

TCC and AVCP File Lawsuit To Protect Subsistence Fishing

The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) and Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), represented by Earthjustice, have filed a lawsuit against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in U.S. District Court in Alaska, seeking to reexamine groundfish catch limits for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. AVCP and TCC collectively work on behalf of nearly 100 Tribes and communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

The lawsuit alleges that when NMFS

recently adopted groundfish catch limits for 2023-2024, the agency unlawfully relied on outdated environmental studies and failed to consider monumental ecosystem-wide changes that have occurred in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands ecosystems over the last two decades. Alaska is facing a historic salmon crisis which is crushing the people and tribes of Western Alaska. Subsistence fishing in the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions of the state has been severely restricted for

over a decade while the pollock trawl fishery continues to catch thousands of Chinook and chum salmon as bycatch each year. Meanwhile, radical ecosystem changes have negatively affected conditions for Chinook and chum salmon rearing in the ocean. The federal government's current fisheries management decisions prioritize maximizing groundfish catch over protecting the subsistence rights of Alaska Native peoples who are deeply impacted by those decisions.

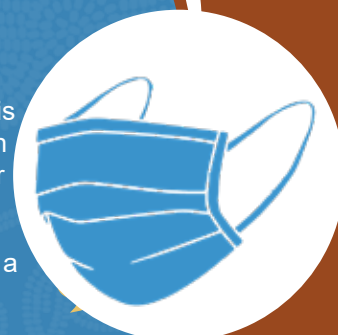
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UPDATE: Optional Masking

Effective April 20, 2023, TCC Health Services will now observe optional masking for patients. This includes all TCC facilities that provide healthcare services such as the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, the Chief Peter John Tribal Building, the Upper Tanana Health Center, the Edgar Nollner Health Center, Davis/University Building and all village and subregional clinics.

We will still require masking for patients exhibiting respiratory symptoms, positive COVID-19 tests, if a clinician or patient requests it, and/or if it's indicated in any specific area.

We appreciate your cooperation as we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and patients!



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Mission

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

Vision

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



TCC Executive Board Members

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village
1st Traditional Chief

Andy Jimmie/Minto
2nd Traditional Chief

Brian Ridley/Eagle
Chief/Chairman

Sharon Hildebrand/Nulato
Vice President

Charlie Wright/Rampart
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit/Tanacross
Upper Tanana

Claude 'Joe' Petruska/Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James/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 we get ready for spring, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of flood preparedness. It's important that both communities and households be prepared in the event of a flood. Being prepared before a flood happens can not only save a community thousands of dollars in damages— but it can also save lives. Visit our website for more information.

In April, TCC joined the Fairbanks Native Association and the U.S. Department of Justice in hosting a listening session for people to share their stories surrounding the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. I would like to thank everyone who stepped forward to share their stories, input and recommendations with our Tribal Working Group. Our goal is to use this information to create a Tribal Community Response plan for these issues in the future.

As you can see on the cover of this newsletter, TCC and the Association of Village Council Presidents have filed a lawsuit against the National Marine Fisheries Service to require them to reexamine ground fish catch limits for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. We are asking for a supplemental environmental impact study to analyze the fisheries management plan considering today's changing climate and dramatic salmon decline.

TCC is also tracking several bills in Juneau that would shut down Area M. Depending on the outcome of these bills, TCC will be seriously researching and considering different options to advocate for change in Area M.

Last month, I testified at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting, where I asked the Council to establish a chum bycatch limit, prioritize subsistence fishing and incorporate protocol for identifying, analyzing and incorporating traditional knowledge into their decision-making processes.

Additionally, TCC leadership is working on improving our internal processes regarding Full Board Resolutions. The goal is to ensure that TCC continues to move toward completion of these resolutions and that no resolution is forgotten. I know that there has been questions about long-standing resolutions and I want to ensure that these directives remain at the forefront of the work we do.

Finally, at the direction of our Full Board of Directors, TCC made the decision to officially withdraw its membership from the Alaska Federation of Natives and we will continue to support its efforts on Alaska Native Initiatives. We appreciate all of the great work AFN has done over the years. You can learn more about this decision on page 3 of this newsletter.



Mahsi' Choo,
Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman

A photograph showing several large salmon hanging vertically from a wooden rack, likely in a drying or curing facility. The salmon are a deep reddish-brown color, and the background is slightly blurred, showing some structural elements of the building.

