

the council

Dena' Hena' Hénash • Our Land Speaks

Vol. 48, No. 06

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

June 2023

Revitalizing The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission



The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITFC) held a quorum for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The YRITFC is comprised of 28 villages along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers who work together to develop recommendations for fishery management, and to develop positions on other relevant fisheries issues for the upcoming season and in the fall post-season.

This year, the YRITFC was held May 2-4 in Fairbanks, where the commission

experienced record attendance. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Commission to reconvene, reassess and revitalize their strategy toward protecting, conserving, and restoring subsistence fisheries resources.

The atmosphere, while serious, was also reunion-like and the exchanges jovial and communal. The message and the mission of Indigenizing Alaska's rivers in order to save the salmon and the subsistence hunting lifestyle was universal. Janessa Newman,

Tanana Chiefs Conference's (TCC) Tribal Resource Stewardship Program (TRSP) Outreach Coordinator, called the audience in during an exercise where attendees were tasked with re-appointing the river units in ways that consider the villages' locations as opposed to the state's designations. "Unlearning government-assigned regions and re-visiting traditional ways of communicating along and about the river is how we are defining our assignments," she asserted. There will be 9

Continued on page 3

Submit Your Graduation Photos

Tanana Chiefs wants to feature our 2023 Graduates! Submit your information and photos to be featured in our newsletter.

The deadline to submit is Friday, June 9th.

Submit your entry here:

<https://tinyurl.com/GraduationTCC>



SCAN ME!



**In This
Issue:**

**Housing First
Expansion**
Page 4

**Gathering of
Remembrance**
Page 5

**Crime Victims
Candlelight Vigil**
Page 7

**Interior Villages
Flooding Response**
Page 11

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/Gwichyaa Zhee
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,

As many of you may already know, last month TCC officially saw its last occupant at the Willow House, previously a patient hotel, in order to make room for the expanded Housing First services. I know that many people have had questions regarding this decision and are concerned about TCC's capacity to house patients coming in to Fairbanks for medical services. I want to assure you that we did not rush this decision and have taken precautionary measures to ensure that patients have access to lodging when traveling to Fairbanks.

On average, the Willow House has only 10-12 rooms being occupied per night. Many patients declined to stay at the Willow House mainly due to concerns over its location – being on South Cushman and its distance from the hospital and clinic. Meanwhile, Housing First has had great success over the years in housing our homeless population, with some even able to achieve sobriety. With the waitlist for Housing First up to 300 people, it was clear that there was greater need to expand our Housing First services.

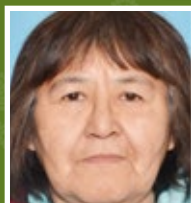
TCC has agreements in place with several local hotels to ensure that we have rooms blocked for patients through our Patient Travel Division. This means that if the Bertha Moses Patient Hostel (BMPH) is unable to house all patients – we will have alternative options available. The reserved hotel rooms combined with current lodging available at the BMPH will provide more than triple the amount of rooms normally utilized at the Willow House. In addition to this, we are in discussion regarding long-term options to better meet the need for patient housing in Fairbanks and are hiring a Patient Travel and Lodging Manager to ensure continuity and coordination between our Patient Travel and Patient Housing efforts.

Finally, last month TCC's internal Emergency Response Team responded to several floods that occurred in our region – including significant flooding that happened in Circle. TCC worked closely with Tribes to ensure that they had the supplies and support that they needed. I would like to take a moment to recognize the Tribal leadership in Circle for their amazing efforts in evacuating their tribal members swiftly and safely. Their responsiveness ensured that people stayed safe and secure in a situation that could have been far more dangerous had they not been prepared.

Mahsi' Choo,
Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman



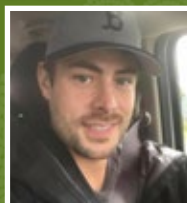
MISSING PERSONS



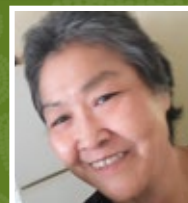
Lorraine Ginnis



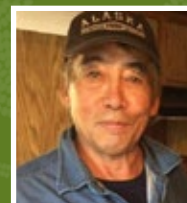
Willis Derendoff



Doren Sanford



Debbie Nictune



Frank Minano

**SUBMIT TIPS
ANONYMOUSLY:**
Text AKTIPS followed by your
tip to 84711 or visit [https://
dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips](https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips)



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.

