



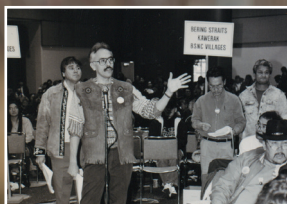
Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 49 No. 3 • Mar 2024



Will Mayo TCC's 2024 Keynote Speaker



Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is proud to announce Will Mayo as our 2024 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting keynote speaker!

Will is from Rampart and Tanana and is known for his extensive leadership experience in advocating for indigenous communities. Serving as the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) President from 1991 to 1999, he played a pivotal role in shaping the organization during this time. Will has also served as Executive Director of Alaska Tribal Unity, TCC Executive Director of Tribal Government and Client Services and co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Since 1979,

Will has been a leader, caring deeply about the history of the region and the culture of Native people in interior Alaska. His leadership has made a big impact, and he is well-respected for his dedication to the Alaska Native community.

TCC is excited to have Will as the keynote speaker for TCC's 2024 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting. His work on behalf of our region truly reflects this year's Convention theme 'One People, One Voice' which emphasizes the strength that we have when we work together.

Will's keynote speech will take place on Monday, March 11th, at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. For those

unable to attend in person, the event will be livestreamed at

www.tananachiefs.org/live.

For more details about the 2024 Annual Convention, interested individuals can find additional information on the TCC website by scanning the QR Code below. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Scan for More
Information
About the 2024
TCC Annual
Convention



ONE People ONE Voice

2024 TCC Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting
March 11th-14th • Westmark Hotel • Fairbanks, AK

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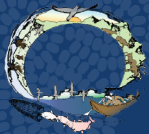


Mission

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

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

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to the communities of Hughes and Manley to meet with Tribal Leadership and community members, learn about their priorities and share how TCC can help. I always enjoy traveling out to our tribal communities and visiting with residents. I would like to thank both communities to opening their doors to myself and my staff and for being so hospitable.

Advocacy remains a crucial aspect of our work, and in January, I traveled to Juneau as part of the Alaska Regional Coalition. This coalition, comprised of TCC, Tlingit and Haida, Manilaq, Kawerak, Chugachmiut and Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, allows us to amplify our collective voice on critical issues affecting 109 Tribes and 70,000 Alaskans. During this visit, I had the privilege of testifying at the House Tribal Affairs Special Committee, advocating for increased Alaska Native representation on boards and commissions. Further details on this initiative can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

Last month, we held the Reclaiming Our People Summit in Fairbanks, a significant gathering that focused on Behavioral Health and Wellness in our region. This summit was a direct response to the request made at our Special Convention in November and provided an invaluable platform to bring everyone together to address these crucial issues facing our communities. The discussions and insights shared during the summit are vital steps towards enhancing the well-being of our people.

In addition to these important updates, I am happy to announce Will Mayo as our 2024 Keynote Speaker for our upcoming annual convention. Will has been a long-time advocate for Alaska Natives and has been a valued colleague here at TCC for many years. I always look forward to his leadership, guidance, and I can't wait to hear his keynote at our Convention. Learn more about our upcoming meeting on page 10 of this newsletter.



Mahsi' Choo,
Brian Ridley, Chief
Tanana Chiefs Conference



April Johnson
907-687-9193

Lucy Frank
907-378-8002

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.



2024 TCC Calendars Now Available!

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

Making Informed Energy Decisions In McGrath

During the week of January 15th, Tanana Chiefs Conference's Rural Energy Specialist, Eddie Dellamary along with members of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) held several community meetings with key public figures in McGrath. The meeting consisted of Tribal Council Members of McGrath Native Village Council, McGrath City Council, Board members of the Iditarod Area School District, MTNT

Limited, and McGrath Light and Power; as well as many important community members. The purpose of the meetings were to talk about how informed energy decisions are made and help the groups think through all the facets of energy decision-making. Eddie discussed several recent renewable energy projects throughout the Interior, lessons learned from other communities, and current funding opportunities.



Combating Colon Cancer TCC Takes the Lead in Alaska Native Communities

A recent report from the American Cancer Society has shed light on the alarming revelation that Indigenous Alaskans have the highest rate of colon cancer in the world. The report calls for increased screenings, stool tests, and follow-up care for people aged 45-49 to help curb this trend.