TCC and AVCP File Lawsuit To Protect Subsistence Fishing

Continued from front page

Despite these sweeping ecosystem changes and their dramatic effects on people in the region who depend on the marine environment, NMFS set groundfish catch limits based on analyses well over a decade old. These rapid and unprecedented ecosystem changes are relevant to fisheries management decisions and defendants cannot make informed decisions based on severely outdated studies. AVCP Chief Executive Officer Vivian Korthuis said, "This litigation is intended to hold the government accountable for its lack of action, lack of urgency and lack of understanding that as our environment changes, catastrophic impacts are occurring in our waters. This lawsuit has been brought to protect the subsistence way of life which is critical to the health and well-being of the tribes of the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. The federal government continues its 'business as usual' deliberate and ineffective management style as our people suffer and

our waters are forever harmed."

The Yukon-Kuskokwim region is one of the most cash-poor regions of the state, making the salmon harvest particularly important for food security as well as the continuation of the region's cultures. Households share salmon with other households and communities to ensure that all community members have enough to eat. Since at least 2007, western Alaska Chinook salmon stocks have been in decline, followed by collapses in chum and coho salmon stocks over the last three years.

Brian Ridley, Chief/Chairman of Tanana Chiefs Conference said, "NMFS has failed at every turn to truly manage the natural resources they are responsible to protect. NMFS needs to do a supplemental environmental impact study to analyze the fisheries management plan considering today's changing climate and dramatic salmon declines. The pollock fleet keeps trawling up

salmon and no adjustments have been made to the overall management approach – this must be addressed. The government allows the commercial industry to carry on unchanged, while the people who have responsibly cared for our precious natural resources for centuries are harmed."

In addition to catastrophic salmon declines, the Bering Sea has experienced warming ocean temperatures, loss of sea ice, shifts in the abundance and distribution of fish species, massive seabird die-offs, decreased nutrient productivity, and a variety of other changes cascading across the ecosystem. Yet fisheries management decisions continue to be based on outdated environmental analyses that do not account for the current environment or the effect fisheries management decisions have on Alaska Native peoples who depend on salmon and other ocean resources to support their ways of life.

Now is the time for the Court to help provide relief both to our people and our natural resources.

Interior Tribes Vote for TCC to Withdraw AFN Membership

For the last few years, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) has been reviewing its membership with the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). While TCC respects and appreciates all the work that AFN has done over the years, it is important that TCC aligns itself with partners that help further our priorities and share our same voice.

TCC Tribal leaders have made it clear that the biggest priority for them is the protection of our salmon and ways of life. Over the past few years, over 40 resolutions were passed by the full board at AFN that support a subsistence

way of life, but no significant action has been taken on those directives. A lot of effort, time, and money goes toward participating in AFN and it is important that those resources be utilized to their maximum potential to advance TCC's Tribal priorities.

After discussion with AFN leadership regarding these concerns, the issue was brought forward to TCC's Executive Board of Directors who asked that the vote be deferred to the Full Board of Directors, comprised of Tribal delegates throughout the region. At the direction of the Executive Board, TCC polled all

tribal delegates on whether or not TCC should remain a member of AFN. The results were a majority vote for TCC not to renew its membership to AFN.

On April 28, TCC submitted its formal letter of resignation to AFN.

Regardless of TCC's decision to withdraw, Tribes can still make their own decision on whether they want to remain a member of AFN and attend their annual Convention. Interior Tribes are still entitled to an Interior Seat that is representative of the majority of Alaska native organizations and tribal governmental entities, per the AFN bylaws.

2023 Education Summit

The Tanana Chiefs Conference annual Education Summit was held April 11-12, 2023, in Fairbanks. This year's theme was "Advocacy & Action: Advancing Strategies for Educational Success," and sessions focused on sharing information regarding Alaska's new Reads Act, tribal compacting of education, utilizing indigenous culture within the Western education model, developing trauma-informed schools, and more. Participants were encouraged to examine ways in which educational approaches can be modified to better serve Alaska Native and rural students.

Over 80 participants, from a number of Tribes from the TCC region, several district superintendents, principals,

UAF instructors and staff, school board members, and members of the community, heard from representatives from the State of Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), Washington State's Office of Native Education, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, National Native Children's Trauma Center, and other agencies. Several speakers have made their materials available, these can be found online on the TCC website: <https://www.tananachiefs.org/services/education/>

Mahsi' choo to everyone who participated and we hope to see you all again soon.



