagle
Chief/Chairman

Sharon Hildebrand/Nulato
Vice President

Charlie Wright/Rampart
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit/Tanacross
Upper Tanana

Claude 'Joe' Petruska/Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James/Fort Yukon
Yukon Flats

Eugene Paul/Holy Cross
Lower Yukon

Lori Baker/Minto
Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green/Louden
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski/Nulato
Elder Advisor

Alex Hanna/Minto
Youth Advisor

Chief's Report

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

October was a busy and productive month. First, Tribal leadership had the opportunity to provide testimony on fisheries protection and restoration before the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, and other representatives from DOI and NOAA. You can learn more about the meeting on page 3 of this newsletter.

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Convention was in-person for the first time since the start of the pandemic. It was good to see friends and colleagues from throughout the State and gather together to advocate for issues critical to Alaska Native people. During the meeting, I participated in a panel discussion titled 'Alaska's Self-Determination-Opportunities and Successes' where I had the chance to share some of the amazing work that TCC and our Tribes have been doing. I was honored to be able to sit beside well-respected native leaders and hear of the great work being done throughout the State.

At this year's AFN convention, TCC submitted six resolutions and I am happy to report that all six resolutions were passed by the convention. Two of the resolutions that focused on the protection of our salmon (Resolution 2022-2 and 2022-3) brought forth a lot of discussion on the floor. It is important for discussions like this to happen in large open forums such as AFN. The struggles that we are experiencing on the Yukon River need to be heard around the world and we need to see swift action to protect our fisheries. I am grateful that so many other tribes and corporations voted in support and stood beside us in our efforts to save our salmon. With the AFN now backing our efforts, I am hopeful that the State Board of Fish and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council will support our requests as well.

This month, TCC is hosting our Special Full Board of Directors Meeting, which will focus on several high-level topics including Hunting and Fishing, Water and Sewer, Housing and Full Board Resolution 2022-22, where the Full Board will consider the separation of the President's role and the Chief/Chairman's role. The meeting will be livestreamed at tananachiefs.org/live. Stay tuned on our website for more information.

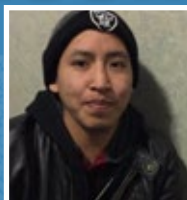
Mahsi' Choo,
Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman



MISSING PERSONS



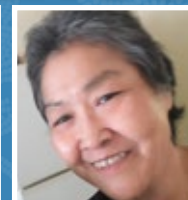
Lorraine Ginnis



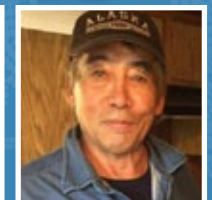
Willis Derendoff



Doren Sanford



Debbie Nictune



Frank Minano

If you or someone you know has any information on the whereabouts of these individuals - please come forward!

Call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100, Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 or TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251 ext.3269.

Visit www.tananachiefs.org/missing for more information.

Tribal Leaders Demand Action at Federal Fisheries Consultation

In October, the Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) held a tribal consultation meeting with Tribal leaders and subsistence fisherman on fisheries protection and restoration. The meeting included the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, as well as other representatives from DOI and NOAA.

During the consultation, tribal leaders and subsistence fisherman throughout the region stepped forward to demand action from the federal and state governments for the devastating salmon decline that has been impacting tribes on the Yukon River.

"Without immediate action – the salmon on the Yukon River will become extinct," stated Rhonda Pitka, First Chief of Beaver.

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) had several asks including; tribes be provided 638 contracts for the

management of federal lands of special geographic, historic, and cultural significance, sustainable and recurring funding for tribes to effectively participate in the stewardship of lands and resources, and a review of the 2010 Federal Subsistence Management assessment and implementing those recommendations.

"The biggest thing that our communities need right now is to be empowered with decision-making authority, recognized for the indigenous knowledge that we have when it comes to managing resources, and the funding to accomplish change," said Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC).

The issue on salmon decline in the Yukon River is not a new issue, and the tribes of the interior have been calling on the state and federal government for action. Despite tribes repeatedly submitting research proposals, consultations, and management recommendations for decades – no significant action has taken place.



"It is discouraging when we don't seem to get anywhere or even get replies back from our asks. We are pleading at this point to keep our way of life," said Karma Ulvi, First Chief of the Native Village of Eagle, "Talk to the tribes being affected on a regular basis and involve us in policy making."

TCC and interior tribes hope that the consultations will result in meaningful action from DOI and NOAA.

"How long must we sacrifice on behalf of our people?" asked Nancy James, First Chief of Fort Yukon, "We can no longer sacrifice. Let's take action."



AFN Resolutions Spark Critical Discussion on Fisheries Conservation

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survival, our culture. When we look at the last three years, we haven't fished at all. We've had zero fish for the last three years on the Yukon and limited fish for the last ten."

"We believe that intercept and bycatch have serious impacts on the return of our fisheries," stated Steve Ginnis, Executive Director of the Fairbanks Native Association, "That's why we bring this forward and I think that this is a good time to debate this. If we don't bring it before the AFN Convention – we will never ever solve this problem."

"If the State of Alaska is claiming that they have the best fishery management system – they have failed. Look at what has happened to the Yukon, the Kuskokwim and the villages on the coast like Hooper Bay, Chevak, Scammon - They are closed because of the fact that not enough salmon or chums are returning to the river systems," explained Myron Naneng, Hooper Bay, "We're not here to close their fisheries, we're asking them to reduce."

"We are all connected through salmon. We have to do this in unity. We got to help each other sustain the fish in all of our rivers and tributaries," said Charlie Wright, TCC Secretary/Treasurer, "We need to cut back. When we cut back that last time – fishing improved immediately."