According to TCC's guidelines, screening colonoscopies should commence at the age of 40 for Alaska Native individuals, with a recommended screening interval of every five years. In adopting the most frequent screening program statewide, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) aims to reduce the incidence of colon cancer among Alaska Native populations.

In addition to implementing its

screening program, TCC is actively advocating for other Alaska Tribal Health Organizations to adopt similar initiatives. Recognizing the importance of collaborative efforts, TCC

Colonoscopy, when started early and performed often, is quite effective at preventing a patient from ever getting colo-rectal cancer

-Dr. Stephen Gerrish

seeks to create a ripple effect, encouraging other health-care providers to prioritize colon cancer prevention strategies tailored to the unique needs of Alaska Native populations.

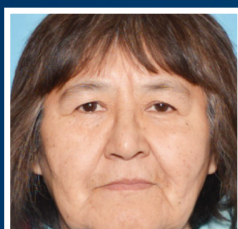
By raising awareness about the importance of early detection and promoting healthy lifestyle initiatives, TCC aims to empower our patients. Physicians and Quality Assurance staff encourage all patients to discuss colonoscopy screenings with providers. "In spite of our efforts, and aggressive screening and prevention guidelines, the number of patients

seeking colonoscopy screenings is far from ideal," says Dr. Stephen Gerrish, a provider at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, "We hope to see more patients seeking early detection in the coming months. It significantly improves the chances for positive outcomes."

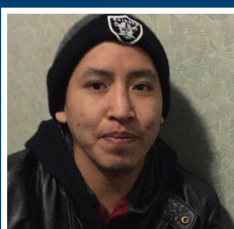
Dr. Gerrish emphasizes the effect that colonoscopy has on cancer diagnosis and prognosis. "We are now confident that colonoscopy, when started early and performed often, is quite effective at preventing a patient from ever getting colo-rectal cancer," he says, "That is so much better than waiting until a cancer diagnosis, and then trying to manage it."

Worldwide risk factors mean that world class interventions are necessary. If you are 40 or older, talk with your provider about colon cancer screening, and take advantage of our early detection opportunity.

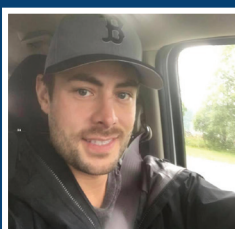
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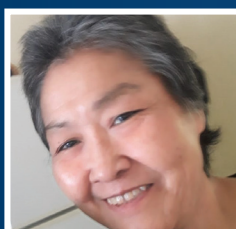
Lorraine Ginnis



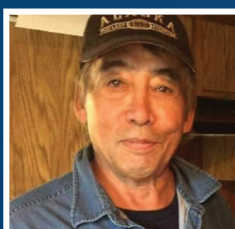
Willis Derendoff



Doren Sanford



Debbie Nictune



Frank Minano

SUBMIT TIPS ANONYMOUSLY:

Text AKTIPS followed by your tip to 84711 or visit

<https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips>



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.

TCC Rural Energy Specialist Appointed to Arctic Energy Ambassadors Program

Tanana Chiefs Conference proudly announces the appointment of Edward Dellamary, Rural Energy Specialist, as an Arctic Energy Ambassador for the Department of Energy. In this role, Edward represents the Interior region in the Arctic Energy Ambassadors Program, a collaboration between the Arctic Energy Office, the Denali Commission, and the Alaska Municipal League.

The Arctic Energy Ambassadors Program aims to empower local experts across Alaska to lead sustainable energy projects. Twelve practitioners, carefully selected from diverse regions, will enhance energy security and drive the state towards a clean energy future. Aligned with the U.S. Department of Energy's Arctic Strategic

gy, this initiative focuses on cultivating regional, place-based, and collaborative energy leadership.

Edward's selection through a competitive process underscores his wealth of experience and dedication to community well-being. As a Rural Energy Specialist with Tanana Chiefs Conference, he possesses the skills necessary to address the unique energy challenges faced by Tribal Communities.

