



NULATO

COMMUNITY PLAN 2022-2027

*Prepared by:
Tanana
Chiefs
Conference*

*In
Collaboration
with:
Nulato Tribal
Council*

*In Conjunction
with:
Nulato
Community
Members*

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RESOLUTION



NULATO TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 65049 • Nulato, Alaska 99765

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nulatotribe@hotmail.com



Resolution 2022-33 Adopting Community Plan

Whereas, this Community Plan is important to the future growth and development of Nulato; and,
Whereas, this plan was created through a public process which captured the values and goals of our community; and,
Whereas, this plan is a tool that helps us manage change in our community; and,
Whereas, this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service delivery; and,
Whereas; it is understood that this document was created for public use and will be made publically available and,
Whereas, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan; and,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the parties of this resolution agree to work together to pursue the values, goals, and vision express in this plan.

Certification

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved ___ in favor, ___ opposed by the following parties:

Maurice McHenry
1st Chief

Jonie H. Papp
Secretary/Treasurer

1/11/23
Date

1/11/23
Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nulato Tribal Council and City of Nulato, realizing the importance of strengthening and unifying the community, partnered with Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Planning and Development (P&D) program to prepare the Nulato Community Plan.

Nulato will work aggressively to pursue funding opportunities to alleviate concerns and stimulate economic development. The new century is full of promise; hope and change requires effective planning and dedicated effort. Change within the community is necessary to survive the current economic challenges and thrive so the quality of life and economic prosperity in Nulato is vibrantly and enthusiastically passed down to future generations.

COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Nulato Community Plan is a living document designed to continually be updated as the goals and objectives identified in the community plan are accomplished. The goals and objectives included in this plan reflect the top priorities identified by Nulato's community members and will be utilized to plan future projects and guide future development.

Implementation of the Community Plan creates capacity building and identifying future funding opportunities, including the TCC Village Planning & Development Grant Development Specialist position, which provides funding for the Tribe to employ a community-based grant writing specialist that works closely with the Tribe to write a grant for the community to carry out one of the top goals and priorities in the community plan.



VISION STATEMENT

Nulato is a family-oriented community that places a high value on harvesting subsistence foods, holding cultural gatherings and events, celebrating and drawing from the wisdom and teaching of our elders, and maintaining a strong tie to the land and water. We are committed to maintaining a healthy life through traditional activities as well as continuing to improve our community's infrastructure, diversifying our economy, and training our workforce.

COMMUNITY VALUES

- ❖ Beautiful local scenery
- ❖ Subsistence lifestyle
- ❖ Subsistence foods
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Working together
- ❖ Pace of living in a small community
- ❖ Security for children
- ❖ Environment is conducive to children experiencing the outdoors in a variety of ways
- ❖ Responsive local tribal government
- ❖ Communication is good up and down the Yukon River
- ❖ Good resources outside the village
- ❖ Cultural gatherings and events such as:
 - Stickdance
 - Music
 - Potlatches
- ❖ Elders and their knowledge on history, language, subsistence, environment, tool making, cultural events
- ❖ Traditional arts and crafts

COMMUNITY GOALS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the goals that were developed during the June 23, 2021 Nulato Community Planning meeting.

Goal 1 - Housing

Goal 2 - Youth & Elders

Goal 3 - Land Use & Environment

Goal 4 - Public Safety

Goal 5 - Public Utilities

COMMUNITY PROFILE

HISTORY

The village site for Nulato was an important trading site between the Koyukon Athabascans and Inupiat Eskimos from the Kobuk area. The area generally was used for fishing camps and seasonal camps. There were 12 summer fish camps located on the Yukon River between the Koyukuk River and Nowitna River.

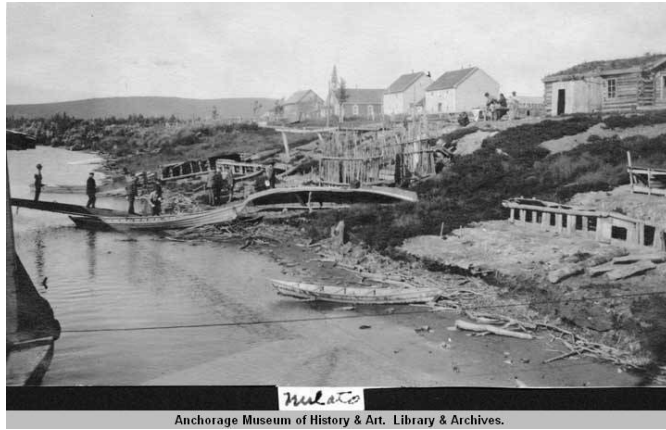


FIGURE 1 NULATO 1910-20, ALASKA DIGITAL ARCHIVES

The historic period at Nulato began with the 1838 establishment of a Russian trading post by the part-Russian Native Malakhov, and the visit of Russian Navy Officer, Lt. Laurynty Alexieff Zagoskin that same year. Located 18 miles below the confluence of the Koyukuk and Yukon Rivers, it was a place traditionally used by Natives in the region for an annual trade fair. The trading post was destroyed by local Natives a couple of times over the following years. In 1842 the post was rebuilt and successfully maintained for ten years, but a surprise attack by Koyukuk Athabascans in 1851 killed most of the local Koyukon Natives celebrating a potlatch in the nearby village and several Europeans at the trading post including the trader and a British Naval Officer, Lt. John J. Barnard, who was searching for the lost Franklin expedition. The reason for the attack likely boiled down to traditional Koyukuk/Koyukon trade rivalries and animosity towards the Russians for attempting a middleman role, and according to Father Jules Jette' (1913) the attack was further agitated by shamans on both sides. Russian traders avoided the Yukon River for over a decade after this, returning only in 1862 with a reduced presence that included resumption of a trading post at Nulato.

The renewed Russian enterprise at Nulato lasted only until 1867 when the United States gave \$7.2 million to the Russian government in return for their rights to the territory. By that time Nulato

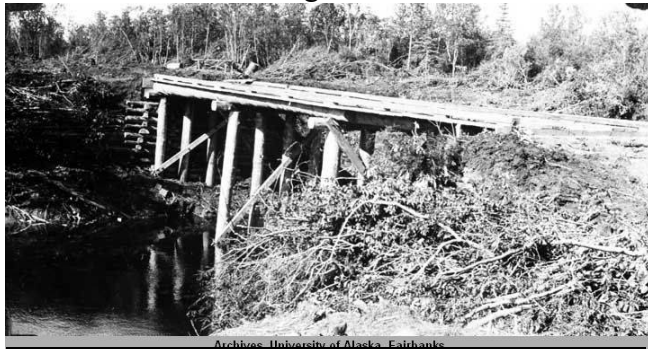


FIGURE 2 MUKLUK SLOUGH 1937, ALASKA DIGITAL ARCHIVES

had witnessed several more historic events. Roman Catholic missionaries coming down the Yukon River from Canada visited Nulato in 1862, establishing contacts which would later develop into a major mission within the church's sphere on the Yukon River.