"I think of our elders sitting riverbanks not being able to fish and thinking about their grandchildren and the next seven generations coming after them," expressed Rob Sanderson, 2nd Vice-President of Tlingit and Haida, "The places that are really feeling the pain are the fish camps and the smoke-houses. We cannot afford to support the few over the many."

"I was raised at fishcamp by my grandma – there was lot of fish – I am from Nulato – the place where the dog salmon meet. But now there is no dog salmon. And our children are suffering," said Sharon Hildebrand, Vice-President of TCC, "We are one ecosystem and we are all in this together. When one region hurts, we all hurt."

"Salmon and fish is not a controversial topic. It represents our way of life, which

shouldn't be controversial. We all need to come together and support conservation for fishing," said Alex Hanna, TCC Youth Advisor, "If we don't do that – the next time we come here it's not going to be about the Yukon River. It's going to be about the ocean and how there is no more salmon in it."

All of the Resolutions submitted by the Tanana Chiefs Conference passed the AFN full board of delegates, including our salmon conservation resolutions. While they were not passed unanimously, TCC is grateful for the support of tribal leadership on these critical issues that impact all of Alaska. The passage of these resolutions is a positive step toward the protection of our salmon and ways of life.



RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY TCC:

RESOLUTION 2022-2: A resolution requesting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game support measures that decrease intercept of Chinook and Chum Salmon in Area M affecting the Western and Interior Alaskan Salmon Crisis

RESOLUTION 2022-3: A resolution requesting the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to address Salmon bycatch and Salmon mortality issues in fisheries of Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands affecting coastal western and interior Alaska Salmon stocks

RESOLUTION 2022-6: Still Seeking Justice for the Fairbanks Four and John Hartman

RESOLUTION 2022-10: Establishment of an Office of Native Education within the State Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)

RESOLUTION 2022-15: Improvements to the grid resilience formula granted for Indian tribes

RESOLUTION 2022-20: Small and Needy Tribes Report

For a full list of resolutions visit:
<https://bit.ly/3faLNRo>

SCAN ME!



Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention





Reporting Human Trafficking

Trafficking is the **illegal exploitation of a person** – whether it be for labor or sex. Victims can be recruited and trafficked in their own villages and hometowns and, sadly, even in their own homes. **Traffickers disproportionately target at-risk populations**, including individuals who have experienced or been exposed to other forms of violence such as child abuse and maltreatment, interpersonal violence and sexual assault, community and gang violence.

How to Report

- **National Human Trafficking Hotline:** 1-888-373-7888 or text “help” to BeFree (233733)
 - NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline, with specialists available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **FBI Anchorage Field Office** at 907-276-4441
- **Alaska State Troopers** at 907-375-6409
- **You can also submit tips at:** <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking>

Learn more about Human Trafficking

<http://fbi.gov/humantrafficking>



VPSO Restructure

The TCC Public Safety Program has restructured their program to better serve the TCC region. Officer supervisory duties has been designated to the VPSO Sergeants and each Sergeant has been assigned TCC Sub-Regions to supervise. The restructure will be as follows until further notice:

- **First Sergeant Mark Haglin** – Field Operations for Upper Tanana and Yukon Tanana Chiefs Conference.
- **First Sergeant David Atteberry** – Field Operations for Yukon Flats and Yukon Koyukuk
- **Sergeant Christopher Hatch** – Field Operations for Lower Yukon and Upper Kuskokwim

The Sergeants will also supervise VPSO's assigned to them as follows:

- **First Sergeant Mark Haglin:**
 - TPO Mario Arce
 - VPSO Henry Martinez
 - VPSO Abraham Ekamrak
- **First Sergeant David Atteberry:**
 - TPO Laura Martinez
 - VPSO Corporal Brandon Murphy
 - VPSO Nathan Becker
 - VPSO Edward Rizzi
- **Sergeant Christopher Hatch:**
 - TPO Derek Atteberry
 - VPSO Douglas Carlo
 - VPSO Adam Chiles

The benefits of doing the restructure are:

- Single point of contact for the sub-regions
- Each sub-region will have a Sergeant to supervise their officers
- Makes the Public Safety Program more streamlined, which in turn, will allow our officers to better serve their communities
- The sub-regions will get to know their sergeants on a personal level which will lead to better engagement with the Public Safety program

With the restructure, Tribes can contact the Sergeants directly through email or by contacting the Public Safety Program assistant Karlon Tuluk at 907-452-8251 ext 3748 or by email at: karlon.tuluk@tananachiefs.org

Sergeant Contact Information:

- Mark.haglin@tananachiefs.org
- David.atteberry@tananachiefs.org
- Christopher.hatch@tananachiefs.org

How to Make a Report of Wildlife Violations

Occurring in the TCC Region

The reports received for the size of the TCC region is not very significant.

To help prevent Wildlife violations from happening and deterring repeat offenders, it is important to report violations that you witness and provide as much detail as possible.

The low numbers of reports may come from a lack of knowledge on where and how to report.

Here are a few ways to report wildlife violations or crimes:

- **Alaska Fish and Wildlife Safeguard** – Call 1-800-478-3377
 - The Safeguard project may provide cash rewards for information on Wildlife violations.
- **Alaska State Troopers – Tip 411** – www.tip411.com
 - A person could provide an anonymous tip on this website.

- Make a report using your smart phone with **the app – aktips** –
 - A person can remain anonymous on this tip option also.
- By calling **Fairbanks Dispatch** at 907-451-5100, to report a wildlife crime or any crime.
- **The Alaska Wildlife Troopers** in Fairbanks at 907-451-5350.
- **The Alaska Department of Fish and Game** at 907-459-7200.