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

TCC Welcomes Michelle Quillin— TRSP Outreach Coordinator

As the rising concern over the decline of salmon populations in Alaska's river systems becomes a priority for Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), the Tribal Resource Stewardship Program (TRSP) recently hired a second Outreach Coordinator. Michelle Quillin is from Hut'odlee Kkaakk'et/Hughes. She holds a Baccalaureate of Science degree from the Wildlife Biology and Conservation degree program at University of Alaska Fairbanks, and endeavors to bring the voice of Alaska Native subsistence needs, culture, and way of life to the Board of Fish and Board of Game conversations. "It's my job to decolonize those spaces full of deeply rooted colonized institutions," she asserts, "And try to Indigenize the way we manage our resources."

Michelle recalls a lifetime desire to become a Wildlife Biologist/Manager, with ambitions to join the Board of Fish and the Board of Game. "We need more scientists, and we especially need more Alaska Natives filling up those seats," she says. She feels that her example will also serve to help usher in a new



generation of Indigenous youth leaders with strong voices. "Kids are natural scientists," she says, "Always curious and asking questions about everything."

I hope we can foster that in our Indigenous youth and mentor them into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers.

Michelle has a deeply ingrained history of practicing her Indigenous culture and traditions. Of her lifestyle, she recalls most fondly learning beadwork, berry picking, and gardening with her mom and grandmothers Madeline Williams, late grandmother Sophie Beatus, and the late Denise Hardesty.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Michelle! Along with the rest of the TRSP team, TCC feels extremely fortunate and equipped to have our voice heard by the State of Alaska.

If you are interested in how you can become involved in the collective voice for Tribal Resource Stewardship, get in touch with the TRSP at (907) 452-8251, ext. 3109, or by email at TRSP@tananachiefs.org

Dental Urgent Care Update!

To meet the demands for dental services and in response to feedback from our patients, TCC Dental Urgent Care is returning to In-Person Check In.

This will eliminate the need to call and reserve a check-in time for Dental Urgent Care appointments.

Dental Urgent Care check in will begin:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 7:30am and 1:30pm
- Wednesday at 8:30 and 1:30pm
- Patients may check-in at any time, however, the earlier the check in, the greater likelihood to be seen that day.

Please note:

- All Urgent Care patients will continue to be triaged (assigned an order of being seen), based on the urgency of their concern.
- The possibility of a wait time will still remain and when a high volume of urgent/emergent needs occurs, there is a chance of an evaluation only and no treatment.

Questions?

Call 907-451-6682 ext. 3200



Diabetes and WIC Relocation

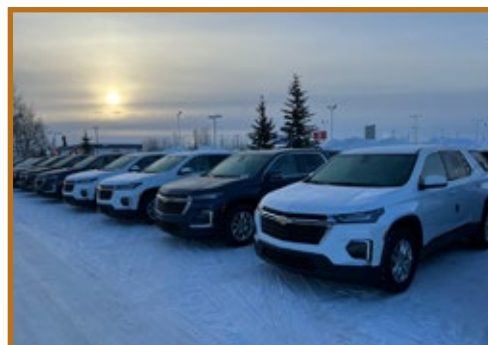
The Diabetes and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program recently relocated from the Davis Building to Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. This move grants our WIC and Diabetes facilitators easier access to providers, and now you can access these services in a more central location!

To learn more about and apply for WIC services, please visit the WIC website at www.tananachiefs.org/services/wic, call (907) 451-6682 ext. 3773, or email WIC@tananachiefs.org

To contact the Diabetes Prevention Program, call (907) 451-6682 ext. 3768 or email celine.siddall@tananachiefs.org. Learn more about the Diabetes Prevention Program at <https://bit.ly/3ondDyd>

NEW! Victim Response Vehicles

Recently, the villages of Nenana, Healy Lake, McGrath, Minto, Circle, and Eagle received new Victim Response vehicles.



These new first responder SUVs are funded through Tanana Chiefs Conference's FY2020 Office of Victims Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside grant.

The six tribal communities will be able to use their new response vehicles to conduct welfare checks, for the purpose of tribal courts and Tribal Social Services, victim services, client transportation, etc.

In addition, TCC also has snow machines ready to transport to Alatna, Anvik, Birch Creek, Rampart, and Takotna. We will be purchasing snow machines for Kaltag, Shageluk, and Grayling. Each of these communities will also be getting a side-by-side ATV for spring/summer use once we procure those vehicles.

This grant has had a really slow start, but we will start to see the impacts of these large awards in our rural villages this year!