Revitalizing The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

territories representing 51 tribes in the Yukon River Drainage System – Alaska Side. Currently, 20 of those tribes are active members of the YRITFC.

Jonathan Samuelson, Chair of the Kuskowkim River Intertribal Fish Commission reiterated this point, “We have to wipe our slate clean, rely on our relationships with each other, and decolonize this process in order for this to work,” he said.

The next objective for the YRITFC is recruiting non-participating tribes to submit resolutions to join the commission.

Additionally, the Commission elected their new Executive Council.

The new YRITFC is as follows:

- YRITFC Chair: Karma Ulvi of Eagle (Term expires 2026)
- YRITFC Vice-Chair: Bradley Painter of Grayling (Term expires 2026)
- Territory 2: James Landlord of Mountain Village (Term expires 2025)

- Territory 4: Percy Loinitz of Koyukuk (Term expires 2025)
- Territory 5: Speedy Sam of Huslia (Term expires 2026)
- Territory 6: Charlie Wright of Rampart (Term expires 2025)
- Territory 7: Michael Peter of Fort Yukon (Term expires 2026)
- Territory 8: Chaiy Albert of Northway (Term expires 2025)

The Commission's newly elected Chair, Karma Ulvi from Eagle, aims to work with TCC staff and the Commissioners from the villages to nurture a strong organization that will collectively pursue initiatives that advocate for a traditional lifestyle.

“Our people have been living on these lands for thousands of years and have



managed these salmon stocks by only taking what we need,” she says, “Now our salmon are declining and not returning to the spawning ground and we need to understand why and how to fix that.”

Karma also serves as the Chair of her local Fish and Game Eagle Advisory Council and has a seat on the Bycatch Advisory Council. She says she is very honored to be elected as Chair of the YRITFC.



If you have questions about the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, please contact the Tribal Resource Stewardship Program at (907) 452-8251, ext. 3109, or by email at TRSP@tananachiefs.org.



Meet Neeka Our New Officer

Last month, Tanana Chiefs Conference's Tribal Peace Officer Program acquired a K-9 to join their ranks- a male Belgian Malinois who will be available to patrol here in Fairbanks and in Interior villages alongside his handler, Tribal Peace Officer Derek Atteberry. TCC staff were asked to vote on a new name for the K-9, and after two rounds of voting, a name was officially chosen - Neeka. The name Neeka comes from a Slavic origin that means “bringing victory.”

The duo will be stationed out of Fairbanks but can travel to all villages as requested. Officer Atteberry was chosen to be Neeka's handler after interviewing for the Tribal Peace Officer position and being asked during the interview to be a handler. TCC is honored to have both Officer Atteberry and Neeka serving our Tribes and helping to keep our communities safe.

Tribes requesting Neeka's service in their community are encouraged to contact Darrell Hildebrand, Public Safety Manager, at 907-452-8251 ext. 3269.

TCC Expands Housing First Program To Offer More Housing Options for the Fairbanks Homeless Population

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) will be expanding their Housing First program to better meet the needs of Interior's homeless population. Housing First is an innovative supportive housing program that provides housing regardless of a person's substance use problems. It is a program that is used across the nation and has demonstrated that it is much easier for people to work on issues, such as alcohol misuse, when they have stable housing.

Since its opening in 2012, the Housing First program has been successful in providing safe housing for the vulnerable homeless population in Fairbanks. Currently, there are 300 people on the waitlist for Housing First but only 39 rooms are available for rent. The expansion will take over rooms in the Willow House, previously a patient hotel owned by TCC, which is located in the same building as Housing First – which will increase room availability to 76 rooms.

“Here at TCC we believe in treating everyone with kindness and empathy

– this includes our vulnerable and homeless populations,” said Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, “For many, sobriety is difficult to achieve without the stability of basic needs – including housing. The expansion of Housing First will have a positive impact on the lives of those in our community and we are proud to be able to provide that support.”