In 1869, a new trading post location over one mile upstream from the old was established by Hutchinson, Kohl and Company, which eventually became the ACC, or Alaska Commercial Company. Later gold discoveries on the Yukon River drastically increased

commercial river traffic, and Nulato benefited both because it had a developing riverside infrastructure for the riverboat traffic, and because it was a convenient staging area for transferring supplies from the large Yukon riverboats to shallow-draft steamers that could negotiate the lower waters of the nearby Koyukuk River.

In 1877 and 1878, two Catholic priests – Bishop Charles John Seghers and Father J.M. Mandart, wintered at Nulato and started a mission. The Nulato mission ministered to the local Native population. In 1891, a part-time school was started at the Nulato mission for Native children, and in 1899 nuns from Holy Cross arrived to start a full-time day school.



FIGURE 3 NULATO SCHOOL AND MISSION, ALASKA DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Assisted by nuns from the Order of St. Anne, who were based near Montreal, Canada, the Catholic priests of the Society of Jesus helped to educate the Natives of Nulato and to keep social order for many decades. By the end of 1890, the Catholic mission consisted of six Fathers, five Brothers, and three Sisters. Four years before, in 1886, Archbishop Seghers had been murdered near Nulato, and his death galvanized the missionaries into ever-greater zeal.

In 1926, Nulato consisted of a collection of log and frame buildings strung along the bank of the Yukon River from Mukluk Creek downstream to the mission buildings. The village had a doctor, a small hospital, and a territorial marshal. Most of the hill immediately upstream from the village lacked trees. The land had likely been deforested to feed domestic heat and cook stoves -- and before the conversion to oil -- riverboat boiler furnaces. Nulato's cemetery was located on and along the hill upstream from the village.



FIGURE 4 NULATO, 1921, ALASKA DIGITAL ARCHIVES

During the early decades of the 20th century, the Catholic mission at Nulato was home to one or more priests at a time along with nuns who taught at the mission school. The Native villagers who built their homes in Nulato were largely Catholic, a denominational identity that the village retains to this day.

The beginning of modern times at Nulato could be signaled by the decade of the 1950's when the villagers

stopped building grave houses over internments on the bluff, or by the incorporation of the city and creation of a city council government in 1963, or by the initial construction of the new village, one mile inland from the river in 1981.

In the late 1970's the community decided to develop a new townsite in the hills just west of the old townsite. Moving from a flood plain area was the primary motive for the new development. Ice jams and stream overflows cause flooding in the old townsite about every two to three years. By 1978 a health clinic was established at the new townsite and in 1981, large-scale housing construction began. A new school was built in the mid 1970's by the state of Alaska, just a few feet downstream from where the old mission school had once stood. A city operated clinic is located in the new village, as are the offices for the City and Tribal governments. The new village is plumbed for water and sewage systems. The old village, though picturesque, has no running water or sewage disposal system other than the well-tested pit privy, or outhouse. It may be due to the lack of potential for upgrade that many dwellings in the old village are not occupied full-time or maintained. The existing airstrip was built on the hill beyond the village cemetery within the 1950's. Nulato was incorporated as a second-class city in 1963.

LANGUAGE

The language dialect of Nulato is Lower Koyukon Athabascan. The traditional name of their village is Noolaagh Doh, which means "Camp before the dog salmon".

LOCATION, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

Nulato is located in the Nulato Recording District in west-central Alaska. Nulato is located on the west bank of the Yukon River, 35 miles west of Galena and 310 air miles west of Fairbanks. It lies in the Nulato Hills, across the River from the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge at approximately 64.7178° North Latitude and -158.1087° West Longitude.¹ Communities in the vicinity of Nulato include Koyukuk and Galena to the north and Kaltag to the south.

The Nulato community encompasses 42.7 square miles of land and 2.0 square miles of water. It is located on the west bank of the Yukon River in the Nulato Hills. The climate is similar to others places in the interior of Alaska; generally a cold, continental climate with extreme seasonal temperature differences. The average daily maximum temperature during July is in the range of 70 degrees Fahrenheit; the average daily temperature in January is well below zero.

Average precipitation is 15.6 inches, with 74 inches of snowfall annually. The Yukon River is ice-free from mid- May through mid-October.

The vegetation in the area reflects a transition zone between the spruce/birch boreal forest of interior Alaska and the shrub land and tundra common in western and northern Alaska. Lowlands are interspersed