When calling or messaging any of the above listed resources provide as much information as you can. If able include any pictures or video you may have taken, provide a location, and include all the W's: who, what, when, where, and why. The more information provided the easier it will be for AWT/AST to build a prosecutable case.

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For more information or to ask questions contact:

Darrell Hildebrand,
Public Safety Manager
Call us: 907-452-8251 Ext 3269 •
907-799-6339
Email us: darrell.hildebrand@tananachiefs.org



Highlighting VPSO Brandon Murphy

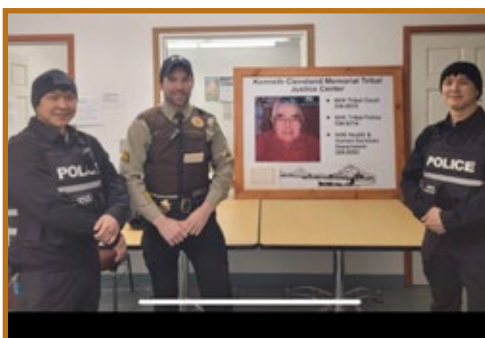


Brandon Murphy has been a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) since the summer of 2017. In his own words, he has been gifted enough to have worked in many rural Alaskan village communities. His work has taken him to all of the rural villages surrounding Kotzebue; as well as Copper Center, Bethel, and several Interior villages. He credits a 2016 TV advertisement seeking VPSOs for piquing his initial interest in the job. "The position became a passion of mine when I started learning that remote communities in Alaska have nobody to call for help," he says. "If I'm living in Fairbanks and I call 911, I will have help at my door within minutes. What makes rural Alaskans any different?"

In his 5 years serving as a VPSO, Brandon has experienced and witness numerous calls for service that required more than a single officer response. He cites the unfortunate lack of resources

at the state level for a lack of adequate response capabilities in the villages he has worked in. "Becoming a VPSO has brought a bigger understanding of what it means to be a public servant, and has shed light on the much needed responses in these communities," he recounts of his experiences. Brandon admires that community members hold true to their values and customs, while going through some of their darkest moments. "They do not let the lack of public safety prohibit them from functioning after a public safety emergency," he states. "They stick together and care for one another providing fire response, EMS, and basic law enforcement until the state can step in to help."

Brandon takes pride in assisting villages in their community efforts to



provide public safety measures to the people, and witnessing them rise to the occasion despite the lack of state resources. "I hope in the near future, all of these beautiful communities have a VPSO that cares as much as I have about their right to public safety," he asserts. "These families need someone to be there immediately when they call for help. They don't need a four hour delay, as it has had lasting effects."

On his off time, Brandon resides in Fairbanks with his wife, Chenoa, and their six-year-old daughter, Skylar, who he loves dearly. We want to thank Brandon for his sacrifice in service to our village communities, and for bringing awareness to the work of VPSOs, and the need for more resources in our communities.

Get Out & VOTE

November 8th is Election Day!

The Statewide General Election is the last one of this election cycle, and it is coming up on Tuesday, November 8th!

This year's statewide General election will determine who fills the seats of US Senator and US Representative, as well as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, State Senators and Representatives, Superior Court, District Court, and Court of Appeals.

According to the 2020 Census data, it is estimated that Alaska Native people constitute 22 percent of the statewide population. If all Native people voted during a normal turnout year, approximately 25 percent of the electorate at the polls would be Native. The Alaska Native vote is powerful and we have the opportunity to bring our priorities front and center.

The leaders who emerge from this year's General election will be responsible for some pretty big things, like land rights, statewide budgets, healthcare measures, criminal reform, appropriation of funds toward education and transportation, support of infrastructure and its access, and a lot more. Find out more about your candidates in this year's Statewide General Election, and what they stand for, by following this link: <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/candidates/>

ABOUT RANKED CHOICE VOTING

This is the first year that Alaska is using the ranked choice voting system. Alaskan voters adopted this system on the 2020 ballot, and its implementation means Alaska's diverse populations

can elect leaders who represent our diverse interests. TCC understands that voters have questions about the ranked choice voting system, so we are breaking it down below.

- Rank the candidates you like in order of preference.
- Your favorite is your first choice.
- Ranking other candidates doesn't affect your first choice.

If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and voters that ranked that candidate first have their vote counted for their next choice. This process continues until one candidate receives a majority of voters' choices.

Q: If I rank four candidates, does that mean I voted four times?

A: No. Only one vote counts per race. Your 2nd (or later) choice only matters if your 1st choice fails to get enough votes and is eliminated.

Q: What happens if there's a tie?

A: It's very unlikely that an RCV election will end in a tie. However, if there's a tie at any step of the process, it will be decided the same as it has been in the past. Alaska law says the tie is resolved "by lot", which means the division's director will flip a coin or draw straws.

Q. What offices are elected using Ranked Choice Voting?

A: President/Vice President, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor/Lieutenant Governor, and all state representatives and state senators. The open, pick one primary will be used for

U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor/Lieutenant Governor, and all state representatives and state senators, but not for President/Vice President.

For more information, contact GOTNV@citci.org or visit aknativevote.com

IMPORTANT DATES FOR VOTERS

- **November 7th, 2022:** Deadline to receive absentee by electronic transmission ballot applications
- **November 8th, 2022:** Deadline to receive absentee ballot postmarked on this date or before
- **November 8th, 2022:** ELECTION DAY. Polls are open from 7am-8pm

REGISTER TO VOTE HERE: <https://voterregistration.alaska.gov/> If you haven't updated your voter registration by Election Day, you can still vote in person on what's called a Questioned Ballot. Your vote is still counted manually, as long as your residency is validated after you submit your ballot. And bonus! Your voter registration will automatically be updated. Don't let an outdated voter registration stop you from showing up to the polls on November 8th!