The Willow House housed their last patient on May 3, 2023. Moving forward, patients of TCC who are in Fairbanks to receive services will be able to utilize the Bertha Moses Patient Hostel (BMPH). BMPH was recently remodeled to provide a comfortable and convenient location for patients and end of life housing that is within walking distance of both the Chief Andrew



Isaac Health Center and the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Additionally, TCC has agreements with several hotels in Fairbanks to offer alternative room options for patients.

TCC's Patient Travel team will be working closely with patients to ensure that they have a place to stay when traveling to Fairbanks for medical care. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Patient Travel directly at 907-451-6682 ext.3711.

Have Your Medication Mailed to You!

Download the Refill Pro App or call the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Pharmacy at 907-451-6682.

RefillPro App Directions



Step 1 - Select the Pharmacy

Once downloaded, select the pharmacy by entering the phone Number: 907-459-3807. It will take you to the Refill pro Tanana Chiefs Conference home page. To order refills select “order refills” button.



Step 2 - Enter the Prescription

Enter the prescription number which is located on the medication bottle highlighted in yellow. Ignore any letters in the RX number. You can also scan the prescription bottle label barcode as shown.



Step 3 - Prescription Status

There will be a green checkmark if the prescription is refillable. If the prescription is not active it will indicate that with a red X and give you details on why the prescription is not refillable.



Step 4 - Set Delivery Method

Be sure to indicate whether you would like the prescription mailed or picked up. You can do so by leaving a comment on the order.

Find the complete guide by scanning QR code



If you have any questions, please call the pharmacy at (907) 451-6682 ext. 3620

Gathering of Remembrance of Missing and Murdered

On May 5th, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and the Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) hosted the Annual Gathering of Remembrance, which honors the memory of victims of unsolved homicides in the Fairbanks area and missing and murdered indigenous people.

The event started at the William Woods Centennial Bridge where native leaders, law enforcement officials and community members all came together to honor the memory of the missing and murdered. The Gathering of Remembrance has been held annually in Fairbanks for many years and was first initiated by the late Shirley Dementieff and centered on the previously unsolved murder of Sophie Sergie, whose case finally received a conviction in 2022 after 29 years. The annual rallies for Sophie eventually broadened to include all cases of unsolved homicide in the Fairbanks area.

"Today we gather to remember those we loved and lost and those who remain missing," said Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, TCC, "We stand together

to raise awareness on the epidemic of our Alaska Native people who have fallen victim to violence."

People throughout the crowd held signs with names on them...Henry Luke, Davis Elia, Wilfred Charlie, Lorraine Englishoe Ginnis...all names of the unsolved missing and murdered cases. The names included 38 unsolved murder cases of all races and the names of 32 missing indigenous people.

"We are here today to say aloud the names of the missing and murdered indigenous in our small community," said Shirley Lee, Strategic Development and Justice Director, FNA, "Behind each name is a life story; a child, an artist, a musician, a grandfather. Behind each name is a mystery not yet solved."

After singing, drumming and prayers, flowers were thrown over the bridge into the Chena River in memory of the victims. The event continued at the



Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall where law enforcement representatives from the Fairbanks Police Department, the Alaska State Troopers and District Attorney Joe Dallaire shared updates and their commitment to working with the native community on these issues.

TCC would like to say Mahsi' Choo to everyone who made this event possible and to our law enforcement representatives who joined us in native singing, dancing and stayed late to help clean the hall and talk to the families of the missing and murdered. We appreciate you.

TCC would like to remind everyone that there are still several missing indigenous people in the Fairbanks area. If you know someone please contact law enforcement or submit a tip anonymously at <https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips> or by texting AKTIPS to 84711.



June Head Start News

Did you know Head Start provides the following program components?

- **Education:** We provide a variety of learning experiences to help children grown intellectually, socially and emotionally.
- **Health:** We help families get the health services they need, such as immunizations, dental, medical, mental health and nutrition services. Our yearly screenings can also help with early identification.
- **Nutrition:** Head Start is required to serve children 2/3 of their daily caloric intake in a 6hr per day classroom.
- **Parent Involvement:** We try to involve parents in the planning and implementation of activities. Our parents can serve on the parent committees or policy council and help make administrative decisions. They can provide suggestions for family socials and offer feedback on what

works for them and their family. They can also volunteer in our classrooms.