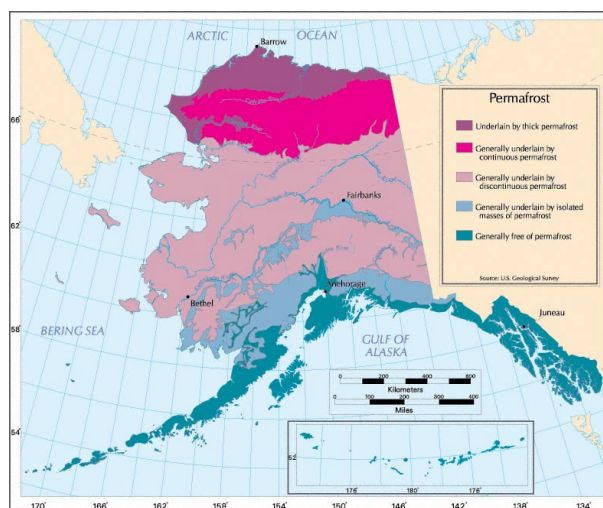


FIGURE 5 NULATO ON THE PERMAFROST CHART

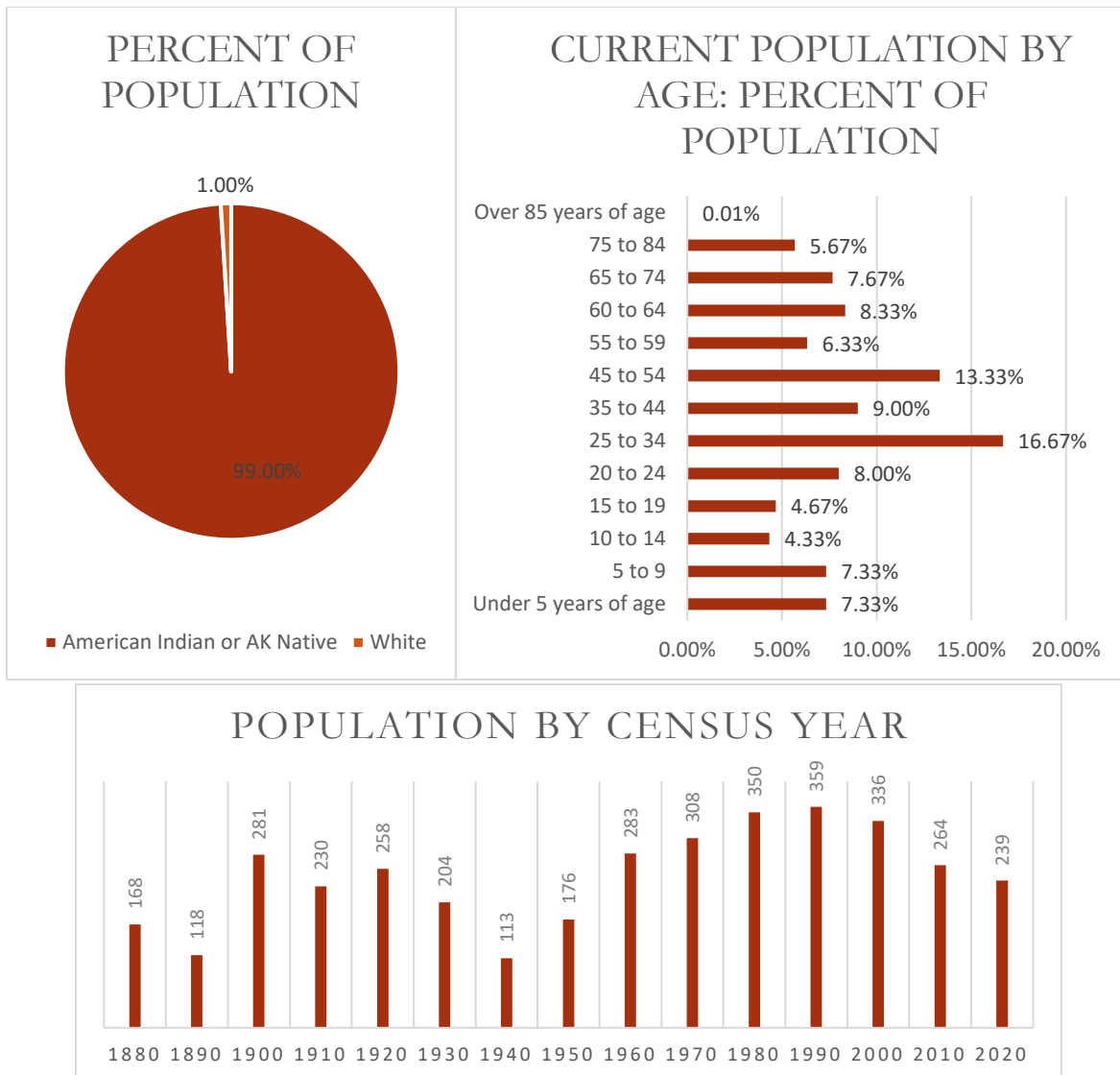
with wetlands, lakes, rivers, bogs, and willow sandbars. Moose, black and grizzly bear, wolves, lynx, wolverine, river otter, beaver, porcupine and occasionally caribou are the primary larger land mammals found in the area. General flooding in the Nulato area has been caused by ice jams. In 2001, ice jams in the middle Yukon River caused flooding in the vicinity of Koyukuk and Nulato. Flooding impacted public water and sewage facilities and some residences in Nulato.

Nulato is underlain by discontinuous permafrost, which is indicated by the variety and growth of black spruce trees in the low areas. In other areas, there are white spruce trees indicating the evidence of adequate soil for development. An abundance of wildlife, fish and berries adds to the subsistence lifestyle around Nulato.

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

In 2020, the population of Nulato was 239. Below is the population by census year (DCRA, 2022). Males make up 48% of the population, whereas females are 52% of the population.



GOVERNANCE

NULATO TRIBAL COUNCIL

One of the main administrative bodies in Nulato is the Nulato Tribal Council is represented by a seven (7) member traditional council, and is recognized by the federal government as the official tribal governing body for the village of Nulato. The council is entrusted with the health, safety, and welfare of the community members.

The Tribal Council is one of the main employers in Nulato. They employee a Tribal Administrator, Tribal Court Administrator, Tribal Court Advocate, Success Officer, Victim Advocate, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, EPA Director, Tribal Clerk, Housing Director, Transportation Coordinator (vacant), Tribal Bookkeeper, Tribal Enrollment Specialist.

The Tribal Council holds seven seats as well as a First Chief and Second Chief. Elections are held during annually during the tribal membership meeting in January. 25% of qualified voters who physically live in Nulato shall be required to hold an election for council positions.

The two governing boards are active in planning economic development projects for the village. Many of the council members are elected to serve on these boards for different terms of service. Training in board functions, finance, planning and implementation would improve board retention rates and reduce burnout of council members willing to serve.

NULATO HILLS ENTERPRISES

Nulato Hills Enterprises, LLC (NHE) was founded in 2014 by the Nulato Tribal Council (a federally recognized tribe located in Nulato, Alaska) to serve as the for-profit entity in which to generate additional revenues and provide employment opportunities to the local Nulato tribal members (Nulato Hills Enterprises, n.d.)

NHE is wholly owned by the Nulato Tribal Council and its main base of operations is located in the community of Nulato, Alaska. NHE is a professional services company that provides the following:

- Transportation Planning and Services
- Language Training Services
- Business and Strategic Planning

Mission of NHE:

To identify and develop the skills of community tribal members and enhance our people, assets and resources through mentoring, training and education to foster and sustain economic development in the community.

Vision of NHE:

To develop self-sustaining opportunities toward self-determination and reinvestment in our community. The vision statement of Nulato Hills Enterprises, LLC was developed by the Nulato Tribal Council to create the vision and purpose of the for-profit company.