May Head Start News

April has been a very busy time for Head Start! We've spent the month preparing for our federal reviewing. We've conducted a CLASS review, so our reviewers have gone to each of our sites to watch our teachers in action. We've also been working to complete our CACFP review. It's been a very busy and stressful time for all of our staff and we're glad to see the month coming to an end, even though it means we're that much closer to saying goodbye to our kiddos for the summer, or longer if they're graduating.

May is the end of the school year, please check with your Head Start teacher for your classrooms last day of school and graduation dates. Some of our programs are also electing to participate in a summer program, so please ask your teacher for details.



Students in McGrath playing in the snow while watching the Iditarod

FY23 School Year sites:

- **Allakaket:** Vacant
- **Grayling:** Vacant
- **Holy Cross:** Vacant
- **Huslia:** HS is open and EHS is vacant
- **Minto:** Vacant
- **McGrath:** HS: Open
- **Nenana:** Home Visiting Open
- **Northway HS:** Home Visiting Open
- **Nulato HS:** Open
- **Tanana:** Home Visiting Open
- **Tetlin:** Home Visiting Open
- **Tanacross HS:** Open
- **Tok HS:** Open



Train time in Northway

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:

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.

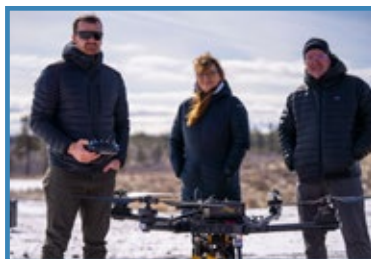
There are still spots available in many of our classrooms!

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.

TCC Boosts Unmanned Aerial Technology Capacity

John Parcell (*Forestry*), Debra Lynne (*Climate Change*), Brian McKenna (*Fisheries*), Bob Sattler (*Realty*), and Albert Macica (*Cadastral Survey*)

The field studies programs in Tribal Development (TD) recently acquired upgraded drone capacity (unmanned aerial systems) to serve many planning and research initiatives with member Tribes. Staff recently completed training on a LiDAR mapping system that can record high-resolution landscape models that cross-cut most TD programs. Collaboration



among several TD programs led to this upgrade that has vastly improved accuracy for mapping landscapes while improving the simplicity of using the information in computer applications.

Up to this point, TCC programs have used small drones for a variety of purposes and the new system is a major upgrade in size and capacity. Drones are more efficient

and time effective for mapping small geographic areas like village footprints or Native allotments. Small cameras mounted on drones give you a bird's eye view of landscape features that would otherwise require aircrafts or helicopters. TCC's new drone system can do it all and live up to the hype of emerging technology. Our new system is one of Freefly's Alta X (a USA made drone platform) that supports a payload of up to 35 pounds for sensors and cameras.

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Survey: Drone data collection can improve the quality of survey-grade topo maps used by planners and engineers for village layout, infrastructure design, identifying flood hazards and other uses. Our newly acquired Mapper+ is a Yellowscan LiDAR scanner that sends pulses of light to measure distance to objects. The camera collects a 240,000 dots per second to recreate a 3D model of the landscape, terrain, or objects on the ground. The scanner pulse goes through light vegetation and develops multiple layers that feature trees, buildings, roads, ditches, and more.



Realty: The new system will be used to map Native allotments and ancestral cultural sites. Maps from this application will identify features at camps, including ground features, buildings, cemeteries, trails and associated cultural features. The system will identify vegetation types and landscapes for comparative land valuations and trespassing documentation.

Climate Change: Many climate change factors can be recorded with the new technology to document and monitor riverbank erosion, permafrost degradation, flood damage and other features. LiDAR mapping is the most sophisticated way of recording current environmental features for long-term monitoring of changes on the landscape in or around villages for infrastructure planning.

Community and Infrastructure Division: The resolution provided by LiDAR mapping will contribute to planning and development of village infrastructure. High-resolution landscape maps will aid in a variety of infrastructure improvements, including site control for health and community buildings, utility line planning, and other construction such as water and sewer project planning. A heat-sensing camera can assess construction energy efficiency by monitoring heat escaping patterns around buildings.

Fisheries: The emergence of drone use among TCC resources program began with applications for fisheries studies. Innovative studies in fisheries include verification of salmon spawning grounds in the Yukon Flats based

on traditional ecological knowledge, monitoring the quantity and quality of spawning redds of King salmon on the Salcha River and documenting and monitoring salmon spawning behavior on several Interior rivers. The fisheries program will continue advancing new innovations with drones to monitor the health of salmon habitats in the TCC region.

