

Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 50 No. 2 • February 2024

ONE People ONE Voice

2024 TCC Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is pleased to announce its upcoming Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting, set to take place March 11 to 14 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.

The theme for this year's convention is "One People, One Voice," emphasizing the significance of unity and the collective strength that emerges when we work together. As indigenous people, our history is marked by a deep-rooted sense of community, where our ancestors joined forces to champion for our lands, our rights and the preservation of our cultures. This theme serves as a reminder that our community is an integral part of our identity, and that

by working together, we amplify our strength in the face of any challenge.

The convention aims to address topics that were not covered during the November Special Convention, which was cut short out of respect to communities experiencing significant losses at the time. Feedback from a survey conducted among Tribal delegates identified priorities for discussion during the convention. Key issues, including those identified as high priority by the Tribal communities, will be discussed on the convention floor in March.

There will be several important elections taking place, including Secretary/Treasurer (currently held by Robert 'Charlie' Wright of Rampart),

the Upper Kuskokwim Subregional Representative (currently held by Claude 'Joe' Petruska of Nikolai), and the Lower Yukon Subregional Representative (currently held by Eugene Paul of Holy Cross). For a full listing of positions open for election see page 10 of this newsletter.

The meeting is open to the public. For those unable to attend in person, the proceedings will be accessible via livestream at

www.tananachiefs.org/live

Scan the QR code for up-to-date information on this year's Convention



Convention Deadlines

- February 1st - Candidacy Window Opens
- February 12th - Background Check Deadline
- February 26th at 5:00pm - Resolutions Due
- March 1st at 5:00pm - Candidacy Window Closes

See pages 10-11 for more information about election criteria and requirements



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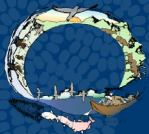


Mission

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



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

Executive Board

Trimble Gilbert, Arctic Village
1st Traditional Chief

Andrew 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, Galena
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski, Nulato
Elder Advisor

Alex Hanna, Minto
Youth Advisor

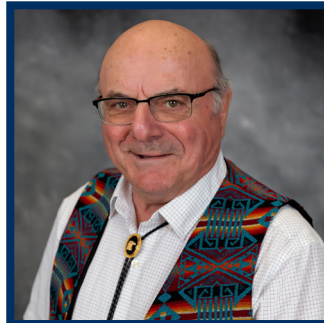


Letter from the Chief/Chairman

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

The Tanana Chiefs Conference Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors meeting is set to take place next month. This year there will be several open seats on our Executive Board of Directors: Secretary/Treasurer, as well as subregional representatives for the Upper Kuskokwim Subregion and the Lower Yukon Subregion. Elections for the subregional seats will occur during their respective subregional meetings that will take place the week prior to Convention. The vote for the position of Secretary/Treasurer will take place on the floor of Convention on Thursday, March 14th.

The theme for this year's Convention is *One People, One Voice*. This theme represents the unity of our Tribes and the strength that comes from speaking with one voice as we come together, share our thoughts, and amplify our voices together.



I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the retirement of Orie Williams, Chief Executive Officer of the Interior Regional Housing Authority. Orie has been a dedicated servant to our community, providing years of service to IRHA. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Orie for his commitment and leadership. We anticipate the appointment of his successor and look forward to continued partnership with IRHA.

In other retirement news, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Denakkanaaga's recent announcement of the retirement of their Executive Director, Sharon McConnell. Sharon has been an unwavering advocate and leader within Denakkanaaga, demonstrating an exceptional commitment to the well-being of our elders over the past several years. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Sharon, and her dedication and commitment to collaboration has been greatly appreciated. We look forward to the announcement of her successor and continuing our collaborative efforts with Denakkanaaga on matters crucial to our elders.

I look forward to seeing everyone next month at our Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting here in Fairbanks. Until then, we will continue our work towards our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Mahsi' Choo,
Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman



2024 TCC Calendars Now Available!

Send your mailing address to
Communications_Dept@tananachiefs.org
to get your copy!

Chief Trimble Gilbert Receives National Honor

First Traditional Chief Dr. Rev. Trimble Gilbert of Arctic Village was honored on January 5th as one of the 10 recipients of the National Heritage Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts. This fellowship stands as the nation's premier recognition in the field of folk and traditional arts, acknowledging recipients for their artistic excellence and supporting their ongoing contributions to the nation's traditional arts heritage. The fellowships

highlight the achievements of some of America's leading artists and commend exceptional stewardship of living traditions.

Senator Lisa Murkowski traveled to Arctic Village to personally deliver the news to Chief Gilbert and to present him with the official certificate of recognition. Representatives from the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Fairbanks Native Association also attended to pay homage to Chief Gilbert.