NHE Core Values for guidance:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Honesty | • Transparency |
| • Trustworthiness | • Moral/Ethical |
| • Commitment | • Dedication |
| • Hard Work | • Loyalty |
| • Sharing | • Respect |

CITY OF NULATO

Incorporated in 1963, Nulato is a second-class city within an unorganized borough. The City government is comprised of a City Council, headed by a mayor. The City has a council of seven board members who serve three-year terms that are staggered.

The City owns the majority of the land in Nulato and takes care of the water & sewer with an updated Master Plan. They employ a water plant operator, two power plant operators, a janitor, and a city clerk. The City collects bed taxes (5%), 1.075% raw fish tax, tobacco tax.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Nulato has a Village Public Safety Officer “VPSO”; also served by the Alaska State Troopers stationed 35 miles away, in Galena. The current VPSO is on a two-week rotation serving Nulato.

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides Itinerant behavioral health services. Having a VPSO and a permanent behavioral health provider in Nulato greatly benefit the community. Ensuring such support will also enhance the local ability to generally provide for the health, safety and welfare of village residents.

Currently, there are three Community Health Aides working in Nulato. All are local residents and have served in the community for many years. They provide a significant amount of support to the community. Health aides and VPSO’s are first responders in crisis situations.

CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

DOYON, LIMITED

Nulato is part of Doyon Limited, the Alaska Native Regional Corporation for Interior Alaska, established in 1972 under the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA). From provisions under ANCSA, Doyon is entitled to receive approximately 12.5 million acres of land across Interior Alaska, making Doyon the largest private landowner in Alaska. Doyon has, to date, received title to nearly 10 million acres. The land is mainly around the 34 villages within the TCC region. Doyon has over 20,000 shareholders.

DOYON VISION:

Leader in All We Do

DOYON MISSION:

To continually enhance our position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well-being of our shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen our Native way of life, and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

DOYON VALUES:

Financially responsible

Socially and culturally responsibility to Alaska Native people

Pride and respect in Native ownership

Commitment to the long-term

Honesty and integrity

Commitment to excellence

Respect for employees

Commitment to employee safety and sound environmental practices

The ANCSA Village Corporation is Gana-a'Yoo Limited, which represents the four villages of Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag. Gana-a'Yoo's companies focus on Food Service, Janitorial Service, Administrative Services, Construction, Renovation, Facility Support Services, Project and Construction Management, Job Order Contracting, Lease housing and vehicles, and deliver High-Quality Professional Services, Logistics and Technology solutions to the Federal Government and Industry.

Mission:

We are a unique company and people, Heeyegge Hút'aane' ("the people of the land") thriving for thousands of years by adapting to the environment.

Vision:

We continually invest in our people to promote healthy communities as they thrive and prosper

We will make strategic decisions for future growth; targeted gross revenue, operating profit, and return on investment

We will be a global company in diverse markets with a balanced portfolio

We collaborate with companies that share our values and foster our tradition of excellence in service to our customer

We continue to work and communicate guided by our values

Values:

We are respectful of our culture, languages, traditions, and one another

We are trustworthy

We are responsible

We are transparent

We are ethical

Nulato Board of Directors include:

Kimberly Bower – Chair

Sharon Hildebrand – Vice President/Secretary

Joshua Peter – Treasurer

Melissa McGinty - Director

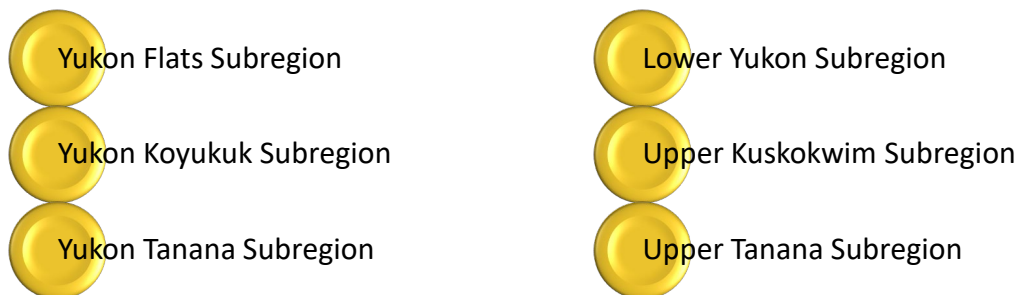
Howard Darling - Director

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Tanana Chiefs Conference was officially formed in 1962 and incorporated under Alaska State Law in 1971. TCC, organized as Dena' Nena' Henash or "Our Land Speaks;" is an Alaska Native nonprofit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional Native unity. TCC 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.

TCC provides services while balancing traditional Athabascan and Alaska Native values with modern demands. TCC's objectives are to provide health, social, and economic services to the native people and villages of interior Alaska, known as the TCC region, using federal, state, and local resources. TCC is comprised of three core departments: Administration, Health Services, and Tribal Client Services.

Within those core departments, TCC offer services in the following categories: Tribal Development; Self Governance; Housing; Public Safety Officer; Natural Resources; Client Development; Elder Nutrition; Employment and Training; Child Development; Child Protection; Head Start; Staff Development; Vocational Rehabilitation; Work Assistance Program and ASAP; Dental; Quality Management; Laboratory; Contract Health; Registration; Environmental Health; Pharmacy; Medical; Family Medicine; Family Medicine RN; Specialty Clinics; Radiology; Community Health Outreach Program; Home Care Provider; Behavioral Health; Old Minto Family Recovery Camp; Psychiatry; SBIRT; Paul Williams House; Community Health Aide Program; Patient Hostel; Eye Clinic; Housing First; Wellness and Prevention; and Willow House.



The Tanana Chiefs Conference region covers an area of 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska, which is equal to about 37 percent of the entire state, and just slightly smaller than the state of Texas. Within our region are six sub regions:

Within our six sub regions are 39 villages, for an approximate population of 6,700. TCC also serve clients in the Fairbanks area.

TCC Board of Directors from Nulato:

Maurice McGinty – Director

Martha Demoski – Alternate Director

Denakkanaaga, meaning “Our People Speak” in Denaakk’e (Koyukon Athabascan), is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that serves as the voice for the Interior Native Elders in the Doyon and Tanana Chiefs Conference region. Denakkanaaga acts on behalf of the elders, working to ensure their concerns are addressed regarding topics such as Native cultures, traditions, languages, subsistence and social issues. As the population over the age of 65 grows within Interior Alaska, Denakkanaaga works with other organizations to maximize efforts to advocate for Native Elders.

