

Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

# The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash  
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## One People, One Voice TCC's 2024 Annual Convention

Last month, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) hosted the 2024 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. Under the resonating theme of 'One People, One Voice', the convention brought together Tribal leaders, delegates, and Tribal members from across the region to discuss important issues, hear reports from TCC leadership, hold elections and pass resolutions to guide the organization over the next year.

From the opening keynote by former TCC President Will Mayo to the closing remarks, the spirit of 'One People,

One Voice' was carried throughout the event. Mayo's words echoed a call for unity and solidarity across the region. Mayo's heartfelt speech set the tone for the convention, emphasizing the importance of connection, unity and love for one another.

Adding to the spirit of empowerment, the convention featured a youth keynote speech delivered by Mackenzie Englishoe from Gwichyaa Zhee, who was just elected as the Youth Advisor to the Executive Board and Chair for the Emerging Leaders. "Our young people are not just leaders of tomorrow, they are change-makers of

today," said Englishoe during her address, "Our youth are not just beneficiaries of our decisions- they are active participants in shaping the world that they will inherit." Englishoe called on community members and leaders to support youth and lead by example.

Throughout the event, a series of panels and presentations delved into critical topics ranging from healthcare initiatives like Cancer Care and Prevention to education, justice for community healing, and Tribal infrastructure. Among attendees, distinguished guest speakers included Mark Macarro, President of the National Congress

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## May 5<sup>th</sup> is Wear Red Day

For generations, Indigenous persons, including American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians, have been forced to mourn a missing or murdered loved one without the answers and support they deserve.

On Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day, we remember these victims and their families, and commit to working with Tribal Nations and Native communities to achieve justice and healing. We encourage everyone to wear red on May 5<sup>th</sup> in recognition.



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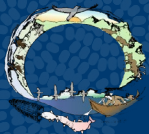


## Mission

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

Ivan Demientieff, Grayling  
Lower Yukon

Lori Baker, Minto  
Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green, Galena  
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski, Nulato  
Elder Advisor

Mackenzie Englishoe, Gwichyaa Zhee  
Youth Advisor



# Letter from the Chief

Last month, we held our 2024 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting in Fairbanks. The theme for this year's convention was 'One People, One Voice,' and it was truly inspiring to witness the unity and solidarity among all attendees.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our keynote speakers, Will Mayo and Mackenzie Englishoe, for their remarkable speeches that set the tone for the event. Their words resonated deeply with all of us and helped us kick off the week on a positive note.

Furthermore, I am pleased to welcome our newly elected leaders to the Executive Board. Secretary/Treasurer Charlie Wright of Rampart, Upper Kuskokwim Representative Claude 'Joe' Petruska of Nikolai, Lower Yukon Representative Ivan Demientieff of Holy Cross, and Youth Advisor Mackenzie Englishoe of Gwichyaa Zhee bring a wealth of experience and dedication to their respective roles. You can find a full list of the elected members on page 6 of this newsletter.

As we welcome new faces, it's also important to bid farewell to those who have dedicated years of service. I want to recognize outgoing Executive Board member Eugene Paul of Holy Cross, who has served 14 years as the Lower Yukon Representative. Eugene's leadership has been instrumental in shaping our organization, and we wish him the best as he embarks on a new journey as the Chief Executive Officer of the Interior Regional Housing Authority. I am confident that Eugene will continue to excel in his new role and make meaningful contributions to our community.

I also want to take a moment to express our appreciation for Second Traditional Chief Andy Jimmie, who is retiring after dedicating over 30 years of service to our Health Advisory Board. Andy's commitment to advocating for the health and well-being of our people has been invaluable. His leadership and expertise has guided our healthcare initiatives and helped us navigate various challenges faced by our communities. We hope that Chief Jimmie gets to spend his time focusing on his family, friends and spending time out on the land.

Additionally, I want to extend a special thank you to outgoing Youth Advisor Alex Hanna of Minto for his years of service to the Executive Board and as Chair of the Emerging Leaders. Alex has been a true leader and we are excited to see where his future takes him.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our Tribes. Together, we will continue to strive for the betterment of our communities and 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!

## Honoring Chief Andrew Jimmie

During last month's TCC Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting, TCC recognized Second Traditional Chief Andrew Jimmie. Chief Jimmie has spent more than 30 years in Health Leadership, serving on the TCC Health Advisory Board as the Chair.

TCC took a moment to thank Chief Andy Jimmie for his incredible service on the Health Advisory Board. For over three decades, he's been a key figure, offering his knowledge and leadership to guide healthcare initiatives and tackle tough challenges faced by our communities.