WHERE TO VOTE: <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-polls/>

EARLY AND ABSENTEE VOTING INFO: <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/AKVoteEarly.php>



Narcan® Requests

If you live in the TCC region, contact the Division of Wellness & Prevention via phone or email to request Narcan OR Complete the TCC Narcan Request Form Survey online. We will make contact to fulfill your request.



TCC Division of Wellness & Prevention
907-452-8251 ext. 3400 • prevention@tananachiefs.org

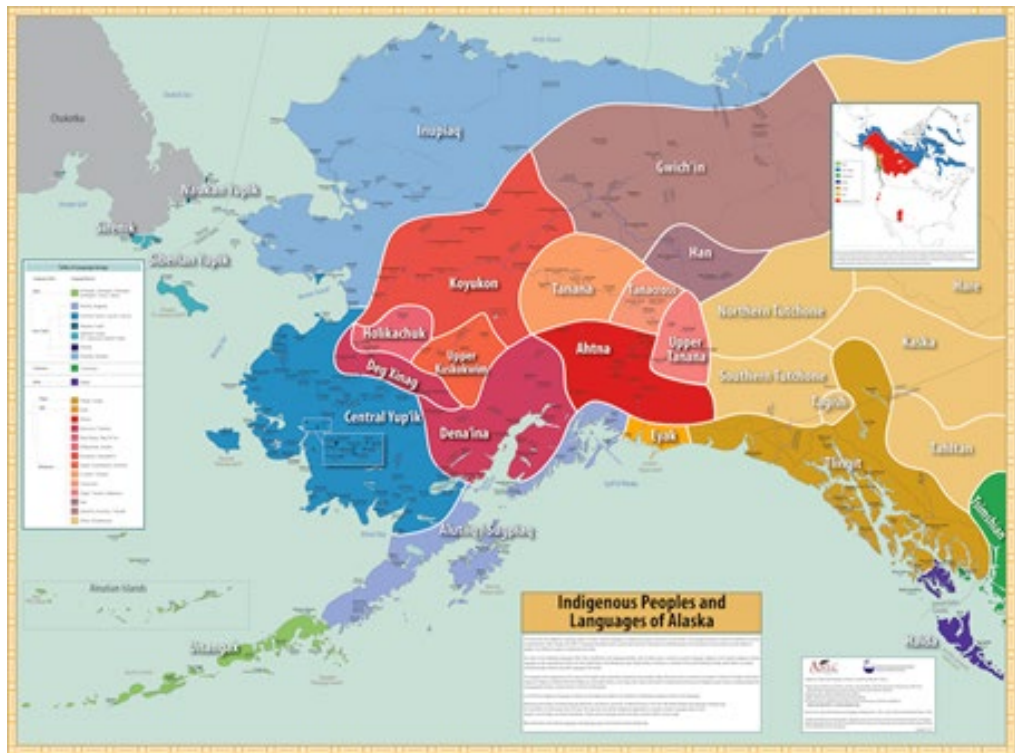
Tobacco Use & Native American Heritage Month

Frank Yaska, Tobacco Prevention Policy Specialist

Unlike Native Americans in the lower 48, Alaska Natives in the Tanana Chiefs region do not use tobacco traditionally. Tobacco was brought to Alaska during the 1700s by fur traders. In a short time, we became familiar with tobacco, and many became addicted. 55.6% of American and Alaska Native adults say they want to quit smoking.

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations use tobacco more than any other racial or ethnic group in the U.S. See table one.

The leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2016 was heart disease. Heart disease is the leading cause of death followed by cancer which is the second leading cause of death. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death. All of these leading



causes were a result of tobacco use.

The tobacco industry has a well-documented history of targeting minority and marginalized populations, including Americans Indians and Alaska Natives. This marketing began in 1901 and is still used today by using an image of an American Indian chief wearing a headdress. The romanticized images of American Indians and Alaska Natives

have been used for decades to market and sell commercial tobacco products.

RJ Reynolds who owns Newport, Camel, Doral, Eclipse, Kent, Pall Mall, Kodiak, Grizzly, and Vuse depicts this image in another product of theirs - American Spirits. The misappropriation of indigenous culture is a tactic by the tobacco industry to portray American Spirits as natural and a “spiritual experience.”

Congress recently found JUUL targeted at least eight American Indian tribes with price discounts and referral program pitches in an effort to promote its products.

For Native American Heritage Month, please consider going tobacco-free and contact us for policy development/ implementation with your communities.

Method of Use	Ages	(AI/AN) Rate	Overall Rate
Cigarette	Adult	22.6%	13.7%
Cigarette	High School	16.2%,	5.8%
Cigarette	Middle School	3.7%	2.3%
E-Cigarette	High School	40.4%	27.5%
E-Cigarette	Middle School	16.1%	10.5%

Table 1 - Rates among (AI/AN) populations

References: <https://bit.ly/3gOyGWE>

For more information on Tobacco Prevention contact:

Division of Wellness & Prevention • Frank Yaska
 Call us: 1-800-478-6822 • 907-452-8251 ext. 3547
 Email us: frank.yaska@tananachiefs.org



NEW! Behavioral Health Crisis Line

988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it’s a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

There is HOPE. The Lifeline WORKS. You are not alone in crisis.