Forestry: Forestry will use this system to count trees, estimating volume through canopy heights and extrapolating stem sizes for reporting stored carbon, as well as dead woody fuel loading to model wildfire risk. Landscape-scale high-resolution aerial maps will update assessments of allotment vegetation for forest management such as timber sales, pest outbreak monitoring, tree thinning, fire-fuel breaks, wildland fire management and forest trespassing on Native allotments. The new system allows our foresters to remain at the forefront of forest management in the TCC region.

Wildfire: Use of drones in wildland fire management is increasing with time and our wildland fire training manager will seek certification for use in fire management. Drones are used for managing critical responses to fire outbreaks, spot fire detection across holding lines, monitoring back-fire operations, and aerial ignition operations. Our new system will accommodate a thermal camera to identify fire hot spots to guide wildland fire monitoring.

Emergency response team: With a heat detection camera, the drone system can be used for search and rescue operations for missing person searches. The VPSO program uses drones already and this system can expand their operations. We anticipate that the system will be employed for emergency planning, such as assessing breakup threats and rescue mission operations.

All of these functions are being consolidated by a newly organized TCC Drone team that has formed among staff in several programs to improve services to our member Tribes and Native allotment owners. For further information, contact John Parcell at ext. 3378 or Debra Lynne at ext. 3451.

Advocating for Subsistence Fishing



Last month, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting was held in Anchorage. Salmon bycatch was a primary issue discussed at the event, with many Tribal leaders attending to voice their concerns.

“Commercial harvests have been prioritized over subsistence and the livelihood of our people for too long,” said Chief Brian Ridley during his testimony at the event, “TCC is asking the Council to take immediate regulatory action. Every salmon counts and the Council must practice precautionary management. Current management practices will only lead to the extinction of our salmon stocks.”

TCC asked for several specific actions from the Council including;

- Establishing a prohibited species catch limit for chum that takes into Western Alaska account stock abundance, in-river stock assessments, escapement monitoring, and especially subsistence harvest.
- Prioritizing researching scientific alternatives and developing incentives to reduce chum and chinook bycatch with the ultimate goal of zero salmon bycatch.
- Establishing the Protocol for Identifying, Analyzing, and Incorporating Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence Information into the Council’s decision-making process.

Tanana Chiefs Conference continues to prioritize our salmon and ways of life and will continue to advocate for its protection.

Emerging Leaders Juneau Trip

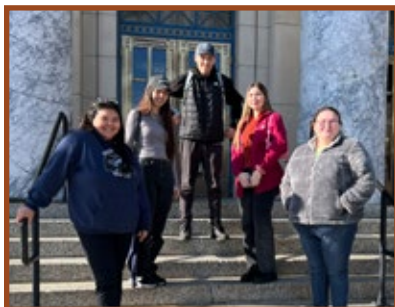
Last month, Emerging Leaders Milena Jordan, Alex Hanna, Mackenzie Englishoe, Kristen Law, and Esther O'Brien traveled to Juneau to tour the Capitol and advocate for issues important to Tanana Chiefs Conference's

member communities, specifically our youth.

The youth were guided by Marna Sanford, TCC's Government Legal Affairs Director. They were heard by many representatives on issues of

education, subsistence fishing, and behavioral health; including Governor Dunleavy.

TCC is proud to see young representation and advocacy, and would like to thank our Emerging Leaders for their continued advocacy for our tribes.



Photos provided by Heather Rubio and Marna Sanford

Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference and Annual Meeting Notice



The annual Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference and Annual Meeting will take place on June 1-3 in Huslia. The two-day conference will be held on June 1 and 2, and the Denakkanaaga Annual Meeting occurring on June 3. This year's conference theme is "Our Native Way of Life: Keeping Us Connected, Keeping Us Healthy".

"We're excited to once again be holding our conference in a rural setting after going through the pandemic. We appreciate the Huslia Tribal Council agreeing to host our gathering," said Denakkanaaga Executive Director Sharon McConnell. "We hope that all the villages will send a delegate to vote at the annual meeting and participate in the conference that will be addressing important issues for our region."

Five elder Denakkanaaga board seats are up for election this year,

as well as the Denakkanaaga youth representative, and the TCC E-Board Elder Advisor position.