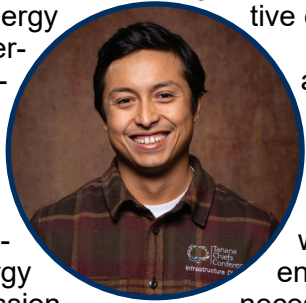
In his own words, Edward states, "My goal as an Arctic Energy Ambassador is to work with the Department of Energy and address the issues and needs of our tribal communities here in the Interior." He will play a pivotal role in articulating community needs, connecting stakeholders, promoting

capacity development, and developing replicable projects.

This collaboration emphasizes the importance of local expertise in driving sustainable energy initiatives. The program's mission aligns with TCC's commitment to fostering energy resilience and addressing the specific needs of our communities.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Edward on this well-deserved appointment. His work as an Arctic Energy Ambassador promises to make a positive impact on the energy landscape in our region, and we are excited to witness the strides he will make in addressing the unique energy challenges faced by our Tribal Communities in the Interior.

Congratulations to Eddie for this appointment! We look forward to seeing your positive impact in our region!



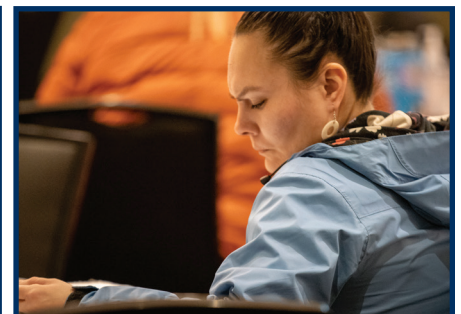
Empowering Tribal Leadership: 2024 Tribal Government Training

The recent Tribal Government Training hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) brought together Tribal Leaders and Tribal Administrators for engaging sessions focused on strengthening governance and building resilient communities. Held from January 30th to February 1st, 2024, attendees participated in workshops led by TCC programs and divisions.

This gathering provided Tribal leaders with the opportunity to learn and exchange insights on crucial topics such as financial responsibilities, Council roles, and policies affecting

Tribal governance. Representatives from Holy Cross, Nulato, Ruby, and Tanana shared successful strategies for achieving self-determination, fostering collaboration and learning among attendees. The conference concluded with participants feeling empowered and equipped with valuable knowledge from leaders across the TCC region.

Mahsi Choo' to all leaders who attended and to the TCC staff for their support in making this event possible!

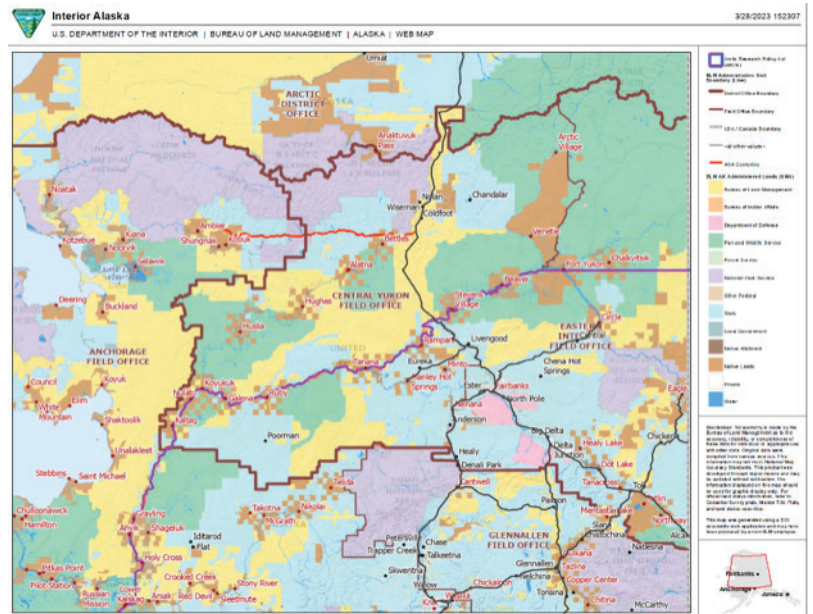


DOI Negotiations: Self-Governance Agreement

By Carrie Stevens, UAF Tribal Governance Department Chair and Associate Professor