Denakkanaaga Core Values/Commitments:

United Voice

Keep Native voices stronger together for positive action

Continue traditions, art, cultural values, language, and subsistence life

Unity among Native organizations and people

Denakkanaaga core programs:

Peer support for each other (elder to elder)

Support/mentor the next generation

Cultural programs

Regional voice on issues/concerns

PUBLIC UTILITIES

WATER & SEWER

Nulato has central water and sewer extended to areas of the village. Service is managed by the City. A piped water and sewer system was completed in 1996 for 53 homes in the new (upper) townsite. These homes have both kitchen and bathroom plumbing. This water is derived from wells and is treated. The remainder of households use some other water collection system (river, cistern, etc.). Eleven unserved residences in the lower townsite haul water from the Blackberry Well or the Water Plant. The households not on the public sewer system have honeybuckets or outhouses at their disposal.

The lagoon is unique among village sewage disposal. The effluent is treated in a lagoon and is then discharged into the natural wetland surrounding the facility for further treatment. Continued filtering of pollutants occurs in the wetland until it can no longer be distinguished from area water.

POWER/ENERGY

Alaska Village Electric Corporation (AVEC) provides electricity. The residential rate is \$0.25 for under 700 K/W, whereas over 700 K/W is \$0.20. AVEC employs two full time plant operators that work two weeks on and two weeks off. To help pay for oil and wood, low-income residents can qualify for energy assistance from Tanana Chiefs Conference.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nulato has both local and long-distance telephone service. Local service is provided by ACS of the Northland and long-distance by AT&T Alascom. Internet service is available at the school, Tribal and city offices, the health clinic, and in some private homes. It is provided by GCI. Dish Network enables residential cable TV on demand.

Residents are able to subscribe to DishNetwork cable stations for individual use. With the increase cost of cable, some current cable subscribers are now leaning towards purchasing internet with internet streaming opportunities, such as Netflix, Hulu, etc.

LAND FILL

The City of Nulato operates a Class III Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, with a projected life span of twenty years. The landfill permit was issued December 2020 and will expire December 2025.

Currently, there is a self-haul system where every household is responsible for hauling their own solid waste because the City does not have transportation to offer that service. The landfill has a burn unit, staffed by volunteers. The landfill is located approximately 1.3 miles from Nulato on the BIA road. It scored an 81% score at its latest inspection in June 2019.

Nulato Tribal Council has received a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Indian Health Services grant for a new landfill FY22. Nulato Tribal Council and the City of Nulato are in the early planning stage of adding the new landfill for Nulato.

BULK FUEL STORAGE

Below is the breakdown of Bulk Fuel Inventory in Nulato (DCRA, 2022)

- Nulato School: 38,000 gallon diesel capacity
- City Old Town: 11,500 gallon diesel capacity
- City New Town WTP: 5,400 gallon diesel capacity
- City Fuel Depot:
 - o 55,400 gallon gasoline capacity
 - o 91,500 gallon diesel capacity
- AVEC Power Plant: 114,800 gallon diesel capacity

HOUSING

CURRENT HOUSING STOCK

According to the US Census Bureau, 2010 Census, single report for American Indians and Alaska Native by tribe, there were 87 housing units in Nulato; up nine from the 2000 Census, which was counted at 78.

The 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates stated there was 89 housing units in Nulato. Of those 99 homes, 81 of them are occupied and 18 of them are unoccupied.

The survey estimates that 40% of the homes in Nulato used fuel oil to heat their homes whereas the other 60% used wood. Since 1972, the majority of occupied houses are fully plumbed and connected to the City's Water and Sewer system.

HOUSING BARRIERS

Nulato has identified many barriers to building your own home in the community. The cost of land, service hook-ups and installations are the responsibility of homeowners:

- Land lots need to be purchased through the City of Nulato
- Water & Sewer service connections to the lots. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) previously installed services, but now it is an added expense
- Homeowner must apply, and have site control
- AVEC installation of service line
- Cost of Housing material
- Prepare the foundation

- Freight cost
- Lack of knowledge of the process
- Homeowner education
- Multiple land owners/heirs

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation, a necessity for village survival, has gone through dramatic changes over the years. Before snow machines, outboard motor and boats, ATVs, and airplanes, the main transportation consisted of walking or running, dog teams, and rowboats.

Today, the state-owned 5,500 feet long x 100 feet wide lighted gravel airstrip provides Nulato with essential air service. The airstrip was constructed in the early 1960s; in 1990, it was extended to one mile to accommodate larger planes for delivery of fuel and other merchandise.

Year round, air transportation is the main transportation mode to and from the village – for people, supplies and mail. Two air services, Everts Air and Wright Air Service offers scheduled flights to Nulato on a daily basis. Wright Air Service freight cost is \$1.01 for 34±lbs.

Other means of transportation in the village include boats, motor skis, snow machines, ATVs, trucks and bikes. The Yukon River acts as a highway in both the summer and winter months connecting the villages for inter-travel, being the cheaper way to travel.

Nulato adopted and implemented a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). According to the Tanana Chiefs Conference Regional Transportation Strategy, there are 203.8 miles of roads in Nulato. The City of Nulato maintains the roads in the summer and winter.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

TRIBAL OFFICE

Nulato’s tribal office was built in the 1990s and is owned by the Nulato Tribal Council. Two toyostoves heat it. In 2011, some rehabilitation work was completed. According to a 2018 survey collected by Tanana Chiefs Conference’s Tribal Development Division, the top renovation needs of the tribal office include leveling the foundation, flooring, new windows, updated electrical, doors, an improved (or new) heating system, windows, a repaired roof, plumbing, and an improved foundation if possible.

CITY OFFICE

The City of Nulato building was built in 1981. It needs foundation leveling, flooring, windows, electrical work, new heating system, as the furnace is outdated.

WASHETERIA

The Washeteria is operated by the City of Nulato with a water plant operator. The washeteria provides five washers, five dryers, two shower rooms. The Washeteria needs renovations, including new showers, new roof, flooring, windows, doors updated.

POST OFFICE

The United States Post Office in Nulato is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm, with window closed from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

COMMUNITY HALL

Nulato is in need of a new community hall, as the current hall sits in the floodplain, threatened by floods every other year. Local members have expressed concerns that the current hall is in poor condition, needing expensive repairs and faces high-energy costs to maintain. There are no restrooms available in the hall. It needs to be renovated to include new electrical work, address air leaks, rotting log.