Photos by Evon Peter.



Join Us in Celebrating American Heart Month

Many think of February as a time for kindling romantic relationships, but this month, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) invites us to shore up all of our relationships at home, at work, and in our communities to support our Heart Health. Did you know that people who have close relationships at all of these levels tend to be healthier and live longer? The NHLBI proposes that this might be because we tend to be more successful in meeting our health goals when we work together to meet this. Read on for ways that you can support heart health with the ones you love.

Be Physically Active

Aim to move for at least 2.5 hours each week (only 30 minutes, five days each week), mixing both cardiovascular activities with strength training. Bring your crew into the fun by inviting a colleague to walk with you on breaks, signing up for a new exercise class with a friend, or throwing a dance party with your kids.

Eat Heart Healthy

It's a lot easier to regularly eat

healthy foods when our friends and families are with us. As you aim to eat healthier, remember to reduce the amount of sodium you're eating and increase the amount of fruits, vegetables, and nutritious traditional foods. Check out TCC's Food Resources page for more information about the resources available to you to support your healthy eating journey: <https://www.tananachiefs.org/food-resources/>

Quit Smoking (or Don't Start!)

Many people know that smoking harms the lungs, but did you also know that it hurts your heart? Alaska Natives have a smoking rate of 43% which is nearly double that of Non-Natives, which increases the risk of poor heart health in addition to a variety of other illnesses. Each year, about 500 Alaskans die of tobacco-related illnesses and an additional 120 people die from causes related to secondhand smoke. Quitting today will not only improve your health outcomes but it will also help protect the people closest to you. For more information and resources to help,

contact Roxanne Frank at (907) 451-8251 ext. 3581 or Roxanne.Frank@tananachiefs.org.

Manage Stress and Improve Sleep

Sleeping 7-9 hours each night helps improve heart health. Engaging in regular physical activity during the day is one way to improve your health. The NHLBI recommends spending at least 30 minutes outside by taking a walk with friends and family members. It's also important to turn off all screens before bed and engage in de-stressing activities like listening to music, reading or taking a bath. Help your family and friends set and keep these important routines to keep their hearts healthy and strong.

This month, let's commit to caring for ourselves and each other to promote heart health in our communities. Visit <https://www.heart.org> for more information about how to keep your heart healthy, and talk with your healthcare provider about the state of your heart and the ways that you can care for it in the years to come.

About the Board of Game

By Amber Vaska, Executive Director of Tribal Government & Client Services

What is the Board of Game?

The Board of Game (BOG) consists of seven members serving three-year terms appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. According to their website, the Board of Game's main role is to conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources. This includes establishing open and closed seasons, areas for taking game, setting bag limits, and regulating methods and means. The board is also involved with setting policy and direction for the management of the state's wildlife resources. The board is charged with making allocative decisions, and the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for management based on those decisions.

What does the Board of Game do?

The BOG receives written proposals, comments, and oral testimony from members of the public, local Fish and Game Advisory Committees (ACs), and Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) staff. The BOG then attempts to pass regulations that respond to people's concerns, while also considering the need for long-term conservation and sustainable use of wildlife. The BOG establishes trapping seasons and bag limits; general and subsistence hunting seasons and limits, intensive management plans, closures and restrictions, areas closed to hunting, and regulating methods.

How often are proposals considered?

Proposed regulations are considered every three years, along with statewide regulations. Interior Region regulations are being considered in 2023/2024; 2026/2027; and 2029/2030. Proposals for the reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts and all brown bear tag fee exemptions are taken up annually. Scan the QR code below to view the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's Game Management Unit's map:



BOG Proposal Process

1. A call for proposals is issued with the due date as May 1 the preceding year.
 - o Proposals can be submitted by ADF&G, Advisory Committees or the public.
2. A proposal book is distributed for statewide comment. Scan the QR Code to access this report:



3. Public written comments are due March 1, 2024 at 11:59 pm.
 - o Comments can be submitted a few ways, including:
 - Online: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/>
 - Mail:
AK Dept of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 - Fax: (907) 465-6094
 - o Comments should include:
 - Name / Tribe / Organization
 - Proposal number(s) commenting on.
 - Indicate support or opposition of each proposal.
 - Describe reasoning.
 - Comments must be no longer than 100 single sided pages.
4. At the meeting, the BOG hears reports from department staff and comments from the public. The board deliberates each proposal and acts by adopting, rejecting, amending, or deferring.
 - o Sign up in-person to provide oral comments.
 - o Written comments and new information can be submitted as a Record Copy (RC) in person that is 10 single sided pages or less, online, or fax (907) 465-6094.
5. Adopted or amended proposals are formatted and submitted to the Department of Law for review and Lt. Governor for filing to be effective regulations.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