- **Elder Seat B-** representing the Yukon-Koyukuk sub-region. This is a three-year term ending in 2026.
- **Elder Seat D-** representing the Yukon Flats sub-region. This is a three-year term ending in 2026.
- **Elder Seat F-** representing the Upper Tanana sub-region. This is a three-year term ending in 2026.
- **Elder Seat E-** representing the Lower Yukon sub-region. The term expires in 2025.
- **Elder Seat G-** representing the Kuskokwim sub-region. This term expires in 2024.
- **Youth Representative-** regionwide representation. This is a one-year term expiring in 2024.
- **TCC E-Board Elder Advisor-** regionwide representation. This is a three-year term.

Conference and Annual Meeting

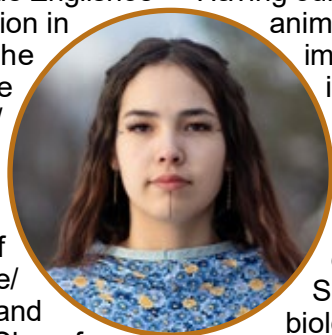
packets were mailed to tribal councils in March. They included delegate registration forms, and nomination forms for the Denakkanaaga election. Nomination forms must be received by Denakkanaaga no later than May 5, 2023. Background checks will be conducted on all candidates. For more information on the conference or annual meeting, please contact Denakkanaaga at 907-451-3900 or info@denakkanaaga.org.

For the TCC Elder Advisor position, **tribal councils shall submit a nomination letter for interested individuals to the TCC Executive Secretary at 122 1st Avenue, Ste. 600 Fairbanks AK 99701, or email norma.dahl@tananachiefs.org or you may send a fax to 1-(907)-459-3884 no later than May 27, 2023, which is the deadline of seven days before the June 3 Denakkanaaga election.** Elder Advisor nominees must be a resident of the state of Alaska, and an Alaska Native tribal member 55 years or older. The elder advisor may not be a fulltime employee of TCC. The term for the Elder Advisor is three years.

Emerging Leader Spotlight: Mackenzie Englishhoe

At 19 years old, Mackenzie Englishhoe credits her sense of direction in life to knowing where she comes from. She is the daughter of Nicole James/Englishhoe, granddaughter of Denise James/Englishhoe and Sonny James, great-granddaughter of Margeret Mariam Englishhoe/James and Skully James, and a member of the Caribou Clan of the Gwichyaa Zhee tribe. Mackenzie joined the Emerging Leaders to advocate for the preservation of tradition.

She moved to Fairbanks from Chandalar Lake when she was 12, and currently studies Biology and Tribal Government at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Mackenzie's top goals as an Emerging Leader are to get youth more involved with fighting for traditional lands, waters, and animal relatives, and working collaboratively with Tribal governments in advocacy.



"Having our traditional homelands and animals remain safe is not only important now," she says, "but it's important for all of our future generations."

Mackenzie's goals for Emerging Leaders are intertwined with her education and career path. She is studying to become a biologist specializing in Yukon River salmon. "Something I've noticed while advocating for the Yukon Salmon is that outsiders always throw western data in our faces and don't take Alaska Natives seriously because we don't have the same degrees as them," Mackenzie says, "They don't understand that traditional knowledge has been passed down through generations for millennia, and should be as valuable or more valuable than western knowledge." She asserts that having Native representation in the fields of science and biology is crucial to the

salvation of Alaska's salmon and rivers, and we agree.

Emerging Leaders are tasked with being a bridge between youth and the TCC communities, and Mackenzie is an excellent conduit. Her message to youth is that the time to act on dreams and goals is now. "Learn as many stories, traditions, skills, language, and knowledge that you can during the time that we have now," she says, "our Elders are not always going to be around to share those things on our own time." Additionally, her message on behalf of youth to the community is one of encouragement. "Uplift us, teach us, believe in us. We will be strong leaders in the future," she says, "We are today's youth, and tomorrow's elders."

We are honored to have Mackenzie on our Emerging Leaders committee, and look forward to watching her evolve as an Indigenous leader!

MMIP Tribal Community Response Plan

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) hosted listening sessions where Alaska Natives/American Indians could share their stories surrounding the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). The sessions provided an open forum for tribal members to offer testimony, share their experiences and provide comment on the MMIP issue in Alaska.

Dozens of community members attended both in-person and online to their share their stories and provide insight on how they can be better supported in situations involving MMIP.

TCC, FNA, and DOJ will utilize the input received during these sessions to develop a Tribal Community Response Plan, which will serve as a roadmap on the best way to respond to MMIP cases in the future. The plan will outline organizational responses, including Native organizations and victim services, media outreach, and law enforcement

response and investigation. Also incorporated into the document will be guidance and resource information for impacted families.