A new hall is needed that is out of the floodplain, in the new town subdivision. Nulato residents would like to see a new hall that includes restrooms, a kitchen, storage, maintenance room, and a large gathering area. This has been part of Nulato's community plans since 2007.

Nulato plans to apply for funds for construction of a new community hall, recognizes the need of an essential component of individual and community wellness so Nulato can have a central gathering place. Nulato would like to name the new community Hall "Denaa Nonle Ghaadaalne Denh", "a place where we honor the elders". Nulato has submitted a grant through HUD for Indian Community Block Development Grant in 2022 through Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning & Development program.

EDUCATION

ANDREW K DEMOSKI SCHOOL

During the 2022-2023 school year, there are 50 students enrolled in the Andrew K. Demoski School, located on Main Street in Nulato. The school is one of the nine schools that make up the Yukon-Koyukuk School District.

Andrew K. Demoski School provides education to K-12 students with seven teachers. The principal works as both principal and teacher for middle school through high school.

HEAD START PROGRAM

Tanana Chiefs Conference offers a head start program for low-income students of preschool age 0-3 years of age. The yearly enrollment is now at 3-5 students.

Within the region, the Tanana Chiefs Conference provides funding for the local elder lunch program; a HeadStart program; a diabetes prevention program; continuing education and job training; a Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC); funding for respite for the elderly and disabled; and behavioral and physical health programs. A Behavioral Health Aid is needed in the community, but they have been unable to fill this position. Other resources include the Yukon/Koyukon School District which offers an in-school language program. Locally, the Tribe supports a safe house and the City sponsors the Nulato Life Project, a youth program delivered through a state prevention grant.

LAND USE

LAND USE PLANNING

The leadership of Nulato is active when it comes to land use planning. Residents depend heavily on subsistence activities to supplement their food supplies. They hold the preservation of their land and the resources available to them in high regard. Land use planning helps to protect the history of Nulato and plays a significant role in the future expansion of the community.

Nulato does not currently have a land use plan, but with additional planning efforts, they are certainly capable of creating one.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The village of Nulato have been starting to see melting permafrost in the land. Erosion at the riverbank and at the bridge is becoming more of a problem. River temperatures are steadily increasing. Increased temperatures makes moose hunting difficult. The State of Alaska also heavily restricts king salmon fishing throughout the summer, making residents unable to meet their harvesting goals and must rely on other types of foods. Residents are starting to see new plant species unknown around the area. The City of Nulato adopted their Hazard Mitigation Plan in January 2018.

DROUGHT

Seasons have a direct negative impact preventing wild food, fish, or wild game availability for harvesting. This creates a negative impact to essential subsistence requirements.

EARTHQUAKE

Periodic, unpredictable occurrences. The community has experienced numerous slight tremors from close proximity earthquakes. The school is located on an elevated section of the community and experiences more intense shaking than other structures. The worst earthquake experienced was the 1964 Good Friday earthquake where the area experienced severe shaking.

EROSION (RIVERINE)

Occurs during high water events, ice jam scouring, and normal River current flow as the community is located on the outside bend of the termination of the confluence of the Nulato and Yukon Rivers. The City has approximately ½-mile embankment exposure to erosion activity.

FLOOD

Rain, snowmelt, and ice jam flooding occurs during spring thaw. Fall flooding events rarely affect the community. These flood causes also increase the adjacent River's erosion impact along the community's ½-mile embankment. Heavy rain and spring thaw causes High River water which reduces residents' capability to harvest king salmon for subsistence needs.

PERMAFROST

Discontinuous permafrost is present throughout the community. The new town area has approximately 14 homes, which have experienced settling from permafrost thaw. Residents periodically re-level their homes.

WEATHER (SEVERE)

Annual weather patterns, severe cold, freezing rain, and snow accumulations are predominant threats. The snowfall amount directly determines winter weather damages. Less snow causes frost line to deepen, resulting in frozen water and sewer pipes. More snow provides better ground insulation. Severe cold usually occurs during December- January. High winds typically occur from February-March and August- September. August experiences the most rain. Too much rain causes wild game to move to more distant dry ground away from the community, increasing resident travel to harvest subsistence foods. Heavy rain and spring thaw causes High River water, which reduces residents' capability to harvest king salmon for subsistence needs.

WILDLAND FIRE

Historic wildfires occur during the summer dry season (April-October). A 2015 lightning strike caused a wildfire to occur behind the community. This was potentially hazardous as winds are unpredictable. If the wind had shifted, it would have blown the fire directly to the community. Scrub growth and low fuels making the wildfire urban interface quite hazardous surround Nulato.

ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT

This section displays the data collected from the Yukon-Koyukuk (YK) Census area to help identify the economic data, trends and indicators. Unemployment for Nulato in 2015-2019 was 23% (Tanana Chiefs Conference, 2022)

According to the Tanana Chiefs Conference Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the per capita income for Nulato in 2015-2019 was approximately \$20,000 (2022).

As you can see from the charts below, the YK Census area is different from the Tanana Chiefs Conference Yukon-Koyukuk Subregion.

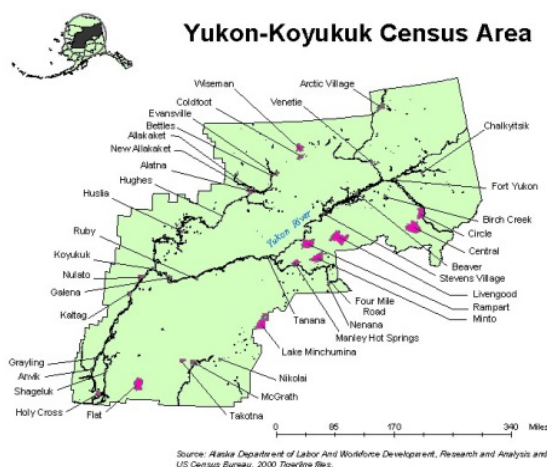


FIGURE 6 Y-K CENSUS AREA

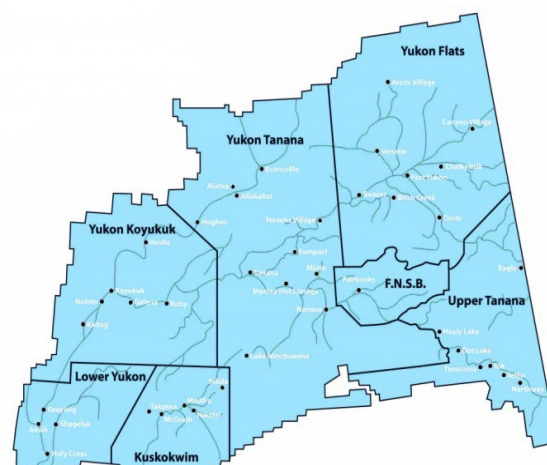


FIGURE 6 TCC SUBREGIONAL AREAS

AVAILABLE JOBS

Jobs in the village are limited to a few full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions; some residents are self-employed.