As directed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors (per Resolution 2022-12), TCC leadership has been actively negotiating a self-governance agreement with the Department of the Interior to further co-steward and maintain our traditional ways of life. The Agreement is based on consultation, communication, and relationship to center Tribal voices and priorities on federal public lands and in federal public programs, which is sorely missing. The Agreement will be the first of its kind working directly with the Department of Interior to develop a unified, inter-agency agreement including US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management., and US Geological Survey. The Agreement will commit DOI Agencies to a lasting and sustainable relationship with the Tribes of our region, based on strong communication, respect for Tribal self-determination, responsibility to future generations, and reciprocity with the lands and waters. The Agreement recognizes Tribes and Agencies are stronger together and acknowledges the nation-to-nation relationship and trust obligation between the United States and the Tribes. The primary outcome of the Agreement seeks to establish regular Tribal and Inter-Agency communication, consultation, planning, and prioritizing. The goal of the Agreement is to establish a framework from which to grow Tribal Self-governance Co-Stewardship Agreements over the long-term.

For more information please contact Amber Vaska, Executive Director, Tribal Government and Client Services, Phone 907-452-8251 x3110, Email amber.vaska@tananachiefs.org



TCC Meets with Tribal Leadership in Hughes and Manley Hot Springs

On February 6th, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) leaders visited Hughes and Manley Hot Springs to meet with Tribal leaders and community members. The goal was to understand their concerns, priorities, and offer help where possible. TCC thanks both communities for their warm welcome and looks forward to more visits in the future.

The visit allowed TCC leaders to listen to the people of Hughes and Manley Hot Springs, learn about their daily challenges, and share ideas. TCC is committed to supporting our Tribes

and Tribal members and look forward to more trips to our rural communities to better understand their needs.



Healing & Culture Come Together at Tanana Wellness Event

In January, the Tanana Tribe kicked off the New Year in a good way by hosting a two-day wellness event. The event brought community members together to participate in cultural activities that fostered a sense of unity and well-being.

Supported by TCC's Learning and Development Division and Family Services and Support Division, the event offered a variety of cultural activities that everyone could participate in. One of the highlights was the Alaska Blanket Exercise, a powerful and interactive learning experience that unfolds the history and impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples. Participants also engaged in hands-on activities like salve making, drum making, wood burning, mitten, and hat string making, as well as traditional crafts like beading.

The idea for the event first came about when resident, Donna Folger, expressed that she wanted to host a positive, healthy community event in Tanana. Donna is known in the community for bringing people together and supporting initiatives that promote wellness. She is also known across the region for facilitating the annual Patti L. Hyslop Leadership in

Sobriety Award, which is presented each year during Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Annual Convention to someone who has committed to a healthy life of sobriety. This event was one of the last things Donna did for her community before her passing in January.

Although Donna was unable to attend the event, her message and her commitment to the well-being of her community was felt. Donna's message to participants was this, "Don't leave anyone behind, help and support each other."

TCC is grateful for Donna's vision and dedication, recognizing her as a driving force behind the success of this Wellness Event. We will continue to support wellness activities throughout our region.



TCC Chief Brian Ridley Provides Testimony at House Tribal Affairs Special Committee

Brian Ridley, Tanana Chiefs Conference's Chief, gave an important testimony at the January 31st House Tribal Affairs Special Committee. The meeting was the first for the 2024 legislative session, and centered around discussion of the importance of Alaska Native representation on state-level boards and commissions.

I'm here to tell you that what's good for Alaska Natives is good for Alaska.

-Chief Brian Ridley

The committee meeting was attended by Representatives Ben Carpenter, Maxine Dibert, Thomas Baker, Sarah Vance, Rebecca Himschoot, Jamie Al-lard, and House Affairs Special Committee Chairman, Representative CJ McCormick. Ridley joined other stakeholder presenters, including Richard Peterson, President of Tlingit & Haida; Senior Director, Barbara "Waahlaal Giidaag" Blake and Executive Director, Karen Linnell, of the Alaska Native Policy Center, and Robin Samuelson, former CEO of Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation and Former Member of the Alaska Board of Fish.

Ridley's testimony focused on the salmon crisis and its parallel with the current lack of Native representation on the Board of Fish and Board of Game, as well as the lack of Govern-

ment dollars allocated towards the Subsistence section of the state's fish budget. "By these numbers, subsistence is less of a priority, and more of an afterthought for the State of Alaska," Ridley declared.