- North Pacific Fisheries Management Council - February 5-12, 2024 – Renaissance Hotel, Seattle, WA
- Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – March 5-8, 2024 – Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage, AK
- Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting – March 15-22, 2024 – Pikes Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, AK
- North Pacific Fisheries Management Council – April 1-9, 2024 – Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK
- 2024-2026 Federal Subsistence Board Wildlife Regulatory Meeting – April 2-5, 2024

February is **National Cancer Prevention Month**

40% of the cancer cases diagnosed in the U.S. and nearly 50% of all deaths may be caused by avoidable risk factors. Here are six behaviors you can adopt that may help reduce your risk of developing cancer.



Scan the QR code to read more from the American Association for Cancer Research

1

Exercise Regularly

2

Limit Consumption of Red Meat and Processed Foods

3

Maintain a Healthy Weight

4

Limit Alcohol Consumption

5

Protect Your Skin From the Sun

6

Get Vaccinated Against the Pathogens that Cause Cancer

Nenana's Eva Burk Appointed to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Panel

Eva Burk, a Dene' Athabascan from Nenana and Manley Hot Springs, has been appointed to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) Advisory Panel for a three-year term. The appointment comes amid alarmingly low salmon returns in Western Alaska, and increasing calls for Tribes to have a stronger voice in the way fisheries are managed.

Burk comes equipped. Before her appointment to the advisory panel, she spearheaded educational projects in the region with focus on food sovereignty and traditional knowledge. She sits on at least four other Alaska Native advisory councils, including the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board.

Burk joins the panel among two other Indigenous appointments: Mellisa Maktuayaqvaq Johnson, a Tribal member of the Nome Eskimo community, was reappointed for another three-year term, and Tiffany Andrew, a member of the Alakanuk Traditional Council, was appointed for a one-year term.

"It's such a big deal for three Alaska Tribal members to be appointed," Burk says, "We still don't have the representation on the actual council, but the panel works very closely with the NPFMC itself."

Of her goals on the NPFMC Advisory Panel, Burk says that the biggest issue is trying to figure out how to account for climate change, "To actually protect some species

through reducing bycatch and modifying vessels and gear types," she says.

Burk says that Alaska Native representation on the NPFMC Advisory Panel is a step in the right direction. Although the Council itself has enormous governing powers on Western and Interior Alaska waterways and a voting majority with an economic interest in the trawl fleet, Indigenous representation on the Advisory Council applies pressure in the right places.

As we approach another summer fishing season, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is calling on all of our member Tribes and individuals to continue to provide testimony at every available opportunity. Our collective voices led to these appointments, and it is our voices and traditional knowledge that will lead to changes in policy, which will protect the future of salmon and our way of life.

Scan the QR Code Below to learn more about how you can help.



To watch Eva Burk discuss Indigenous food sovereignty and how it helps shape policy, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDRYm-Nr-A8>

Dolly Simon - Huslia

By Linden Stackiokas

Dolly Simon has an original way to describe the process of becoming a skilled health aide, comparing it to the transition people go through when moving from childhood to adulthood. "Health aide puberty is when you first start—when you get out of that first training session. You are awkward and nervous, unsure of your words, and unsure how to interact with your new health aide hat on. The classes you attended taught you the exact words for asking questions, but you are just awkward and nervous. Then, as you get experience, you transform into a health aide butterfly, and you glide across your clinic with confidence. You walk into an exam room and are able to be both a person and a health aide. You are still asking questions straight from the Community Health Aide manual, but your communication skills are more natural. Patient encounters run so much more smoothly, and you're able to make your patients more comfortable."

Now a Community Health Aide IV, she speaks from experience. "I started sometime in 2016. I can't remember the exact date, because I transitioned from a behavioral health aide to a community health aide. All together I believe I've been working for Tanana Chiefs Conference for about 10 years, so I've been inside the Rose Ambrose health clinic in Huslia for a majority of my adult life."

Dolly was born in Fairbanks but spent her early years in Koyukuk, where her father, Alvin Dayton, lived. Her mother, Gladys Derendoff, is from Huslia, and Dolly's family moved there when she reached school age. She has lived there ever since and is happy to be able to have a career in the place where she has spent most of her life.