Chief Jimmie has worn many hats over the years, showing his commitment to helping indigenous communities. From serving as a Minto Village Councilmember to his tenure as Chief

of Minto and beyond, Chief Jimmie's influence has been felt far and wide. He has served on the Doyon Board, chaired and vice-chaired the Alaska Native Health Board, and represented TCC on the ANTHC Board of Directors.

Throughout his tenure as Chair of the Health Advisory Board, Chief Jimmie has tirelessly advocated for improved healthcare access and quality for Indigenous peoples. His expertise, informed by years of experience and a profound understanding of community needs, has been instrumental in shaping health-



care policies and initiatives within the TCC region.

Now, as Chief Jimmie steps down from his role, we want to recognize and appreciate all he's done. His hard work and passion for helping others will continue to inspire us.



## Expressing Appreciation Honoring Two Departing Leaders

Last month, TCC said farewell to two members of our Executive Board of Directors as they move on to other leadership roles: Eugene Paul of Holy Cross and Alex Hanna of Minto.

Representing the Lower Yukon subregion on the Executive Board, Eugene Paul brought both humor and pointed advocacy to his many years of service. Eugene spent over a decade in his role representing the subregion and has been a dedicated leader during that time. Transitioning to the CEO position at the Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA), Eugene's leadership will undoubtedly inspire us as we journey forward together.

Alex Hanna, serving as the youth delegate to the Executive Board and Chair of the Emerging Leaders,

demonstrated an unwavering dedication to amplifying the voices of youth throughout our region. During his time with the Executive Board, Alex continued to demonstrate strong leadership skills and was never afraid to step forward and help when needed. As Alex embarks on a new journey with Senator Click Bishop's team, his commitment to Tribal leadership and politics promises to continue shaping our collective future.

Looking ahead, TCC anticipates continued collaboration with Alex and Eugene in their new roles.

Their passion, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to our people will continue.

TCC would like to say Mahsi' Choo to both Eugene and Alex for their years of commitment to serving the people of our region.



## Norma Dahl Bids Farewell to TCC



Last month, after over 31 years of service to Tanana Chiefs Conference, Executive Board Secretary Norma Dahl officially retired from her position. Norma has worked in the administration department during her entire tenure at TCC under the leadership of nine different Presidents. Throughout her time at TCC, she has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the organization and the Tribal Leaders it serves. TCC would like to acknowledge her invaluable contributions and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

# One People, One Voice TCC's 2024 Annual Convention

## Continued From Page 1

of American Indians, Senator Lisa Murkowski, and Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, lent their insights and support to the discussions, highlighting the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing Indigenous issues on a national scale.

A significant milestone achieved during the convention was the approval of the Region-Wide Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Urban Community Response Plan. Developed in partnership with TCC, the Fairbanks Native Association, and the U.S. Department of Justice, this comprehensive plan charts a roadmap for coordinated responses for MMIP cases, marking a crucial step forward in addressing a pressing issue within our region.

Elections held on the final day ushered in new leadership to the Executive Board. Secretary/Treasurer

Charlie Wright of Rampart, Upper Kuskokwim Representative Claude 'Joe' Petruska of Nikolai, Lower Yukon Representative Ivan Demientieff of Holy Cross, and Youth Advisor Mackenzie Englishoe of Gwichyaa Zhee stepped into their roles with dedication and experience. The contributions of outgoing board member Eugene Paul were also acknowledged, honoring his years of service on the Executive Board.

On the final day, Tribal delegates deliberated on a multitude of resolutions aimed at addressing various community concerns. Out of the 29 resolutions presented, 27 were passed that will guide the organization in the coming years. Resolutions were presented on a wide range of topics, including funeral assistance, supporting victims of sexual assault, crisis response in our communities, protecting our ways of life, and more. TCC will be posting



a full list of the Convention resolutions on our website at [www.tananachiefs.org/resolutions](http://www.tananachiefs.org/resolutions).

In closing, the 2024 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting exemplified the spirit of collaboration, resilience, and progress within the Indigenous community. We will carry forward the spirit of 'One People, One Voice' in all that we do. Together, we are stronger. Together, we will continue to advocate, empower, and uplift our communities.





## Tanana Chiefs Conference 2024 Election Results

### Executive Board of Directors



**SECRETARY/  
TREASURER**  
Charlie Wright,  
Rampart  
Term: 2024-2027



**UPPER KUSKOKWIM  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
Claude 'Joe' Petruska,  
Nikolai  
Term: 2024-2027



**LOWER YUKON  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
Ivan Demientieff,  
Grayling  
Term: 2024-2027

### Emerging Leaders



**YOUTH ADVISOR TO  
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
Mackenzie Englishoe,  
Gwichyaa Zhee  
Term: 2024-2027



**YUKON TANANA**  
Edna Riley, Minto  
Term: 2024-2027



**YUKON KOYUKUK**  
Beverly Kokrine,  
Fairbanks  
Term: 2024-2027

### Education Council

**Yukon Flats Subregion** - Julie Biddle  
**Yukon Koyukuk Subregion** - Marie Cleaver  
**Lower Yukon Subregion** - Shirley Clark