In recent years, the State of Alaska has allocated \$6 million to the subsistence fishing and hunting portion of the overall fish budget, which accounts for just 4.56% of the overall budget. Even more concerning is that the subsistence fish distribution has amounted to less than 1% of the overall state haul. It comes in at under 20 lbs for urban households. In rural households – where, according to an Alaska Department of Fish and Game survey, harvested meat accounts for 100% of residents' daily protein intake – the distribution averaged 275 lbs per household. By contrast, commercial fishing operations pulled 98.6 % of the overall harvest of fish from Alaskan waters in recent years.

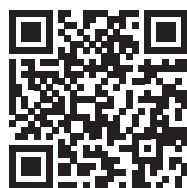
"I'm here to tell you that what's good for Alaska Natives is good for Alaska," Ridley said about the need for Indig-

enous knowledge to hold a place on State boards of Fish and Game.

"We are at the front of the lines, fighting for wild resources for our state. We're taking our battles inside the courthouses to ensure that all of our children will have access to salmon, crab, halibut, moose, and caribou."

Ridley ended his presentation with a reminder to the Tribal Affairs Committee that the Board of Fish is currently drafting incorporations of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into their processes. "The only way to ensure the adequate inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in the Board of Fish and Board of Game decision-making processes is to adequately have the Alaska Native perspective represented on these boards," he concluded.

If you want to learn more about what you can do to represent our crucial perspective in spaces like Board of Fish and Board of Game, check out our Take Action for Fish webpage:



SCAN ME
TO APPLY!



Calling All Native Artists, Performers & Crafters!

Showcase Indigenous Culture This Summer!

TCC's Cultural Programs are seeking artists, crafters, and performers of all forms to showcase their talents at the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center for the 2024 Tourist Season: which runs from May 15th to September 15th. We aim to have the entire TCC region represented at our summer shows!

National Nutrition Month

FOCUS ON FIBER!

Fiber is an easy way to make your diet healthier. Diets high in fiber may reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Fiber is a type of carbohydrate that stays intact in the digestive tract rather than breaking down into sugar. Fiber helps slow down the rise in blood sugars during the digestive process. Fiber also acts as a prebiotic; it feeds the good bacteria in our gut, which helps keep our gut and whole body healthy.

The recommended amount of fiber is 25 grams/day for women and 38 grams/day for men. Fiber is only found in plant-based foods. Good sources of fiber include whole grains, nuts and seeds, beans, fruits and vegetables. When you increase the fiber in your meals and snacks, start slowly. Add in one fiber-rich food at a time. And always be sure to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

We have three dietitians at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center to help with any nutrition needs. They are Katie Garrity, Sylvia Slotnick and Celine Siddall, who is currently the acting WIC coordinator. Our dietitians are happy to meet with patients and answer any questions they have. If you are interested in meeting with a dietitian, ask your provider to put in a referral for you or call 907-451-6682, ext. 3768.

Recipe:

Roasted Garbanzo Beans - 5 grams of fiber per 1/4 cup serving

- 1 - 15-ounce cans of garbanzo beans
- Non-stick cooking spray or 2 Tbsp. of olive oil
- ½ tsp salt
- Additional seasonings: ground pepper to taste, 1 Tbsp. of Italian herbs or chili powder

Preheat oven to 425°F. Pat chickpeas dry with paper towels. Place on a large rimmed baking sheet. Coat with cooking spray (or toss with olive oil), sprinkle salt and other spices. Bake until crunchy for 30-45 minutes (check them at 30 minutes and continue baking an additional 15 minutes if desired)

Resources:

Scan these QR Codes for more information about how to increase your fiber intake!



Here are a few easy ways to add more fiber to your diet:

- Choose whole grain crackers with three or more grams of fiber per serving. Try rye crackers and Triscuits instead of Ritz or soda crackers. Other high fiber snacks include low-fat popcorn, nuts, raw vegetables with hummus, apples, pears, and oranges.
- Breakfast is a great meal to add in some fiber. Include nuts or chia seeds and berries in your oatmeal, or have a serving of fruit along with your morning scrambled eggs.
- Beans and lentils are an excellent source of fiber and protein. You can add beans to your tacos or chili. Make a bean or lentil soup or add roasted garbanzo beans to your salad instead of croutons.
- Other foods high in fiber include: avocados, green peas, broccoli and Brussel sprouts, whole grain bread, barley, quinoa, pumpkin and sunflower seeds, sweet potato, and many more.