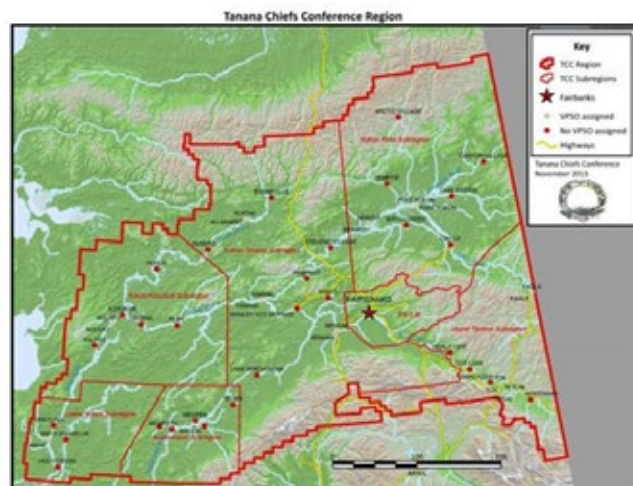
Reported Wildlife Violations

September 2021 - September 2022

By Darrell Hildebrand, Public Safety Manager

After the 2022 Moose hunting season was completed, I was tasked with polling the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) for statistics involving wildlife violations and investigations for the Tanana Chiefs Conference Region. I contacted AWT Lieutenant Justin Rodgers who is the Northern Detachment

Commander based out of Fairbanks. I provided Lieutenant Rodgers with a map of the TCC region which he broke down into patrol zones. Patrol zones are utilized to track complaints, incidents, and work areas in the Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.



Below is a summary of the information capture during the Fall 2022 Season:

Village Area	Reported Information	Outcome
Circle Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Illegal caribou hunting near Eagle Summit » Report of moose carcass » Wasted moose carcass upriver from Circle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Citation for Illegal Hunting » Investigation determined moose died of natural causes » Investigation determined moose carcass died from wound loss
Manley Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Report of unlawful use of aircraft to engage in hunting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigation did not reveal any violations
Galena Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Report of person suspected of hunting over moose limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Incident turned over to United States Fish and Wildlife Service for further investigation and possible violations in Galena
McGrath Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Report of a proxy hunting violation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigation did not reveal any violations
Tok Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Report of residency hunting violation » Report of person suspected of illegal guiding activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigation did not reveal any violations » Investigation did not reveal any violations
Fairbanks Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Report of rats being released illegally » Report of dogs harassing a moose » Report to Fairbanks Police Dept. of two wounded moose in downtown area. » Person reported he found two salvaged moose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigation did not reveal any violations » Public Service Announcement released to public on incident » No moose were located » An investigation by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers revealed the moose were taken for ceremonial purposes
Steese Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Report of illegal sheep hunt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Alaska Wildlife Trooper charged suspect with taking a sub-legal sheep
Delta Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Report of multiple moose calf carcasses found » Report of a hunter failed to salvage moose responsibly, no suspect information. » Report of bison being harvested and trespassing on private land. » Report of snares set during closed trapping season » Report of a moose taken in defense of life and property » Report of a hunter failed to salvage moose responsibly, no suspect information. » Report of a wasted moose carcass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigation revealed they are domestic elk calf carcasses » Investigation/case closed with no suspect or leads » Investigation revealed bison was not on complainant's private land, no violations. » Alaska Wildlife Troopers issued suspect a citation » Investigation did not reveal any violations » Investigation/case closed with no suspect or leads » An investigation revealed it was wound loss as the moose was legal to take.

TCC Revitalizes Reclaiming Our People Initiative

On October 24th, Tanana Chiefs Conference hosted a Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) meeting to discuss the revitalization of the Reclaiming Our People initiative, which focuses on the prevention of substance abuse and the improvement of the overall health and wellness of our people.

"We have not had a TAC meeting in several years, however with the help of our tribes the work continued, and we now have the opportunity to bring our Tribal Advisory Council together again and revitalize this important initiative," said Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, "I believe that this is especially important in the coming years – as we will be seeing the impacts of the COVID-19

pandemic on our people and we are already seeing it now. Many of us have lost loved ones and have been disconnected for so long – now is the time to come together and start the healing process."

Reclaiming Our People was an initiative developed in 2017 that included a 3-year comprehensive strategic plan that brought together TCC programs to promote the health and wellness of our people and communities.

During the October meeting, TCC brought together various TCC programs and tribal members to discuss next steps for the initiative and to develop a path forward. Tribes are welcome to



participate in future planning sessions and TCC will also be incorporating more youth involvement.

More information on the new strategic plan will be released at a later date.



TCC and FNA host Missing Persons Rally

Tanana Chiefs Conference and Fairbanks Native Association hosted a rally for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in the interior. The rally was called 'Strength In Unity' and included friends and family of Frank Minano, Debbie Nictune, Doren Sanford, and Willis Derendoff, along with TCC Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, FNA Executive Director Steve Ginnis, Fairbanks Mayor David Pruhs, and representatives from the Fairbanks Police Department and the Alaska State Troopers.





Alert On RAINBOW FENTANYL

In recent months, rainbow fentanyl, typically seen as tablets, powder, and blocks that look like candy or sidewalk chalk have been trending nationally amongst our youth. These products are targeted to increase addiction in young people and are often packaged in commercial product packaging (such as holiday candy). Due to their potency, very small amounts can cause damage to the brain, and lead to overdoses or overdose death.

What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can quickly cause overdose. It is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, making it a major contributor to the 150+ synthetic overdose deaths occurring every day.

What Can Be Done?

Naloxone saves lives by reversing opioid overdose. It is quick and easy to administer, with training available across the country. Communities, parents, and teachers working with youth should consider educating on the dangers of rainbow fentanyl and seek naloxone training to prevent overdose deaths.

Additional Resources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html>
- <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/08/30/dea-warns-brightly-colored-fentanyl-used-target-young-americans>
- <https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness>

Learn More about Fentanyl

Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths.

SCAN ME!