- **Social Services:** We provide outreach to families to determine what services they need.

Stay tuned for more Head Start facts.

We are currently enrolling children for our 23-24 school year. If you have a child under the age of 5 that you'd like to be enrolled please contact Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998 for more information.

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 Waverly. She's

happy to assist. Please contact Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998 for ways to sign up.

Head Start has positions open in the following villages:

Head Start has positions open in the following villages: In Allakaket, Grayling, Holy Cross and Huslia we have Family Visitor positions available. In Grayling and Nulato we have Preschool Lead Teacher positions available. In Grayling, Nenana, Tok and Tanacross we have Preschool Assistant Teacher positions available. In Nenana we have Infant/Toddler Teacher positions as well as an Early Head Start Cook position available. In Nenana, Nulato and Tok we have Substitute Teacher positions available. 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.

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 Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998 for more information.

Salmon in the Trees

By Michelle Quillin

Fish and rivers play a vital role in nutrient distribution. Tree growth can be almost completely dependent on fish, especially in areas where soil nutrition is low. Young salmon swim out to the ocean where they spend their adult life growing and getting bigger. Salmon build muscle swimming around in the vast ocean avoiding predators and finding food. They store enough fat needed to survive their journey back to the stream they were born in. Salmon carry considerable quantities of nitrogen and phosphor.

During the salmon run, hungry hunters line the streams. When salmon are abundant, bears will selectively eat the fattiest parts of the salmon and leave behind the rest of the carcass. The discarded carcasses give opportunities to other wildlife, such as wolves, fox, birds of prey, and various insects. Wildlife

help spread the salmon carcasses further into the forest, and the leftovers help fertilize the soil. Nitrogen is also spread through feces expelled from wildlife. Over 70% of nitrogen along streams comes from the ocean, which is transported by the salmon.

How do we know this? The key is nitrogen 15 (N15), a rare stable isotope of nitrogen. Here in the Pacific northwest, N15 is found almost exclusively from the ocean or in fish who have spent time there. So finding evidence of N15 in plants allows us to make a direct connection back to salmon. Trees eagerly wait to absorb N15 from the soil through their roots. Not all of the nutrients are absorbed, some of it flows back into the stream and back out to the ocean, where tiny organisms wait for their shipment of food.

The growth rings in trees are a historical archive of everything the tree experienced throughout its lifetime, narrow tree rings for years of drought and wider rings for years of ample rain fall, so of course, you can also work out the amount of nutrients available to that tree. So there is a direct connection to the number of fish in earlier times, and the amount of that special isotope N15 found in wood, and that's how core samples from trees give us information of how many salmon once swam in our streams. As we know, salmon have declined dramatically over the last 100 years and there are many streams in North America that don't have salmon left at all. If tree growth rings are a historical archive of information, so are the logs in our people's caches, sod houses, smoke houses, and log cabins.



National Crime Victims Candlelight Vigil

Last month, Fairbanks Native Association's Community Services and the Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Government and Justice Division hosted a candlelight vigil and tree ceremony in honor of National Crime Victim's Week that occurred April 23rd-29th. Ribbons, candles and event T-Shirts were available for attendees at the event.

Candles were lit in honor of those who have been murdered, gone missing, or otherwise victimized. After different colored ribbons were tied to trees in front of the Chief Peter John Tribal Building.

The colors of the ribbons signify:

- Homicide – Black
- Kidnapping – Yellow
- Domestic Violence – Purple
- Sexual Assault – Teal
- Human Trafficking – Navy Blue
- Assault & Boarding School survivors – Orange
- Hate Crimes – White
- Child Abuse – Light Blue
- Robbery – Green
- MMIP – Red



Tribal Social Services Training

Last month, Tribal Family Youth Specialists, Tribal Court Clerks, Tribal Court Judges, and acting Tribal Family Youth Specialists attended a two and a half day training hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Tribal Social Services (TSS) program.