Many children have no idea what kind of jobs they want when they become adults, but Dolly can remember knowing even in kindergarten that she wanted to be some sort of health care provider. "Two of my friends' moms were health aides. Dani, who is also a health aide here in Huslia, and I would 'sneak' and read her mom Lisa's community health aide manual. I remember being so interested in all of

the procedures and treatments health aides got to do. Dani's mom, Lisa, another of my friend's moms named Margie, and my friend's older sister named Jana, were heroes in my eyes growing up. I remember seeing them all in action and wishing that when I grew up I could be just like them: calm, attentive and assertive in the midst of chaos."

When Dolly graduated high school in 2012, there were no health aide positions open. She went to the university in Fairbanks for a semester, and when she came home, she was hired by the school district. From there she went to work for TCC, as a behavioral health aide for about two years. But when a community health aide position opened, she switched over to that department.

Asked what the greatest joy of her job is, Dolly said, "People knowing that they can count on me to help. In the event of an emergency, people are able to take a breath because they know I'm there and will do everything I can to help. So, my greatest joy would be that I graduated out of health aide puberty and into a health aide butterfly."

Even though she knew a lot about the job before applying to become a health aide, the job still held some surprises for Dolly. "A baby was delivered in the clinic the first month I was able to be on call. I can recall almost every detail, from who was on call, to the paramedics that were on the LifeMed flight. I think that was the excitement of my career. It drove me to want to learn everything the program and its training center have to offer. I see the kiddo who was born in what feels like not long ago, turn into this big healthy kid and it just makes me happy. The other surprise was how much documentation and paperwork are needed to run a clinic and be a competent health aide!"

"I have created a whole life for myself since starting this job at 23. I have a husband, and we have three children of our own, plus two foster kids that currently live with us. As I grew with the job, I grew being a mom and wife too.



Sometimes when people say they are interested in becoming a health aide, others will try to discourage them, saying how hard it is. I tell them the growth as a person and health aide is unsurpassable; when growing as a health aide, you're growing as a person as well. You learn to communicate more efficiently. You learn to be assertive, empathetic, accountable, innovative, creative and courageous, which are all qualities you possess in personal growth.

The sky's the limit."

When not working or tending to family, Dolly loves to lean into her artistic side. "I am a jack of all craft trades, master of none. I am constantly thinking, 'What can I make next?' I like beading, sewing, crocheting, knitting, graphic designing, and jewelry making. I have polymer clay to try to make my own beads but haven't yet, and I want to try pottery. However, my family thinks the mountains of crafting things I have now is enough, and we don't have the space for a pottery wheel, kiln, and whatever else you need for pottery." In another life, Dolly might have become a stand-up comedian. "I absolutely love laughter and making people laugh. I love being able to lighten the mood in an instant. I started writing a stand-up routine, but never did finish, mostly because I'm very afraid of public speaking and have a hard time even making clinic announcements on the village-wide radio system."

When asked if she wanted to thank anyone for helping her achieve her career goals, Dolly named three women. "My friend's mother, Lisa Bifelt, who unknowingly let us borrow her community health aide manual when her daughter and I were young. My other friend's mother, Margie Ambrose, for the mentorship, and composure she held throughout her career. And my friend and work colleague, Jana Sam, who was always so stoic and collected, who knew exactly what to do and say."

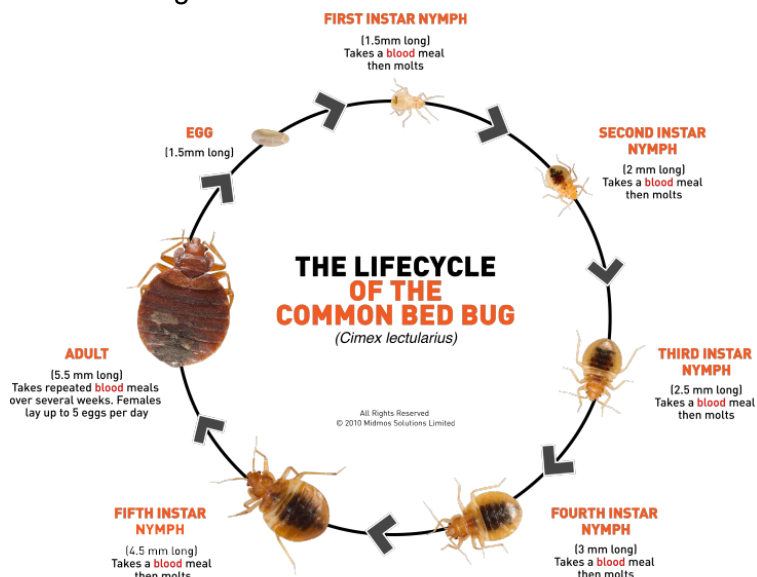
Identifying & Eliminating Bed Bugs

By Felicia Cooper, Health & Safety Officer, & Chris Chestnut, Safety Officer

Due to recent events at one of the local schools in Fairbanks regarding bed bugs, TCC wants to reintroduce the proper precautions and provide information of what to look for and what to do if you encounter a bed bug. Even though your child may not attend the school in question, multiple school events and activities have occurred, and there is a greater opportunity for bed bugs to travel.