We are excited to be moving forward on this joint effort to ensure that the ongoing issue of MMIP is properly addressed in our State.

We would like to hear from tribal members on their personal experiences with the issue of MMIP, and their suggestions/recommendations for improved response.

TCC, FNA, and DOJ will utilize the input received to develop a road map on the best way to respond to the MMIP cases in the future and a direction for the Tribal Community Response Plan.



Feel free to share information on:

- MMIP History in the TCC Region, including Fairbanks
- Personal lived experiences.
- Proposed solutions/actions to address MMIP.
- MMIP response and investigation.
- Unmet needs of impacted families.
- Risk factors i.e., sex trafficking, homelessness, out migration from the village

Submit your testimony by visiting:

www.tananachiefs.org/mmip-testimony-comments

or scan the QR code.



Tribal Government and Client Services

Customer Experience Program

Programs Covered

Tribal Development *(Division Name and Program)*

- Planning and Development
- Self-Governance
- Village Bookkeeping
- Forestry
- Realty
- Cadastral Survey
- Tribal Resource Stewardship

Tribal Government and Justice *(Division Name and Program)*

- Public Safety
- Tribal Government Services: Government TTA: Tribal Enrollment
- Tribal Court Technical Support
- Healing to Wellness – Dena' Nena' Henash Intertribal Court
- Tribal Social Services
- Tribal Protective Services
- Tribal Reentry

Family Services and Support

- ASAP (Athabascan Self-Sufficiency Assistance Program)
- Burial Assistance
- Child Care Assistance
- Education
- Elder Navigator
- Emergency Assistance
- Employment and Training
- General Assistance
- Energy Assistance
- Head Start
- Infant Learning Program
- TCC GO
- Vocational Rehabilitation

Infrastructure Division

Provide Customer Feedback

You can submit your suggestions or concerns to our Customer Experience Coordinator, Holly Edwards by email or phone:

customerexperience@tananachiefs.org or
call (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3032.

To submit an anonymous suggestion or concern, we have Customer Feedback Cards located in our lobby of the Chief Peter John Tribal Building.



Meet Our Team

Holly Edwards is the Customer Experience Coordinator at the Chief Peter John Tribal Building. She is here to assist TCC customers in navigating services offered by the Tribal Government and Client Services Department, as well as assisting in connecting them to Health Services when needed.



She is here to listen, problem solve, reach out to appropriate departments as needed, and help close the loop so customers have the best experience possible.

What We Do

We are here to:

- Answer questions about Tribal Government and Client Services
- Facilitate communication between customers and various departments within Tribal Government and Client Services, Health Services, and other supportive services throughout our communities for outcomes that will best benefit the customer and their families.
- Document customer experience surveys, identify areas of improvement, and assist with the improvement process.
- Collaborate with department managers within Tribal Government and Client Services to meet customer needs and expectations with the overarching goal of building customer trust.
- Provide timely and effective customer service and interact with customers in a way which inspires trust and demonstrates respect, compassion, and empathy by adhering to the TCC Ch'eghwtsen' guiding principles.

Our Goals

Our goal is to have engaged, self-reliant, and satisfied customers.

We are here to listen to our customers and promote a culture of excellence at all times, and develop customer input solutions based off of the customer's experience with our services.

Our goals are to:

- Provide excellent customer navigation and advocacy
- Provide a high level of customer service to all customers.
- Assist in customer satisfaction and success with our services.
- Ensure effective customer surveying and feedback.

Hours: M-F from 8am-5pm

Our Children Are Our Most Precious Resource

Karen Kallen-Brown, LPC, CDC-II

COVID-19 has made life very challenging for everyone and we are seeing that many of our children are experiencing prolonged stress that puts them at-risk for all sorts of problems at home, in school, and in the community. When children are stressed, they count on grown-ups to help them regain a sense of safety. When COVID-19 hit, everyone's world got shaken upside down and many adults were just trying to survive, which, unfortunately left many children without their usual supports. Now that we're learning how to live with COVID-19, we have time to notice which children may be stuck in a state of chronic stress. That's the first step for us to rally and help them get back on track and out of distress.

How can we tell who may need some extra help? Whenever anyone's system is overwhelmed by more stress than they have knowledge, skills, or abilities to manage, we experience traumatic stress. Trauma takes away the felt-sense of safety and can leave us feeling helpless, hopeless, and afraid (although that vague fear and worry usually cannot be put into words). When this happens, we see disruptions in how

we function.