Dr. Linda Chamberlain opened the training with a keynote sharing her knowledge concerning how stress and trauma are stored in the body and shared strategies and practices that promote healing. Her message of hope was uplifting and the participants had fun practicing some of the body regulation techniques.

Following the keynote were Dr. Chamberlain's workshops where participants learned self-care techniques and how to prevent various traumas from exposure to suffering and challenges while working in an emotionally demanding line of work.

In addition, the training also covered topics such as: coping skills for youth and parents, community and TCC resource panels, case management, initiating Tribal and state child welfare cases, on-going support to children and their families, case planning, and foster care licensing. The training ended with a facilitated painting activity for self-care and appreciation for our rural staff! TSS would like to thank Dr. Chamberlain for the learning opportunity and for all the staff who participated.

TCC Achieves AAAHC Accreditation

In March, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Medical division received another 3-year accreditation through the Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) following an onsite survey that was conducted in February.

Accreditation distinguishes our organization from many other outpatient

facilities by demonstrating our provision of the highest quality of care to our patients as determined by an independent, external process of evaluation.

"You all are fantastic! We don't see this in every organization. You truly care about everything that you do for your community," said one of the

AAAHC representatives during closing comments.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the daily hard work, dedication and support of all of our staff here at TCC. AAAHC accreditation demonstrates your commitment to safe, high-quality patient care.



Community Spotlight: Sharon McConnell

Sharon McConnell, Denakkanaaga's current Executive Director, was recently interviewed by the National Academy of Television, Arts & Science (NATAS) for a program that will be shown during the 50th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards. She is one of two Alaskans that will be featured as a trailblazing broadcaster of diversity from the Northwestern states. McConnell has devoted her entire career to working on behalf of the Alaska Native community; educating the general public about Native issues and advocating for Native people through her various work in communications and senior management.

"This recognition by the Emmys of being a trailblazing broadcaster in Alaska is a great honor. I remember at an early age growing up in the small village of Bettles (located in the Brooks Range above the Arctic Circle) that I wanted to work in some capacity on behalf of our Native people," McConnell remembers, "I would grab my hairbrush and practice my 'broadcasting voice' in front of the mirror." McConnell started her career in journalism after she graduated high school early at 17.



McConnell moved to Anchorage when she was 20 to pursue her career further and started working at KIMO, a top-rated television station in the 70s. There, she was the first Alaska Native news anchor when television was introduced statewide in Alaska. "When I started at KIMO and anchored the Alaska Statewide Newscast; which was aired on RATNET (Rural Alaska Television Network), there were still four time zones in Alaska. It was the era of getting stories from the Associated Press, having to use film to record stories, and having national sport games mailed to the station to be aired a week later." During her time at KIMO, she also worked on the weekly public affair show, "Alaska's People".

Prior to working in television, she has worked in print media with the Tundra Times, and radio broadcasting with KIAK FM in Fairbanks. Her television and film work includes hosting and producing public broadcasting style programs and documentaries under her own late production company, Blueberry Productions; hosting the "Wellness Edition of Native America Calling" and for 30 years, she was the host for the live

broadcast of the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention. McConnell has also worked with Doyon, Limited in the past on a monthly segment, "Dialogue with Doyon", which featured the late Morris Thompson, former Doyon CEO, along with shareholders and staff. Through her work, she was able to attend the Sundance Film Festival as a Native producer, and received training through the Native America Public Telecommunications Network at WGBH in Boston, Massachusetts.

"I have worked all my life to ensure our Native people have a voice - not only to tell their stories, but also to record our Native way of life and history," she says, "I've been blessed to interview and meet so many inspiring people who work on behalf of our Native people."



Congratulations CHAP Session IV Graduates!

Last month, Susan Dayton from Koyukuk and John Dyer from Manley graduated the Community Health Aide Program's (CHAP) Session IV training. Session IV is the second-to-last training that Health Aides must pass before becoming a fully licensed Community Health Aide Practitioner. Each module requires months of study and clinical trainings. TCC is proud of our newest Session IV graduates and thankful to them for their service to their communities!