What to Look for:

- Rusty or reddish stains on bed sheets or mattresses
- Eggs and eggshells, which are about 1mm
- Live bed bugs
- Bed bug bites or rash



What to Do If You Find a Bed Bug:

- Remove infested items. Place them in a sealed plastic bag and treat them.
- Items that cannot be treated should be placed in a sealed plastic bag or storage container and left there for up to a year.

- Purchase protective covers that seal mattresses and box springs.
- Vacuum constantly and empty contents into a bag and discard immediately.
- Seal any small hiding areas using caulk to seal cracks and crevices.
- Eliminate clutter.

Where Bed Bugs Hide:

- Electrical receptacles and appliances
- Under wall hangings
- Seams of chairs, couches, between cushions, and in the folds of curtains
- Drawer joints
- At the junction where the wall and ceiling meet

Killing Bed Bugs:

- Heat treatment: wash and dry clothing on the highest heat the fabric will tolerate.
- Cold treatment: Put infested items (pillows, bedding, etc.) in a sealed bag and place it outside in 0° or colder, for about four days.
- Steam cleaners: can get into cracks and fabrics to treat carpets, baseboards, bed frames and furniture.
- Bed bug interceptor traps.
- Hiring a professional.

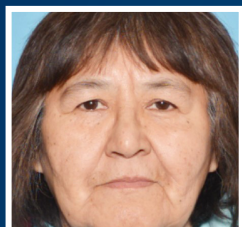
Prevention:

- Continue to inspect for bed bugs at least every 7 days in case any eggs remain.

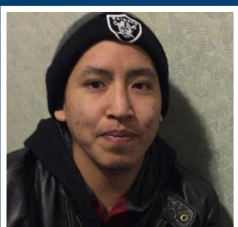


Check out TCC's Environmental Health Page for more information and resources related to bed bugs.

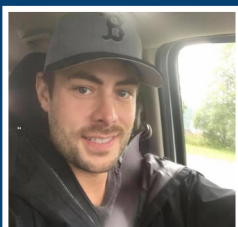
MISSING



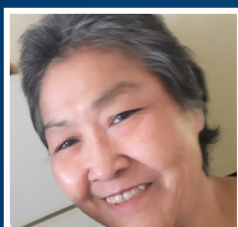
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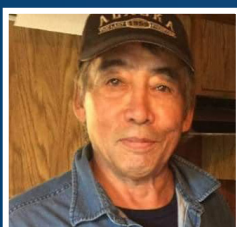
Willis Derendoff



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>



Call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100, Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 or TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251 ext.3269. Visit www.tananachiefs.org/missing for more information.

Tribal Resource Stewardship Corner



Navigating the Waters: Pros and Cons of Fish Hatcheries in River Systems



By Nicole Farnham, TCC Fisheries Biologist

In the ongoing efforts to sustain and enhance aquatic ecosystems, the establishment of fish hatcheries in river systems has become a topic of discussion. While these facilities aim to bolster fish populations and support biodiversity, they come with both advantages and drawbacks that warrant careful consideration.

PROS

Species Conservation:

Fish hatcheries contribute significantly to the conservation of endangered or threatened species. By breeding fish in controlled environments, scientists can protect vulnerable populations from various threats, such as pollution and habitat destruction.

Population Enhancement:

Hatcheries play a crucial role in replenishing fish populations affected by overfishing, natural disasters, or other ecological imbalances. This proactive approach helps maintain a balanced ecosystem and supports recreational and commercial fisheries.

Research Opportunities:

Fish hatcheries provide a controlled environment for scientific research. Studying fish behavior, genetics, and disease resistance in hatcheries can offer valuable insights into the overall health and resilience of wild populations.

Economic Benefits:

Increased fish populations from hatcheries can stimulate local economies by supporting commercial and recreational fishing industries. This, in turn, generates employment opportunities and contributes to regional tourism.

CONS

Genetic Concerns:

Critics argue that the confined environment of fish hatcheries may lead to reduced genetic diversity within populations. This can make the fish more susceptible to diseases and less adaptable to changing environmental conditions.