Full-time employment includes the school principal, teachers, health aides, tribal administrator, wellness coordinator, tribal clerk, tribal executive manager, a counselor, and North Slope oil field workers.

Part-time positions include store clerks, postmaster, janitor/maintenance, water treatment operator, sewerage treatment operator, airport maintenance and land fill operator.

Seasonal employment includes summer youth employment and labor. In the past, there were firefighters.

Self-employed residents sew Native arts and crafts for sale; some sell cords of wood to residents and do odd jobs around town to make cash.

SUBSISTENCE

Nulato residents live a healthy subsistence lifestyle. They harvest moose, bear, fish, beaver, and small game such as ducks, geese, and grouse in the spring and fall. Harvesting berries and wild vegetation is also a large part of their lifestyle to eating healthy. Residents use trails for trap lines and cutting wood in the winter. The tradition is passed down from generation to generation; it is a normal part of the lifestyle. There has been a revitalization of traditional teaching, whereas families are increasingly taking their families out to fish, hunt and gather. The younger generation is stepping up to learn these traditions with mentorship from their parents and families.



FIGURE 8 PHOTO FROM MARTHA TURNER

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Active business licenses in Nulato are (2022):

License #	Business Name	Owner(s)
2144800	Rosa Peter	Rosa Peter
1020383	City of Nulato	City of Nulato
1073402	Kruger's Services	Frederick Kruger
2111032	Patsy Lodging	Lisa Patsy
2131616	Rosa's B&B	Rosa Peter
1025357	Blueberry B&B	Melissa, Maurine, Jolene Twyla, Estelle and Josephine McGinty
2133898	Kruger Rentals, LLC	Shirley & Frederick Kruger
2110340	Nulato River Sport Fish Services	Darrell Hildebrand
2119994	SDA Mercantile	Shelly Agnes
2157183	City of Nulato	Martha Turner
1050911	Patsy Enterprises, LLC	Patsy Enterprises, LLC

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

MEDICAL HEALTH

The village health clinic provides an array of health services. The City of Nulato owns the clinic and staffed by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC). Three health aides provide services that include urgent care, health prevention and public health education. TCC Chief Andrew Isaac Health Clinic (CAIHC) physicians supervise and assist the health aides in providing urgent care, and CAIHC nurses assist the health aides with client medical appointments and follow up.

Some patients can travel to Galena to be seen by their local doctor or referred to Fairbanks for further checkups. Village residents' travel to CAIHC, located in Fairbanks, for advanced health care not provided in the village.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Nulato is working towards organizing and formalizing a response team. Their first step is training and recruiting for different positions, such as Incident Commander, etc. As of now, they have individual residents who step up and volunteer during emergency and rescue services making sure all needs are met. Residents volunteer their personal equipment when needed. Emergency response funding and equipment are needed.

CHURCHES

Within the Old Townsite, land is largely a “patchwork quilt of privately owned land” with residents owning the majority of lots. The local church, which is located in Old Town, is the owner of the lot upon which the church and associated buildings sit.

The missionary activity began in the late nineteenth century and baptisms by missionaries from the Society of Jesus, recorded as early as 1890. The first church was completed in 1932, and replaced by a new one in 1976, still occupied and used.

The current Priest, Father Trinh Tanh, OFM is one of the Franciscan Friars of the Fairbanks Catholic Diocese and lives in Nulato.

COMMUNITY GOALS

HOUSING

Goal: All Nulato residents and families will have affordable, energy efficient homes. They will have their own place to call home.

Objective 1.1: Nulato will expand

- Nulato will create a new subdivision

Objective 1.2: Work with Gan-A'Yoo and City of Nulato to obtain land

Objective 1.3: Conduct housing assessments

Objective 1.4: Potential homebuilders and homebuyers will learn the home buying process

Objective 1.5: Determine financial partners and community based development organizations

Objective 1.6: Work with local utility and service providers to establish service, such as water and electric

Objective 1.7: Hire a grant writing firm to write Indian Community Development Block Grants for housing projects

Objective 1.8: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Individual Sanitation Facilities Scattered Sites Program

YOUTH & ELDER

Goal: Nulato has youth that are confident, educated and empowered leaders

Objective 2.1: Youth are engaged in extracurricular activities

Objective 2.2: Establish peer youth/elders program

Objective 2.3: Start cultural programs

Objective 2.3: Seek funding resources for youth & elder activities



FIGURE 9 PHOTO FROM MARTHA TUNER

Objective 2.4: Seek funding resources for a youth & elders recreational space

EDUCATION

Goal: Local residents are educated and certified to provide local services

Objective 3.1: Seek funds to purchase equipment for distance learning and other educational purposes

- High speed internet and computers

Objective 3.2: Job recruitment/placement training/preparations

Objective 3.3: Firefighting training/EFF

Objective 3.4: VOCED training

Objective 3.5: Local based training opportunities

- “Grow your own”

Objective 3.6: Self-employment business resources

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Goal: All Nulato residents live in a safe and healthy environment with services that are comprehensive and accessible

Objective 4.1: Have education on coping and post trauma skills

Objective 4.2: Work with TCC to obtain Village Peace Officer or Village Public Safety Officer in community.