Of her years spent as a CHAP, Susan says that her love of helping people is what has guided her. "I love working in the healthcare field," she says, "There is something about helping people that brings my spirits up and makes me feel accomplished." She enjoys the calm and quiet of living in Koyukuk, and says it's a great place for her children to grow up.

Please join us in congratulating both of our Session IV graduates!



Emerging Leader Spotlight: Millena Jordan

Millena Jordan has learned many valuable lessons throughout her journey as an Emerging Leader and has created a solid foundation for herself. She joined the Emerging Leaders in 2018, and at 23 years old, she has been empowering and equipping youth for the past five years. She is the daughter of Charlie Nations Jordan Sr. and Desiree Andon, and is an enrolled, descended Tribal member from Rampart and Tanana. Her paternal grandparents are Ada Jordan (Evans) and the late Fredrick Lee Jordan; and her maternal grandparents are Barbara Andon (Billy) and Donald George Andon Jr.



Throughout her journey, she has cultivated meaningful friendships, inspiring networks of friends and family, and shared passions for community enrichment and growth with her fellow Emerging Leaders. "Growing up in Tanana and on the Yukon, I experienced a life of subsistence, hard work, and

work ethic in the dog yard and at fish camp," Millena says, "I learned many things at a young age that molded my values and aspirations for what I wanted to offer in helping my people and community."

Millena's goals as an Emerging Leader have been to provide a brave voice for youth, and to be able to provide safe spaces for youth to emerge into the difficult world of adulthood. Personally, she sought to learn the tools to help guide and enrich futures of youth so that they may in-turn help their people. She credits her experiences with Emerging Leaders for her ability to reach heights she previously had not believed were attainable. For example, Millena has spent the last five years working with Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) to collect and curate a catalog of elders' warnings about the decline of salmon culture along the river. "Time and time again, hearing the same dialogue of

loss is heart wrenching, but recognition is what needs to be demanded," she says, "The pain cannot be erased and it needs to be recorded and documented for our future." Millena aims to achieve this with her work in documentary filmmaking for both educational and broadcast purposes.

As she approaches the end of her tenure as an Emerging Leader, her message to youth is to embrace the future. "You never know where life is going to take you," she says as she recalls living in Austria as an exchange student and being one of the first graduates of Rampart School in over 15 years. "Take pride in the little things, celebrate all of your accomplishments even if it's in silence," she advises.

Of her years in service to the Emerging Leaders, she says, "Ana basee," and we ask that you join us in extending a warm mahsi'choo to Millena for her efforts and hard work in enhancing the landscape of the future youth!

Telehealth Is Here to Stay

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted nearly every person across the world. Telehealth has been in the healthcare industry for years and has proved itself as a way to deliver quality and accessible healthcare anywhere.

Nearly three years after, May 11th marked the official end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. During these three years, the healthcare industry embraced and perfected the delivery of healthcare through telehealth.

"They didn't skip a beat," says Kayleigh DeFoore, Director of Telemedicine at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. "Telehealth became a regular way to 'see' patients and is a fan-favorite for many beneficiaries who have come to prefer this convenient way to have an appointment."

For Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, sub-regional clinics, and villages with adequate internet connectivity without a health aide, here's how telehealth will work moving forward:

Connecting will be easier. Patients will receive an email with a one-click link to connect to their appointment via athenaTelehealth. This will remove the multiple step process once required to download, schedule, and use Zoom for patients. With one click on your phone or computer, you will be able to connect to your health provider from anywhere. Video will be the required standard for telehealth appointments. In the past, most telehealth appointments have been via telephone. We know change is hard, but with this easier technology, it will be a smooth transition. A face-to-face connection is simply better health care. You are seeing and talking to your provider, and they will see you too. The human connection is not lost.

Video telehealth appointments are never going to replace in-person appointments completely, but there are many instances where video telehealth can conveniently address your needs.

For more information about whether telehealth is a good fit for your next

appointment, call Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Central Scheduling at 1-800-478-6682 or 907-451-6682, option 1 and ask if a video telehealth appointment will work for you.

What you Need for a Video Telehealth Appointment

1. Internet or Cellular Data
2. Phone, Computer, or laptop with a camera and speaker
3. A quiet place where you can talk with your medical professional privately with no distractions.
4. In general, if you can video chat with family and friends or stream Netflix/Hulu on your phone or computer, athenaTelehealth could be a perfect fit for you.