Ecological Impact:

Releasing large numbers of hatchery-raised fish into natural waterways can disrupt the existing ecological balance. These fish may compete with native species for resources, potentially leading to unintended consequences for the entire ecosystem.

Disease Transmission:

Crowded conditions in hatcheries can facilitate the spread of diseases among fish. When released into the wild, these fish may introduce pathogens to natural populations, posing a risk to the overall health of aquatic ecosystems.

Dependency on Hatcheries:

Some argue that an over-reliance on fish hatcheries might discourage efforts to address the root causes of declining fish populations, such as habitat destruction and water pollution. It's essential to view hatcheries as a complementary, not sole, solution to conservation challenges.

Conclusion:

The establishment of fish hatcheries in river systems is a double-edged sword, offering both benefits and challenges. Striking a balance between conservation goals and potential ecological impacts is crucial for ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of our waterways. As we navigate these waters, it's imperative to approach fish hatcheries with a holistic perspective that considers the broader ecological context.



Do You Have Your Alaska Real ID Card?

Deadline extended to May 7, 2025

For more information on REAL ID, visit www.dhs.gov/real-id

TCC Joins Call to Secretary Haaland for the Conservation of 29 million Acres in Alaska

On December 22nd, 2023, three prominent tribal consortia organizations representing 118 federally-recognized Tribes released a joint letter addressed to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. The letter comes in response to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) recently released ANCSA 17 D-1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The letter requests Secretary Haaland to retain all protections of the 28 million acres of land contained within the area.

"In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public's interest to adopt a precautionary approach that prioritizes the protection of the natural environment that underpins our subsistence resources, over the industrial exploration of intact lands and pristine waters," the letter states. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) joined Kawerak, the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Bering Sea Interior Tribal Commission, and 78 other Tribes in asking for the approval of the no-action alternative.

The draft EIS document lists four alternatives to the development of the 18 million acres of land that contains thousands of miles of salmon spawning, rearing watersheds, and ancestral lands of the Kawerak, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Association of Village Council Presidents. Alternative

A proposes the retention of all D-1 protections; Alternative D lifts all D-1 protections; and Alternatives B & C retains some protections while lifting others.

D-1 lands in this EIS include BLM-managed lands in five BLM planning areas: Kobuk-Seward, Bering Sea-Western Interior, Bay, East Alaska, and Ring of Fire. These areas contain critical watersheds with highly productive salmon streams, caribou calving grounds, tundra landscapes, coastal estuaries, moose habitat, and marshes crucial to migratory birds. Additionally, they serve as important hunting, fishing, and gathering grounds for more than 100 Indigenous Alaskan communities.

"Our fathers, mothers, grandparents, and ancestors gathered, hunted, and fished on this land, and we carry on these traditions today across these lands and watersheds that feed us," said Melanie Bahnke, President and CEO of Kawerak, "It is our obligation to protect our traditional lands and longstanding cultural practices for our children, grandchildren, and those yet to come."

D-1 public land orders can only be lifted by the Secretary of the Interior if recommended in a BLM Resource Management Plan or an Environmental Impact Statement. BLM

has finalized five management plans in these regions that recommend lifting all D-1 protections from BLM-managed land in these planning areas. Most of those plans were finalized decades ago, and did not consider impacts from climate change nor the impacts to Indigenous

communities. In response to this, the Biden administration announced this most recent EIS process to modernize the analyses of impacts and the recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. The joint letter is a call from Indigenous communities who will be most impacted by this decision.

"Our people have stewarded this land for millennia and we are calling on the Bureau of Land Management to honor our culture and traditions and protect these lands just as we have always done," said Brian Ridley, Chief/Chairman of TCC.

It is our obligation to protect our traditional lands and longstanding cultural practices for our children, grandchildren, and those yet to come.

-Melanie Bahnke, President and CEO of Kawerak-

Receive News and Updates from TCC Straight to Your Email!

- Interested in hearing important news in real-time from across our region?
- Want to receive timely reminders about advocacy opportunities that need your input now?