November Head Start News



School has been open for a full two months and we can't believe it's already November. Last month we sent out over 80 pumpkins to the Head Start sites, both

for classroom activities and then for each family enrolled in our program. To go along with the pumpkins, families also received some fun and educational activity ideas that they can do with their children at home.

November is going to be just as busy! Head Start is going to be sending Fall Harvest food boxes to all of our enrolled families and staff this month. Our family advocates are also sending out supplies to all of our sites for this month's cultural activity – Pilot Bread Pizzas.

There are still spots available in many of our classrooms. If you have a child under the age of 5 that you'd like to be enrolled please contact Tanya Yatlin at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3469 for more information.

FY23 School Year sites:

- Allakaket: Vacant
- Grayling: Vacant
- Holy Cross: Vacant
- Huslia: HS is open and EHS is vacant
- Minto: Vacant
- McGrath HS: Open
- Nenana EHS & HS: Open
- Northway HS: Open
- Nulato: Home Visiting Open, need additional staff to open classroom.
- Tanana: Home Visiting Open
- Tetlin: Home Visiting Open
- Tanacross HS: Open
- Tok HS: Open

TCC Head Start has teamed up with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library!

TCC Head Start has teamed up with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library! Every month enrolled children from the ages of birth to 5 will get a free age appropriate book! Reading together is a wonderful way to build a lifelong love for reading with children and promote

family time. If you do not have a local Head Start educator, please call Tanya. She's happy to assist. Please contact Tanya Yatlin at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3469 for ways to sign up.

Start has positions open in the following villages:

Allakaket, Grayling, Holy Cross, Huslia, Minto, Nenana, Northway, Nulato, Tetlin and Tok.

There are also positions open in Fairbanks.

The positions available are Family Visitor, Preschool Lead Teacher, Assistant Teacher, Substitute Teacher, Health and Safety Coordinator, Disabilities Coordinator and CACFP/Nutrition Coordinator

Please visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see what's open in your area or call

Kristi Walmsley at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822, ext. 3015.

Community Health Aide *Spotlight*

Cheyenne Esmailka - Nenana Health Aide

By Linden Staciokas

Anyone who worries that the younger generation is not willing to work hard needs to meet Cheyanne Esmailka. In her early 20s, Cheyanne has been a health aide since 2019. Born in Fairbanks and raised in Ruby, she went to high school in Nenana, first as a boarding student and later as a day student who lived in town.

After graduating, she took a job as a housekeeper but kept looking for something with better hours and closer to home. When she saw that Tanana Chiefs was recruiting for health aides, Cheyanne applied and was soon back in school, this time in the vigorous health aide training held in Fairbanks. Even though she was eight months pregnant by the end of the training, she took maternity leave and was back on track to finish her training and start her first official position as a health care provider in Nenana by 2020.

Unlike some people who become health aides because they have been interested in science or medicine their entire lives, Cheyanne was not sure this career was going to be a good fit for her. "I did not think I would be a health aide this long. I did not expect to fall in love with the job the way I have. But it turns out that the more I learn, the more I want to learn and the more I love it. I enjoy doing blood draws and shooting x-rays. When I shoot a good x-ray, my whole day goes perfect! I also love how I have grown in this job, become much more responsible than I was when I started."



But it is the human interactions that have been the greatest source of her satisfaction. "It is the relationships I get to build with my patients, the trust I earn from them. I don't just know about their health problems, I get to know all about them, their lives. It is a privilege."

Like all jobs, there are aspects of being a health aide that are not as rewarding or fun. "One of the things I dislike about the job is definitely the paperwork. At the end of the month there are multiple inventories and papers needing to be done and turned in. I usually try and give myself time to do these tasks, which includes prepping days sometimes weeks before anything is due, which makes it all a little quicker... Having a good computer system helps, it is much easier than the pen and paper method. And we have an excellent technology department, always willing to help no matter what computer issues we might be having."

"Another hard part of the job is when I cannot figure out how to handle something. I go around and around about a problem, about a million times it seems like. Usually I can come up with a solution but there are times that I need the advice of a co-worker or my supervisor."

Nenana has an Emergency Medical Services department, so the health

aides are not on call after their shifts are over. That doesn't mean that people don't approach Cheyanne or her colleagues when they are not working, but not having to be available after hours reduces the stress of the job. Cheyanne spends her free time with family and friends, building memories through activities like fishing or cooking. She takes an active part in her daughter's Head Start program, reinforcing what she is learning during the day. At this stage of development, the alphabet and counting feature large in the games Cheyanne plays with her child.

No one builds a successful life without the help of others. Cheyanne is especially thankful to her mom and dad. "They not only raised me to be a hard worker, but they supported me and my

"I want people to know that this is a job that is interesting and rewarding."
- Cheyanne Esmailka -

daughter throughout all my trainings and long hours at work." There was also one other person who helped Cheyanne get a vision for the possible. "Rachael Kangas, who was the health aide in Ruby when I was young. I was not afraid of going to the clinic, I liked seeing her in action. I wanted to be like her when I grew up. I don't think I ever told her how much she influenced me."

Cheyenne hopes she is a similar role model for others who might be interested in becoming health aides. "I want people to know that this is a job that is interesting and rewarding. The training can be hard but there are people throughout TCC who support you so that you can make it through."

Traveling to Alaska Native Medical Center and need assistance?

The ANMC-TCC Patient Advocates work closely with the medical teams at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) to ensure TCC patients receive clear communication about their care, excellent patient experiences, safe discharge plans, and access to support if concerns arise while at ANMC.

Please reach out to our ANMC-TCC Patient Advocates if needed.