A Bright Future For Hughes

Solar Power in the Interior

The village of Hughes was able to run its grid on strictly solar power for a five-hour span of time last month. On Tuesday, April 18th, from 2:30 PM to 7:50 PM the town of Hughes was silent. The ever present rumbling of the diesel generators that provide light and power to the community was absent and no exhaust was billowing from the stacks. Shortly after, First Chief Wilmer Beatus of Hughes called TCC's Infrastructure Division Director, Dave Messier, saying, "Hey Dave the generator's aren't running, but the lights are still on, is this thing working?" Despite the power plant being silent all the lights were on in town and the village switchgear showed 480Volts of AC power at a smooth 60 Hz being sent out to the village electric grid. Electricity generated from the community's 120kw solar array and 356kwh battery system were providing the Village of Hughes with 100% renewable energy for over 5 hours.

This isn't the first time the community has achieved "diesels off" status; they ran in that mode for well over 200 hours during the summer of 2022. The project began in late 2016 when the Hughes Village Council, with support from the Tanana Chief Conference Energy program, was awarded funding from the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy. Over the following 5 years, TCC and the community of Hughes spearheaded the state's first high penetration solar PV-diesel system, learning many

important lessons along the way that have fed directly into the success of similar projects in the Northwest Arctic Borough. During the Summer of 2022, Hughes was able to successfully prove that when the sun is shining, this system can provide the entire community's electric load with solar and battery power and fully "form the grid" with no diesel generators running. Last year the solar panels in Hughes produced over 44,000 kWh which displaced nearly 10% of the electricity generated over the course of the year, allowing for tremendous savings and reduced reliance on imported diesel fuel. To be precise: 3820 gallons of diesel were avoided. "TCC is confident we can more than double the solar PV produced with some ongoing modifications to the microgrid controller," says Eddie Delamary, TCC's Rural Energy Specialist.

The successes in Hughes have led TCC to work with additional communities across the interior in seeking state and federal funds to pursue the same type of diesel-PV-battery system in similar, isolated electrical grids across the Interior as we work hard to ensure the momentum continues. All the while the community members of Hughes will continue to enjoy the tranquil moments of silence as the solar array and batteries work to provide Hughes with the resilience needed for life along the Koyukuk River.



TCC Recognized at Fairbanks Symposium on Opioids

This month, Tanana Chiefs Conference received two awards during the Fairbanks Symposium on Opioids, hosted by the City of Fairbanks.

Chief Brian Ridley accepted the Shared Paths Blanket Award which celebrates collaboration, unity and shared commitment to a common goal. TCC received the award for demonstrating unwavering commitment to a shared vision of a successful community that provides safety, care, and opportunity for all its members.

On behalf of TCC's Behavioral Health Aide Program, Ginessa Sams, Behavioral Health Director, accepted the Sun Rise Eagle Blanket Award which honors the bravery, dedication and commitment of those addressing the opioid crisis and its consequences. TCC received the award for demonstrating outstanding courage and professionalism as first responders to behavioral health crisis, saving countless lives and providing crucial support in times of crisis.



TCC Responds to Flooding in Interior Villages

Last month, – Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) initiated its Emergency Response Team to respond to the flooding that occurred in several Interior villages. TCC's internal Emergency Response Team is comprised of TCC employees throughout the organization who work together to ensure that Tribes have support available when natural disasters occur in their community.

"TCC has always been willing to assist our tribes during disaster situations," says Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, TCC, "For years, TCC has been able to provide supplies and support to Interior villages during times of significant flooding. Our goal is to ensure the health and safety of those in our villages."

On Friday, May 19th, Tanana Chiefs Conference's (TCC) Emergency Assistance team; as well as TCC leadership had the opportunity to meet with tribal leaders in Circle. Also, TCC's Athabaskan Self-Sufficiency Assistant

Partnership (ASAP) was on-site to assist community members with applications for emergency assistance. Circle recently experienced significant flooding that caused a community-wide power outage and severe damage to several structures.