To sign up, scan the QR Code or visit

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/the-council-signup/>



Election Criteria 2024 TCC Annual Convention

SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

Executive Board of Directors

Subregional Positions:

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion 3 Year Term (2024-2027)

Currently Claude 'Joe' Petruska, Nikolai

Lower Yukon Subregion 3 Year Term (2024-2027)

Currently Eugene Paul, Holy Cross

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current village director, as authorized by tribal/village resolution. (Article 7, Section 4)
- Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Members of member villages of the corporation. (Article 4, Section 1)
- Full Time employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with exception of the President. E-Board Members may serve as temporary or seasonal TCC employees. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must successfully pass an ICPA and Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check. (See also Executive Board Policy 50-5003).
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. To be eligible as a candidate, individuals must pass the background check the week before their election

Advisory Boards

The three TCC Advisory Boards make recommendations to the TCC Executive Board and President. The Regional Health board is selected by each respective subregion. (Article 7, Section 2). The President has the authority to appoint all individuals to the other advisory boards, (Article 7, Section 3), but the most recent process has been for the subregions to democratically select representatives to each advisory board. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

Youth Advisor to the Executive Board

Full Board of Directors to Ratify election of Youth Advisor to Executive Board by Emerging Leaders

Currently Alex Hanna, Minto

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a resident of the State of Alaska, and an Alaska Native Tribal member between the ages of 18 and 21, when the term begins.
- The Youth Advisor must not be a full-time employee of TCC.
- On an election year, Tribal councils shall nominate a youth for the position of Youth Advisor by submitting a letter of nomination to the TCC Executive Coordinator during the 30-day period described in Article Four, Section 12. The nominees shall be presented to the TCC Emerging Leaders, and the Emerging Leaders will elect the Youth Advisor. (Article Seven/Section 4)

Regional Health Advisory Board

Yukon Tanana Subregion..... 3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Andrew Jimmie, Minto

Yukon Koyukuk Subregion..... 3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Martha Demoski, Nulato

Education Council

Yukon Flats Subregion..... 3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Nadine Carroll, Gwichyaa Zhee (Fort Yukon)

Yukon Koyukuk Subregion..... 3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Gertie Sam, Huslia

Lower Yukon Subregion..... 3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Alfred Demientieff, Holy Cross

Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

Yukon Koyukuk Subregion..... 3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Jenny Pelkola, Loudon (Galena)

Lower Yukon Subregion..... 3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Bradley Painter, Grayling

FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Officer Positions

Secretary/Treasurer.....3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Robert "Charlie" Wright, Rampart

Eligibility Criteria:

- Officers must be Alaska Native members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1)
- Must successfully pass the ICPA and (DHSS) Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check. (See also Executive Board Policy 50-5003). Executive and Health board candidates must turn in a completed and correct background check application to Heather Rogers in Human Resources by February 13th to guarantee background checks will be completed by March 2nd. Individuals contemplating running for a board position should turn in a background check application immediately to ensure the ability to make corrections to mistakes in the lengthy application. All background check applications will be confidential and only Human Resources will have access to the application and the names of individuals. Those individuals that do not submit complete paperwork or fail to pass a background check will not be eligible candidates for the TCC President/Chairman, Executive Board or Health Board positions.
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Advisory Board of Directors. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to their respective spring 2023 Subregional Advisory Board Meeting, according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

AFN Village Representative

The AFN Village Representative election is currently under review.

IRHA Board of Commissioners

Seat A3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Vacant

Seat B3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Marvin Deacon, Grayling

Eligibility Criteria:

* Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors

- Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commissioners (Article 7, Section 7)

Important Dates and Deadlines

February 1st - Declaration of Candidacy Opens

February 1st at 8:00am the open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

February 12th - Background Check Deadline

The last day TCC is able to guarantee a background check will be completed in time for the required 10 day announcement of candidates before the meeting.

February 26th at 5:00pm - Full Board Resolutions Due

Full Board Resolutions must be written as TCC resolutions, not Tribal resolutions. Please confirm receipt of your resolutions.

March 1st at 5:00pm - Candidacy Window Closes

The open period in which a candidate may declare candidacy ends. Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing. TCC must provide a list of eligible candidates to member tribes.

March 14th - Elections

TCC elections held at the TCC Full Board of Directors Annual Meeting at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.

ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:

The Indian Child Protection Act (ICPA), requires TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors to pass a federal ICPA background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act background check.

The TCC Executive Board has made the commitment to both comply with current laws, Board policies and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC Executive Board and Health Board candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 12th submitted to Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director. This allows enough time for the check to be complete. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the respective elections.

2024 TCC ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES

RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED

To be elected to a position, nominees are required to receive a majority vote from the votes cast by the TCC Board of Delegates. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot provided by these Election Rules until a nominee receives a majority vote.

RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY

1. In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat after the third ballot, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.

2. Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:

The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.

If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will proceed to

the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The remaining candidates will be eliminated.