Lucy Frank

Lead ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate
907-378-8002



April Johnson

ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate
907-687-9193



Our Children Are Our Future

By Steve Ristow, Wellness Project Coordinator—Suicide Prevention, Division of Wellness and Prevention

"You caught one!" I still fondly remember the first time my dad took me fishing and helped me catch my first trout. Throughout my childhood, my dad invested hours of his time in developing in me a passion and love for fishing that is alive and well to this very day. And as I started a family of my own, I followed in my dad's footsteps and passed that same love for fishing to my own kids, and hopefully someday to my future grandkids. By simply investing in one child, my dad positively impacted (and will impact) many future generations to come

"Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first."

- Matthew Jacobson -

As parents, we are given one of the greatest gifts we can receive in this world—children. We are also blessed with the privilege of shaping, teaching, nurturing, and raising our children to reach their full potential in life. The investment of our love, time, wisdom and resources in our children has a lasting impact on them and ultimately on the world in which we live. Zig Ziglar, a famous psychologist once wrote, "Our children are our hope for the future, but WE are their hope for their present and their future!"

Healthy, safe, secure, and loved kids

are the key to a bright and positive future and they are our community's greatest and most beautiful asset. Just like we all share in the responsibility of caring for our community's lands, it's also our responsibility to protect, nurture, and provide a safe place for our kids to grow and blossom into fruitful contributors to our world.

Together we can bring awareness to the importance of ensuring protective factors for our cherished children. Here are a few positive influences that can contribute to safe, strong, healthy and happy families and kids in your community:

Individual Protective Factors

- Caregivers who create safe, positive relationships with kids
- Caregivers that mentor and pass along cultural values to children
- Caregivers who practice nurturing parenting skills and provide emotional support
- Caregivers who can help meet basic needs of food, shelter, education, and health services

Family Protective Factors

- Families with strong social support networks and stable, positive relationships with the people in their community
- Families where caregivers are present, interested and invested in their child
- Families who spend time together doing positive activities, such as eating, hunting, fishing, cooking, beading, etc.
- Families where caregivers clearly communicate and enforce household rules

Community Protective Factors

- Communities that are active in the traditional ways of life and subsistence living
- Communities with access to safe, warm and stable housing
- Communities with a strong commitment to cultural values
- Communities where families have access to safe, engaging and positive after-school programs and activities that do not include drugs or alcohol such as sports, clubs, culture camps, hobbies and more.

Follow @childwelfaregov during National Child Abuse Prevention Month or visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/> to learn more.

For more information on suicide prevention contact:

Division of Wellness & Prevention Zhiiniidzelt'aey Project

Call us: 1.800.478.6822 • (907) 452.8251 Ext 3177

Email us: Prevention@tananachiefs.org

Honor Potlatch

Alaska Native Veterans, Native Leaders, and Elders from the Doyon Region are invited, along with service men and Military Officials for an Honor Potlatch to be held at Fort Wainwright (FWW) at the Alert Holding Area (A.H.A.) on Friday, November 18th, Noon-3pm.

Since FWW Security is high, Visitors will need to be bussed in with Military busses from Fairbanks pick-up spots, such as the Morris Thompson Building, and other locations. Visitors will also need to



show current ID or Driver's License to get onto a bus. Details on bus transportation will be provided through posters, PSAs or the Fairbanks Daily News Miner.

This event is provided in partnership with FWW, Alaska Native Veterans Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and other supporting partners to be announced soon. If you would like to volunteer or donate,



please call Rita at 907-452-8251 X3329.



UAF Drone Partnership

A team of educators and Indigenous engagement coordinators from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute are working on an NSF-funded project titled Drone Research and Opportunities for Native Elementary Students (DRONES).

DRONES aims to increase the enthusiasm, engagement, and success of Alaska Native students in STEM education. This project supports rural Alaska Native students and their communities by exploring how drone technologies can be used to address local needs and priorities in rural Alaska villages and towns.

Nenana, Nulato and Valdez are the three partner communities co-producing community-specific lessons with UAF education specialists. DRONES uses place-based education to create and implement a suite of technology-rich teaching resources for

upper-elementary students and their teachers. Alaska Native Elders, parents, and working professionals from a variety of STEM jobs are invited to act as career mentors in the role of STEM experts.

The initial stage of DRONES involved UAF team members traveling to each partner community to meet with local advisors to choose a place-based topic for the curriculum, learn about that topic from a place-based perspective, and film interviews with knowledge bearers and Elders.

UAF educators also met teachers and students at the partner schools to see how children think about science and technology careers, and whether or not they think about future careers involving drones. Local community mentors share in developing, field-testing, and implementing lessons, videos and a teaching kit full of classroom supplies customized for rural Indigenous education.

DRONES has entered the second stage of the project which involves developing the culturally relevant, place-based STEM curricula and planning an associated



1-credit teacher training. A final career exploration experience that simulates a drone mission is also being developed for the students. Indigenous language usage is woven throughout the curricula, and is supported by an online language pronunciation tool.

The DRONES team works closely with Nulato, Nenana, and Valdez to ensure that the STEM curricula developed for this project addresses their priorities and emphasizes local expertise.

The team is grateful to the Native Tribe of Nulato, the Native Tribe of Nenana, the Valdez Native Tribe and all the communities they serve for helping us create teaching and learning resources that will be meaningful to your youth.



DRONES team member Daniel shows students what the drone can do at Nenana Fishcamp 2022. We used the drone to find an old beaver house and taught the kids what kind of vegetation the beavers prefer by looking at the feedpile and examining the chew marks on nearby trees. You are what you eat! The beaver will eat cottonwood and willow, each very strong traditional medicine for pain and inflammation, passing that medicine on to you with each delicious bite!