With children, we may see problems with basic functions like eating, sleeping, or regressions to more immature behaviors. Very young children may lose skills they had such as being potty trained or weaned from a bottle. They may lose speech skills that they had. These are symptoms of stress and not deliberate misbehavior.

Children may not want to leave parents (especially if they lost loved ones in the pandemic) and may avoid school or leave school just to make sure everyone is safe. They cannot pay attention and learn when they are not feeling safe or are worried. They may think it is their fault and feel guilt and shame over every mistake or problem behavior they've had. They may shut down and not communicate at all or they may go in the opposite direction and keep talking about whatever's been upsetting them.

Children may internalize their stress and have headaches or stomachaches or other pain and discomfort. They may act recklessly or aggressively. They may withdraw from others because they are scared of losing them.

When any child is affected by toxic stress, everyone suffers. TCC Behavioral Health can help in a variety of ways. General information can be provided to the community to help people know what to watch out for and how to help. Children can get developmentally-appropriate services ranging from play therapy to talk therapy in a variety of methods to help them process out and grow past the trauma experiences. Families can get support to help them understand their children's needs and to learn ways to help them when what they've tried hasn't worked well-enough. We are all doing the best we can with what we have to work with. COVID-19 came fast and furious and we all discovered some gaps that we were not fully prepared for. There is no shame in not being fully prepared for a long-lasting pandemic that changed everything! The sooner kids (and adults) get help when they are struggling, the quicker and easier the path to healing is.

If there is anything you feel I can do to support you, your family, or your community, please let me know. Basee'

I can be reached by email or phone: karen.kallenbrown@tananachiefs.org 907-451-6682 extension 3827

Karen Kallen-Brown will be back in Huslia May 8-11, 2023



Child Abuse Awareness Drive-Thru Event

Last month, Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Social Services hosted a drive-thru event geared towards providing valuable resources for Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month.

Molly of Denali and TCC staff gifted 100 cooler bags to families, which were

filled with community resources, Molly of Denali books, and a gift certificate to a child-friendly Fairbanks locale! Altogether, 219 families were served throughout the month of April.

TSS would like to thank all those who supported this event; Suicide and Crisis

Lifeline, TCC Behavioral Health, TCC Head Start Program, Migrant Education Program, Fairbanks Native Association Home Visiting, Immunizations for Children, Alaska Native Education Program and our Tribes for a successful event!



The Council Newsletter

122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424
communications_dept@tananachiefs.org
www.tananachiefs.org



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference



Find Your Purpose

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

New Vacancies

Allakaket	Elder Nutrition Cook
Fairbanks	Security Sergeant
Fairbanks	Tribal Protective Service Program Coordinator
Fairbanks	Physician - Women's Health
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Float
Fairbanks	Clinical Staff Office- Administrative Assistant II
Fairbanks	Registration Manager
Fairbanks	Suicide Prevention Project Coordinator
Fairbanks	Psychiatric Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant I- Patient Travel
Fairbanks	Addictions RN
Fairbanks	Lead Medical Laboratory Scientist
Fairbanks	Infrastructure Division Grant and Office Manager
Fairbanks	Village Bookkeeper
Fairbanks	Registration & Admissions Specialist
Fairbanks	Environmental Services Technician I
Fairbanks	Medical Prior Authorization Specialist
Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant
Fairbanks	Tobacco Prevention Policy Specialist
Fairbanks	Elder Nutrition Project Coordinator
Fairbanks	Surgical Technologist II-ASC
Fairbanks	Physician - Urgent Care
Fairbanks	Credentialing Manager
Fairbanks	Credentialing Coordinator
Fairbanks	Medical Laboratory Scientist
Fairbanks	Medical Laboratory Technician
Fairbanks	Referral Coordinator II
Fairbanks	Patient Experience Coordinator
Fairbanks	Dental Health Aide (DHAT) Preceptor
Fairbanks	Staff RN
Fairbanks	Broadband Program Manager
Fort Yukon	Patient Travel Technician
Region-Wide	SOC Youth Lead
Region-Wide	Lead Family Contact Coordinator - SOC
Tanacross	Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor
Tanacross	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Tanacross	Home Care Provider

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF APRIL 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

Traveling to Alaska Native Medical Center and Need Assistance?

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

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

April Johnson

ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate

907-687-9193

Lucy Frank

Lead ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate

907-378-8002