If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

If there are more than three (3) candidates tied for first highest vote, all of those receiving the first highest will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

If all but one candidate ties for second, the Election Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the nominees who tied for second. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

3. Ballots where there are three (3) nominees. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot having three (3) nominees, the Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes, and conduct a subsequent ballot. If all three (3) nominees tie for the votes cast, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot including all nominees. If two nominees tie for the fewest votes cast, the Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the two nominees who tied for the fewest votes cast on the prior ballot. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

4. Ballots with two (2) nominees. The nominee receiving a majority vote shall be elected. If neither nominee receives a majority vote, the Election Committee will prepare another ballot without elimination of the nominee receiving the fewer votes. This Election Committee will repeat this process as necessary until one nominee receives a majority vote.

** Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2024 Full Board of Director's roll call.

Full Board Resolutions

All resolutions must be received by fax, email, mail or in-person by 5:00pm Monday, February 26, 2024 to be considered for review at Convention. If you choose to mail in your proposed resolution, call 1-800-478-6822 ext.3275 to notify Legal so that you do not miss the deadline.

Fax or email, then mail proposed resolutions & information sheets to:

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
ATTENTION: Keith Rueben, Legal Department
122 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 600
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701
FAX: (907) 459-3953
Email: keith.rueben@tananachiefs.org

REMINDER: PLEASE WORD RESOLUTIONS AS TCC RESOLUTIONS AND NOT TRIBAL RESOLUTIONS



Download the resolution form on our website.

Declaration of Candidacy

Individuals who want to declare themselves a candidate must submit a written, signed and dated letter of intent between 8:00 AM February 1, 2024 and 5:00 PM March 1, 2024.

Letters of intent must be received by fax, mail or delivered in person no later than 5:00 PM on March 1, 2024 to:

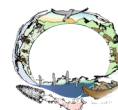
Tanana Chiefs Conference
ATTN: Chelle Johnson, Executive Coordinator
122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, AK 99701
1-800-478-6822 ext.3044 FAX # (907) 459-3884

2024 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Robin Brown, General Counsel at robin.brown@tananachiefs.org



Download the letter of intent form on our website.

LETTER OF INTENT



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

DATE (Must be between 8 a.m. February 1, 2024 and 5 p.m. March 1, 2024)

I, _____ of _____ declare my intent to run for the Tanana Chiefs Conference
(Name) (Village/Enrolled to)

position of _____
(Insert seat you intend to run as a candidate for. Example: Secretary/Treasurer, Subregional Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education Council, IRHA Board of Commissioner, or /ATC)

Signature

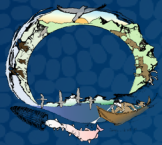
Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

Print Name

Phone Number

Email Address



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council Newsletter

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

Communications Division
122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



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our E-Newsletter!
Get important
updates straight
to your inbox.



FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Circle	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Eagle	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Fairbanks	Reentry Clinical Lead
Fairbanks	Registration & Admissions Specialist
Fairbanks	Clinical Support Specialist
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Primary Care
Fairbanks	Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care
Fairbanks	Dental Health Aide Coordinator
Fairbanks	Surgical Technologist II-ASC
Fairbanks	Perioperative Nurse II-ASC
Fairbanks	Environmental Services Technician I
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Addictions Case Manager
Fairbanks	Healthy Transitions Project Manager
Fairbanks	Healthy Transitions Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
Fairbanks	Residential Care Coordinator I
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II- Accounting
Fairbanks	Compliance & Risk Specialist
Fairbanks	Infrastructure Project Manager
Fairbanks	Infrastructure Intern
Fairbanks	Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Fairbanks	Audio, Visual Specialist
Fairbanks	Alert Care Coordinator
Fort Yukon	Village Public Safety Officer-Regional Rover
Galena	Home Care Provider
Galena	Village Public Safety Officer-Regional Rover
Minto	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Nenana	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Region-Wide	Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant
Tok	Security Officer I
Tok	Clinical Support Staff/Medical Assistant



Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

Visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see a full list of open positions and learn more about the benefits available through Tanana Chiefs Conference.

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF JANUARY 18, 2024

Do You Have Medicaid?

Don't Miss This Letter!



Medicaid Renewal Letters



Medicaid renewal has started the annual renewal process, and the Division of Public Assistance will be reaching out to households to verify information to renew medicaid coverage.

Questions?

Contact Alternate Resources at
907-451-6682 ext. 3100

UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB
19**

TCC Offices Closed
President's Day

**FEB
29**

Executive Board Meeting
Zoom Meeting about TCC's 2024 Convention

**MAR
11-14**

TCC Annual Convention
Westmark - Fairbanks, AK

**MAR
15**

TCC Offices Closed
Traditional Chief's Day

**APR
9-10**

2024 Education Summit
Fairbanks, AK