Mail Service Delivery Business

By Betty Ross, Deputy Director of Tribal Government and Client Services

Going into a mail service business can be a rewarding venture, especially if you live in a remote village with limited mail service. The U.S. Postal Service relies on contractors for help in remote areas to deliver mail. A contractor who delivers mail to a rural area may be an individual (sole proprietor) or an organization.

To get started:

1. Set up your business. For more help in setting up a business in Alaska, visit the Alaska Small Business Development Center <https://aksbdc.org/>
2. If you already have a business, add contract delivery service to your services.
3. If you are an organization, you will register with SAM, you will be assigned a Unique Entity ID: <https://sam.gov>
4. Apply for a Transportation Contract through USPS

Resources:

- The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) can offer guidance and help for entrepreneurs and businesses. Reach out to the Alaska SBDC at (907) 786.7205 or email info@aksbdc.org.
- See the Mail Transportation Contracting Guide for more information:



Yukon River Agreement Proposed by Alaska & Canada

By Gale K. Vick, Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee Member

At the January 2024 meeting of the Yukon River Panel in Whitehorse, Canada, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) unveiled a draft “agreement” that, among other issues, is calling for a seven year stand down of any Chinook fishing on the Yukon River, except for discretionary cultural use and the transmission of cultural knowledge and minimal take for scientific purposes.

This is part of a “Rebuilding Target” plan between the two countries addressing the significant decline in the mainstem, or primary channel, of Canadian-bound Chinook over the past two decades. This initiative also serves as a means to assist in the restoration of severely depleted stocks on the U.S. side, particularly in the Chena and Salcha Rivers. The dwindling numbers in these rivers has raised concerns about the complete loss of discrete stocks.

Upon the announcement of this draft agreement, numerous concerns were expressed. Stakeholders along both sides of the border were not consulted, raising worries about the potential impact on the subsistence harvest of summer and fall chum. There is also concern that the entire responsibility for rebuilding Chinook stock on the Yukon River not be solely placed on Yukon River fishers. Numerous contributing factors, such as bycatch, intercept, and hatchery impacts, still need to be addressed.

However, at least one long-time Panel member, Andy Bassich of Eagle, calls the Agreement “the most important and meaningful action ever taken to begin the process of trying to save a stock from extinction.”

In 2003, the count of Chinook passing through Pilot Station, AK reached 318,088. Fast forward to 2023, and the number plummeted to 58,529, marking the second-lowest on record. (The lowest count occurred in 2022, with only 48,439 Chinook.) The present Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) range for the Border is set between 42,500 and 55,000 Chinook. However, the escapement at the Eagle Sonar in 2023 recorded only 14,752 Chinook, highlighting a significant shortfall. Border crossing goals have remained unmet for several consecutive years. Notably,

Canadian-bound Chinook constitute an estimated 50% of the total Yukon River Chinook, and none of the U.S. streams have achieved their Chinook escapement goals in recent years.

Virgil Umphenour, a Panel advisor and one of the original architects of the Yukon River Treaty, highlighted that relying solely on the Border crossing of Chinook doesn’t provide the complete picture. He emphasized that salmon still have up to 800 miles to travel to reach their natal streams, and this journey could represent only half of the Border crossing number.

At the Panel meeting, extensive discussions revolved around the mysterious decline of Chinook between Pilot Station and Eagle Station. Studies conducted at three locations along the Yukon in 2023 highlighted an increase in ichthyophonous, a disease known for causing grayish-white lesions on salmon’s internal organs and skin. These findings suggest that the disease could be a contributing factor to the decline in salmon numbers. However, others felt that the decreasing size of King salmon is creating smaller, weaker fish with insufficient energy to cover the up to 2000-mile journey. Virgil emphasized that later entries into the river were often referred to as ‘slow swimmers,’ possibly due to a lack of essential nutrients.

Chief Rhonda Pitka of Beaver discussed the incredible amount of flooding in the Yukon Flats and upper Yukon in 2023. She pointed out that due to reduced or halted fishing activities, there’s a loss of local observation along the river. She emphasized, “We are losing the local observations along the river. We used to hear ‘ground-truthing’ all the time.”