TCC has been assisting the community by providing bottled water, MREs, solar showers and portable generators. TCC's Office of Environmental Health also sent maintenance technicians to the community to work with the Circle Water Operator to repair and return their public water system to service. TCC is in the process of establishing a place for monetary donations to be funneled to.

"The stories we heard from Tribal leadership were incredible examples of heroism and bravery," said Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, "Many community members risked their lives working to ensure that everyone in Circle was safe and protected. I would like to recognize the leadership in Circle, as it was their swift action that ensured that there were no serious injuries during evacuation. We are thankful that the community members are safe."



The State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center continues to coordinate between locals and state assistance organizations. The Red Cross deployed a damage assessment team to begin assessments on homes. Alaska Energy Authority confirmed that power has been restored to the school, washeteria, tribal office, and clinic. Power remains off on Front Street as a safety precaution. The Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) sent a team to begin assessing spill and hazardous materials concerns, including fuel and home heating oil spills.

"I am really glad that the State had people already in the community, on the ground helping," Brian Ridley added, "After assessing the damage to the village - it is clear that they will need a lot of help in the months ahead."



Flood Damage to Your Home?

Emergency assistance for Tribal members whose homes were damaged due to flooding is available through our work assistance program. In order to qualify you will need to provide: a completed application, proof of Tribal membership and proof of residency (can be signed off by the Tribe).

Download the application at: <https://tinyurl.com/TCCEmergencyAssistance>

If you have questions, please feel free to call us at 907-452-8251 ext. 3390 or 3414

Keep in mind that several interior Tribes operate their own Welfare Assistance Programs such as Nulato, Northway, Gwichyaa Zhee (Fort Yukon), and Tanana. Residents of those communities are encouraged to contact their Tribe directly.

DONATE!

TCC is accepting monetary donations to assist in response efforts for the recent flooding.



DONATE HERE:
<https://tinyurl.com/TCCFloodRelief>

The Council Newsletter

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www.tananachiefs.org



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference



Find Your Purpose

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

New Vacancies

Birch Creek	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Fairbanks	Self-Governance Operations Coordinator
Fairbanks	Information Technology Infrastructure and Operations Manager
Fairbanks	Hospitality Support Staff
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant I - Diabetes Program
Fairbanks	Tribal Administrator
Fairbanks	Program Assistant - Front I
Fairbanks	Deputy Chief Information Officer
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant Supervisor
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II - Behavioral Health
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Receptionist
Fairbanks	Registration & Admissions Specialist
Fairbanks	Tribal Court Support Specialist
Fairbanks	Tribal Enrollment Specialist
Fairbanks	Addictions Counselor I
Fairbanks	Eye Clinic Optometrist
Fairbanks	Senior Medical Director
Fairbanks	Residential Support Technician
Fairbanks	Patient Travel and Lodging Manager
Fairbanks	Regional Instructor
Fairbanks	Deputy Financial Officer
Fairbanks	Staff Dentist/Staff Dental Officer - Basic Clinical
Fairbanks	Contract Management Officer
Fairbanks	Instructor-CHAP Training Center
Fairbanks	Marketing Specialist
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant Intern
Fairbanks	Senior RN Case Manager
Fairbanks	Facility HVAC Maintenance Mechanic
Holy Cross	Tribal Family Youth Specialist
Minto	Tribal Administrator- Onsite Supervisor
Nenana	Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor
Ruby	Tribal Family Youth Specialist
Tok	Coordinator/Instructor

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF MAY 24, 2023

Interested in
learning about
how to become a
Tribally Licenced
Foster Parent?

Tribal Foster Care Informational Zoom

Our next Zoom session will be
Thursday, June 1st and Tuesday, June 6th.

Interested?

Contact Belina Higdon at
belina.higdon@tananachiefs.org
or call 907-452-8251 ext. 3152

NUCHALAWOYYA

"Where the Two Rivers Meet"
June 22-24, 2023 • Tanana, AK

Traditional Leader Meeting
June 21, 2023 • 2:00pm

Traditional Potlatch
June 24, 2023 • 6:00 pm

If you have questions, call the Tribal Office at 907-366-7170