- Seek grants for VPO/VPSO and housing
 - Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

Objective 4.3: Apply for IGAP grant

Objective 4.4: Establish protocol for crisis and emergency response

Objective 4.5: Establish Memorandum of Understanding or Memorandum of Agreement for family service agencies to partner with

Objective 4.6: Establish health and safety coordinator position

- Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) grant

Goal: Nulato's economy is thriving and residents are employed

Objective 5.2: Seek grants to fund positions

Objective 5.3: Contract with Bureau of Land Management to develop intertribal firefighting cre

- Nulato Hills Enterprises

Objective 5.4: Work with Alaska Laborers Local 942 and International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 to negotiate

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning & Development program worked with Nulato Tribal Council to distribute and collect community feedback survey. Thirty-four surveys were collected. Questions included multiple choice answers (not satisfied, satisfied, very satisfied), open ended to include concerns.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY RESPONSES

The community received feedback surveys, the results are as shown:

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT LIVING HERE?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The land<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Animals○ Subsistence○ Outdoor activities○ Nulato River○ Fresh air• Safety• Housing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ No rent• Events<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New Year | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Potlatches• Transportation• Cultural activities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sewing• Community<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Supporting one another○ Services○ Nobody goes hungry○ Close knit○ Events/Gathering |
|--|---|

MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNITY INCLUDE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outmigration<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Losing population, school enrollment• Lack of housing• Projects getting put on hold• Getting people to help• Little communication between organizations• Lack of year round job opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outmigration – population decreasing• Expensive cost of living• Substance abuse: alcohol and drug problems• Utility problems• Not enough activities for everyone• No public transit system• Lack of land and lots to build on |
|--|---|

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN NULATO WITHIN 5 YEARS?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substance abuse problems addressed<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Close the liquor store• New businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More and improved housing• Improved utilities – homes receive upgraded water systems |
|---|---|

- Cost of living decrease
- More income
- Youth activities
- Traditional Activities
- More Community support – mental health support
- Road maintenance

FACILITIES

Nulato residents would like to see new facilities, such as: recreational center, community hall, church, grocery store, solar powered homes and facilities, exercising facility with cardio machines, swimming pool, weights, elders home, upgraded water and sewer, internet infrastructure, private space to hold tribal court.

Renovations are requested at the current tribal office and laundromat

HOUSING

Nulato residents feel that housing is an important part of their community.

- Residents have concerns regarding general housing in Nulato are:
 - Hard for families to move home and not have a place to stay, no assistance for people who built their own homes, needing more grant funds for new home construction, overcrowding, homes need work such as leveling, replacing doors, windows, foundation, water pipes, homes need renovations, vacant homes can be bought or rented,
- Primary concerns regarding their housing are:
 - Rehabilitation (10), weatherization (10), cost of living (4), lack of space (7), lack of land and lots to build (2), no water or sewer service (3) , needing new stove pipes (1), mold (1), safety (7), overcrowding (7), high energy cost (11)
- Respondents would like to see these types of housing built in the community:
 - Single family (17), rentals (6) , duplex (5), elder housing (12)

TRANSPORTATION

Nulato residents feel that transportation is also an important part of their community:

Residents have concerns regarding transportation in their community:

- Road safety (10), dust control (28), fuel prices (21), poor road maintenance (14), airfare/flights (11), freight costs (14), drunk drivers (7)

Residents were asked what transportation needs they would like to see addressed:

- New equipment to maintain roads, community owned air service and building, school bus to operate, high airfare costs, residents with CDL, more gravel access, elders having transportation, public transit, fuel be freighted from the Seward Peninsula coast,

CULTURE & TRADITION

Residents believe these cultural activities are most important in the community, and participate in:

- Fishing, hunting, having potlatches, berry picking, trapping, culture camps, Heeyo (stickdance), language speaking, need to bring back snowshoe making, building fishwheels, smokehouses and knife making, sewing, beading, storytelling, teaching others how to harvest, fiddle dancing, men groups, passing cultural traditions down to younger generations

Most community residents feel that these activities are important and take part in them when available or offered.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Residents were asked what were the main health and wellness issues in Nulato:

- Alcohol, drug addictions, lack of physical activities, tobacco use, poor diet, poor mental, emotional and social health, obesity, domestic violence, allergies to dust, need for treatment for residents, health aides need modes of transportation, mens mental health, asthma, no fitness/recreational center

People would like to see these activities in Nulato:

- Teaching youngsters how to trap, alcohol awareness and education, activities for families, youth activity center, walking, healthier foods, mental health problems addressed, yoga, sewing nights, summer basketball, summer soccer, wellness meetings, fishing, musical lessons, swimming pool, snowshoe making, running marathons, cultural and traditional activities, prevention walks, learning to harvest

PUBLIC SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT

Most residents feel safe most of the time, but feel that the community would benefit from having a Village Public Safety Officer and by closing the liquor store.

ECONOMY

Residents stated that the main economy challenges in the community are:

- Only having one store
- Hard to retain workers
- High cost of living

Most residents spend their money in the local store rather than shopping online or buying/shipping groceries from Fairbanks.

Residents believe that there are too few year round employment opportunities. Suggestions for creating more opportunities include:

- Applying for grants to create jobs
- Encouraging youth to maintain jobs
- Build better office spaces and homes
- Employment outreach
- Hiring locally
- Economic development strategies with Nulato Hills

Residents would be open to support these opportunities in Nulato:

- Tribally owned store – groceries and hardware
- Small businesses
- Food service businesses – coffee shop, café, restaurant,
- A cultural museum
- Day care
- Auto shops

Residents believe training and education opportunities would help prepare residents for the workforce:

- Hazmat training
- Union apprenticeships – laborers and heavy equipment, carpentry, electrical, heating and plumbing
- Vocational training
- Workshops – resume building, grant writing, counseling
- Technical education – computers, internet

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Respondents feel that these are issues regarding youth & education

- Not enough discipline
- Not enough activities or space to do activities
 - Suggested activities: sledding parties, camping trips, playing outside, build a recreational center
 - Teaching general skills – cooking, baking, bookkeeping, accounting courses,
 - Teaching them outdoor skills – plants, animal behavior, water sources, survival skills, hunting, fishing activities
- Need counseling

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The main utility problems in the community include:

- Landromat needs renovations
- Needing own electrical provider
- Needing running water downtown where it is unserved
- High cost of living – utilities

Ideas to address these concerns:

- Washer and dryers for homes
- Water resources in case of fire emergencies - & a fire hall
- Improved street lights – LED
- More work on elder homes
- Tribally owned and operated library

LAND & ENVIRONMENT

Main issues regarding land and environment include:

- Residents needing to be more respect for the land
- Shortage of land for purchase
- Climate change effects
- Loose dogs get into the dump
- Tribe does not own enough land to build on
- Fish disaster

Recommendations to solve land problems:

- Bury the old dump and build new landfill
- Clean up lands through Brownfield grants

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