Erik Weingarh, the U.S. Panel member from St. Mary’s, noted that “stopping fishing alone is not going to change those factors.”

Dennis Zimmerman, a Canadian Panel member, pointed out that many of the presentations at the meeting were initially geared towards managing harvest, but it’s evident that harvest is no longer the primary concern. This shift in focus moves the conversation towards rebuilding and shifts the narrative. He emphasized that the ultimate objective is to “see fish on the spawning grounds.”

Elizabeth MacDonald, a Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) First

Nations member emphasized that “we need to be worrying about extinction *right now.*”

Numerous delegates and public testifiers spoke passionately and eloquently during the proceedings. Canadian Elder, Don Toews from Marsh Lake, noted in December of 2022 that the Yukon River Chinook were “functionally extinct.” In January 2024, he reiterated this sentiment, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive plan and collaborative approach. Toews stresses the importance of collective effort to change across generations, preparing for the possibility of no harvesting in the foreseeable future. He stated, “If we really want Chinook in the system contributing ecologically and culturally, we know what we need to do. If we are wrong, and they recover in the next five years, that will be a miracle but not likely.”

Anticipating numerous discussions about the Agreement and rebuilding plans, there may be the prospect of a river-wide virtual discussion in March. Future articles will delve deeper into this critical issue.

Take Action Now!

Watch the Panel Meeting: The entire public portion of the January 2024 Panel meeting can be seen on YouTube. Scan the QR Code to watch:



Share Your Testimony! The Pre-Season Yukon River Panel meeting will be held in Anchorage, April 6th-11th, 2024. The meeting location is to be decided. Scan this QR Code to visit the Yukon River Panel page to learn more about the meeting:



Agenda At-A-Glance

2024 Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting

MONDAY

March 11, 2024

7:30 am

Credentials Committee Meeting - Westmark Red Lantern Restaurant

8:30 am

CALL TO ORDER

Annual Delegates Meeting

8:40 am

Invocation
Moment of Silence

8:45 am

Presentation of Colors

9:00 am

Welcome Addresses - TCC
In Memoriam
Committee Assignments

Welcome Addresses

Doyon, Limited
Fairbanks Native Association
Interior Regional Housing
City of Fairbanks
Fairbanks North Star Borough
City of North Pole

10:00 am

BREAK

10:15 am

Elder Address
Emerging Leaders Report

12:00 pm

WORKING LUNCH

1:00 pm

Introduction of Theme
Keynote Address

2:00 pm

Health Report

3:00 pm

BREAK

3:15 pm

Cancer Care and Cancer Prevention Panel

5:00 pm

RECESS

WELCOME RECEPTION

5:00 pm

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall

Hosted By:



TUESDAY

March 12, 2024

8:30 am

RECONVENE

Invocation

8:40 am

Educated and Empowered Tribal Members

10:00 am

BREAK

10:15 am

NCAI Address

10:45 am

Justice as a Tool for Community Healing

12:00 pm

WORKING LUNCH - PROVIDED

Veteran's Know Your benefits

Yukon room

1:00 pm

Congregational Delegation Addresses

2:00 pm

Tribal Infrastructure Innovation Panel

3:00 pm

BREAK

3:15 pm

Continued Tribal Infrastructure Innovation Panel

4:00 pm

EPA - Tentative

5:00 pm

ADJOURN

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES
Movie Night

6:00 pm

Subject to Capacity
400 Dinners Provided
Westmark Hotel Gold Room



TCC RESOURCE FAIR

Northern Latitudes
March 11th-12th
8:00am-4:30pm

WEDNESDAY

March 13, 2024

8:30 am

CALL TO ORDER

Invocation

8:40 am

Credentials Committee Report

8:45 am

Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum
Adoption of Agenda
Adoption of Minutes