The Council Newsletter

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communications_dept@tananachiefs.org
www.tananachiefs.org



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference



Find Your Purpose

Join our Team at Tanana Chiefs Conference
www.tananachiefs.org/careers

Village Vacancies

Alatna: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Family Visitor, Tribal
Administrator-Onsite Supervisor, Tribal
Workforce Development Specialist

Allakaket: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Community Health
Representative, Home Care Provider

Anaktuvuk Pass: Behavioral Health
Aide, Behavioral Health Aide Trainee

Anvik: Rural Trauma Navigator,
Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook,
Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Tribal
Workforce Development Specialist

Arctic Village: Home Care Provider,
Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor,
Village Public Safety Officer

Birch Creek: Rural Trauma Navigator
Chalkyitsik: Behavioral Health Aide,
Behavioral Health Aide Trainee,
Community Health Aide/Practitioner,
Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Village
Public Safety Officer

Circle: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Rural Trauma Navigator,
Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Tribal
Family Youth Specialist

Dot Lake: Behavioral Health Aide,
Behavioral Health Aide Trainee,
Community Health Aide/Practitioner

Eagle: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Home Care Provider,
Rural Trauma Navigator, Tribal Family
Youth Specialist

Evansville: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Elder Nutrition Cook,
Tribal Family Youth Specialist

Fort Yukon: Home Care Provider

Galena: Behavioral Health Aide
Trainee, Behavioral Health Clinical
Associate-Galena, Behavioral
Health Clinician I, Clinical Support
Staff/Medical Assistant, ENHC

Administrative Assistant I, Nurse
Practitioner – Galena, Physician
Assistant - Primary Care, RN, Rural-
Patient Registration & Admissions

Specialist

Grayling: Family Visitor, Preschool
Assistant Teacher, Preschool
Lead Teacher, Tribal Family
Youth Specialist, Tribal Workforce
Development Specialist, Village Public
Safety Officer

Healy Lake: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Rural Trauma Navigator

Holy Cross: Family Visitor, Home
Care Provider

Hughes: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Tribal Workforce
Development Specialist

Huslia: Family Visitor, Substitute
Teacher/Assistant Teacher, Substitute
Teacher/Assistant Teacher, Tribal
Family Youth Specialist

Kaltag: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Tribal Administrator-
Onsite Supervisor, Tribal Workforce
Development Specialist

Koyukuk: Tribal Office Administrative
Assistant

McGrath: Rural Trauma Navigator,
Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Tribal
Workforce Development Specialist

Minto: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Family Visitor, Rural
Trauma Navigator

Nenana: Clinical Support Staff/
Medical Assistant, Infant/Toddler
Teacher, Rural- Patient Registration
& Admissions Specialist, Rural
Safe Home Attendant, Substitute
Teacher/Assistant Teacher, Tribal
Administrator-Onsite Supervisor, Tribal
Family Youth Specialist

Nikolai: Elder Nutrition Cook, Tribal
Administrator-Onsite Supervisor,
Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Tribal
Workforce Development Specialist

Northway: Behavioral Health Aide,
Behavioral Health Aide Trainee,
Community Health Aide/Practitioner,
Rural Safe Home Attendant, Substitute

Teacher/Assistant Teacher, Village
Public Safety Officer

Nulato: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Rural Safe Home
Attendant, Substitute Elder
Nutrition Cook, Substitute Teacher/
Assistant Teacher, Tribal Workforce
Development Specialist

Old Minto: Camp Counselor I,
OMFRC Camp Laborer, OMFRC
Counselor I

Rampart: Behavioral Health Aide,
Behavioral Health Aide Trainee,
Community Health Aide/Practitioner,
Rural Trauma Navigator, Substitute
Elder Nutrition Cook

Ruby: Behavioral Health Aide,
Behavioral Health Aide Trainee

Stevens Village: Community Health
Aide/Practitioner

Takotna: Rural Trauma Navigator

Tanacross: Community Health Aide/
Practitioner, Home Care Provider,
Tribal Family Youth Specialist

Telida: Tribal Administrator-Onsite
Supervisor

Tetlin: Behavioral Health Aide,
Behavioral Health Aide Trainee,
Community Health Aide/Practitioner,
Family Visitor, Village Public Safety
Officer

Tok: Behavioral Health Clinical
Associate-Tok, Certified Medical
Assistant, Coordinator/Instructor
Mid Level Practitioner, Facilities
Technician, Nurse Practitioner - Upper
Tanana Health Center, Physician
Assistant-Upper Tanana Health
Center, Preschool Assistant Teacher,
RN, Service Desk Technician,
Substitute Teacher/Assistant Teacher,
Urgent Care RN Advanced, Village
Public Safety Officer-Regional Rover

Venetie: Tribal Administrator-Onsite
Supervisor, Village Public Safety
Officer

UPCOMING EVENTS

NCAI Annual Convention

October 30th - November 4th, 2022 •
Sacramento, CA

Veterans Day

TCC Closed All Day November 11, 2022
CAIHC Urgent Care Open • 8am - 5pm

Thanksgiving

TCC Closed November 24th-25th, 2022

Visit www.tananachiefs.org/calendar for
more information.

JOB OPENING

NORTHWAY TRIBAL PEACE OFFICER

Job incumbent will enforce tribal law within the village. The incumbent will perform the following first responder functions: enforce tribal laws and ordinances, provide emergency response, provide routine patrols, organize and manage search and rescue operations when necessary, monitor community and environmental safety, animal control, and community policing. Officer will work with tribal council on crime prevention and addressing crime.

Apply Online at
www.tananachiefs.org/careers

Special Full Board Of Directors Meeting

November 15th-17th, 2022
Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks

Tune into the Livestream at:
www.tananachiefs.org/live



JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF OCTOBER 25, 2022