9:15 am

Chief's Report

10:45 am

BREAK

11:00 am

Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior

11:30 am

Financial Report

12:00 pm

WORKING LUNCH

1:30 pm

Emerging Leader Report
Proposed Bylaw Changes, Resolution 2023-11

2:00 pm

BREAK

2:15 pm

Resolutions Committee Report
Consideration of Resolutions

5:00 pm

RECESS



TCC HONORING DINNER & DON BURNSTICK FAMILY FREE COMEDY SHOW

6:00 pm

Subject to Capacity
400 Dinners Provided
Westmark Hotel Gold Room

THURSDAY

March 14, 2024

8:30 am

RECONVENE

Invocation

8:35 am

Continued Consideration of Resolutions

10:00 am

BREAK

10:15 am

Considerations of Resolutions, Continued

12:00 pm

WORKING LUNCH

1:15 pm

Elections Committee Report
ELECTIONS

3:00 pm

BREAK

3:15 pm

Recognitions & Oath of Office

5:00 pm

ADJOURN



TCC POTLATCH

5:00 pm

Chief David Salmon
Tribal Hall



Bazaar/Vendor Craft Fair
Westmark - Northern Latitudes

March 13th-14th, 2024

8:00am-5:00pm





YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

TCC Is Hiring Community Health Aides in the Following Communities:

- Alatna
- Allakaket
- Birch Creek
- Chalkyitsik
- Dot Lake
- Evansville
- Healy Lake
- Kaltag
- Koyukuk
- Nenana
- Rampart
- Stevens Village


VISIT WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG/CAREERS TO APPLY!

ePROXY PRIZE Deadline
FEB. 16
5 p.m. AKST

EARLY BIRD Deadline
FEB. 16
5 p.m. AKST

PROXY Deadline
MAR. 12
5 p.m. AKST

VOTE Online
eproxy.doyon.com




Questions?
907-459-2000
www.doyon.com



2024 ANNUAL MEETING of Shareholders

FRIDAY, MARCH 15
DOORS OPEN 8 A.M. AKDT
WESTMARK FAIRBANKS HOTEL

Participate online
www.doyon.com



OUR FAMILY TREE
Connected by our roots. Strengthened by our diversity.

2024 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting Elections 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

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

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 Athabaskan 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

Interior Athabaskan 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

IRHA Board of Commissions

Seat A3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Vacant

Seat B3 year term (2024-2027)

Currently Marvin Deacon, Grayling

2024 Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, March 8, 5 p.m.

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall



Celebrating
over 60 years!



March 1963
March 2024



FAIRBANKS NATIVE
ASSOCIATION





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



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



FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Addictions Certified Nurse Aide
Fairbanks	Nurse Practitioner - Rural Float
Fairbanks	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Fairbanks	Clinical Support Staff/Medical Assistant
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II-Diabetes Program
Fairbanks	Pediatric Medical Provider
Fairbanks	RN Case Manager
Fairbanks	RN Diabetes Care and Education Specialist
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant I
Fairbanks	Anesthesia Technician
Fairbanks	Patient Experience Manager
Fairbanks	Sobering Center Technician I
Fairbanks	Network Engineer
Fairbanks	Senior Network Engineer
Fairbanks	Service Desk Technician
Fairbanks	Tribal Enrollment Specialist
Fairbanks	Career Resource Coordinator
Fairbanks	TANF Case Manager
Fairbanks	TANF Coordinator
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant I- Workforce Support
Fairbanks	AKT2CC Crew Boss
Fairbanks	AKT2CC FFT2 Crew Member
Fairbanks	AKT2CC Squad Boss
Fairbanks	Housing Project Manager
Fairbanks	Staff Acupuncturist
Region-Wide	Service Desk Technician
Tok	Squad Boss
Tok	Assistant Crew Boss
Tok	Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member
Tok	Certified Medical Assistant
Tok	Lead RN



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 FEBRUARY 15, 2024



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAR
7**

**AK Migratory Bird Co-Management
Council Meeting**
Davis Building • Fairbanks, AK

**MAR
11-14**

TCC Annual Convention
Westmark • Fairbanks, AK

**MAR
15**

TCC Offices Closed
Traditional Chief's Day

**MAR
15-22**

**Board of Game Interior & Eastern
Arctic Region Meeting**
Pike's Waterfront Lodge • Fairbanks, AK
<http://tinyurl.com/5c4w2cf9>

**APR
9-10**

2024 Education Summit
Fairbanks, AK

**APR
11-12**

**Talking Circle Healing Gathering on
Boarding School Trauma**
Fairbanks, AK

**May
15-16**

**Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish
Commission Annual Meeting**
Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall • Fairbanks, AK

VISIT WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG/EVENTS FOR MORE!