### Interior Regional Housing Authority

**Seat A** - William 'Chaiiy' Albert, Northway  
**Seat B** - Alfred Demientieff, Holy Cross

### Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

**Yukon Koyukuk Subregion** - Jenny Pelkola  
**Lower Yukon Subregion** - Bruce Deacon



# Will Mayo 2024 TCC Keynote Speaker

In his introduction of Will Mayo's Keynote Address at this year's Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting, Chief Brian Ridley teased that the speech would bring attendees up to speed on where we come from. This proved to be true, not only as a history lesson of TCC's evolving services; the speech also served as a powerful lesson in how our people have persevered through unity and love for another – from person-to-person, family-to-family, and community-to-community.

The address, given by the former President of TCC, former Executive Director of Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Tribal Government and Client Services, and former co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives, moved the crowd with its message of unity, sovereignty, and forgiveness as the path forward for our people to be truly united as one people with one voice.

Mayo conveyed that the theme of this year's convention, "One People, One Voice," expands beyond meeting and uniting over policy, and asserted that this gathering is about relating to the humanity within all of us. "How can we be one people if we aren't connected at the heart?" he posed to the audience, "If we aren't treating

each other as mothers and fathers, and looking into each other's eyes with love? Every good thing springs from healthy, loving relationships."

Throughout his address, Mayo told stories that exemplified the ways in which he has experienced the kind of unity unique to our people. From the "Indianuity" of joining forces with a friend in crafting a guiding needle for a riverboat out of chewing gum and a nail during a trip down the Yukon to the village of Tanana in the early 1970s, to starting youth groups with his wife in the same village, Mayo weaved together many examples of how connected the spirit of unity is with the spirit of survival for our people, and its long history of success.

Mayo continued to inspire the audience by recalling how Elders have prayed for us long before we even existed, how songs and dances have been passed down through generations, how they united to fight for land claims, and how in the early TCC organization, Health Aides worked without pay – all ways in

which those who came before us have united to preserve our livelihood.

"Why do I talk about this?" he asks, "Because these people worked out of love for us, and these are the types of loving, healthy interactions that we need in order to stay alive."

The messages that Mayo has received his entire life then became a challenge to the crowd – to act out of and relate to one another with love for our people and our community. He invited attendees to surround the stage to receive prayer and acknowledgement, in order to know that they are loved and valued.

"This is the description of one people, one voice," he said as the crowd gathered and embraced one another, "We are also one heart."

Tanana Chiefs Conference wants to thank Will Mayo for his Keynote Address, which truly established a tone of unity and love throughout the rest of this year's Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting, and which provided us with the inspiration to continue guiding the organization in the same mission.



See the Full Keynote Speech:  
<https://tinyurl.com/MayoKeynote>  
  
**SCAN HERE**



# Keynote Inspires Unity and Empowerment for Native Youth

In a keynote speech at the 2024 TCC Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting, Mackenzie Englishoe, the newly elected Youth Advisor to the TCC Executive Board and Chair of the Emerging Leaders Youth Council, delivered a message of unity, empowerment, and intergenerational collaboration. The theme of the convention, 'One People, One Voice,' was carried throughout her speech as she advocated for the inclusion of youth voices in shaping the future of Indigenous communities. Englishoe, a proud member of the Gwichyaa Zhee tribe from the Caribou Clan, opened her speech by expressing gratitude to Chief Brian Ridley and the TCC Executive Board for recognizing the importance of youth engagement. She emphasized the critical role of young people in advocating for the preservation of traditional homelands, the welfare of animal relatives, and the prosperity of indigenous communities. Englishoe pledged to serve as

a dedicated advocate for youth voices during her tenure.

Englishoe highlighted the untapped potential of youth as change-makers in the present, not just the future. She urged communities and Tribal leaders to reflect on their support for youth involvement and emphasized the importance of providing them with the necessary resources, mentorship, and encouragement to thrive as leaders.

"We must create space where their ideas are not just heard but valued. Where their dreams are not just encouraged but nurtured," Englishoe stated. She stressed the need for intergenerational collaboration, recognizing the wisdom of Elders while embracing the innovation and energy of youth.

Englishoe asked leaders to engage

in dialogue, share insights, and collaborate in building a future where Indigenous peoples thrive while honoring traditions and protecting natural resources. She emphasized the interconnectedness of Indigenous communities with the land, water, and animal relatives, underscoring the collective responsibility to preserve them for future generations.

"In closing, I implore each and every one of you: listen to our youth, learn from them as we learn from you, and let us collaborate with them in the spirit of support and understanding," Englishoe concluded.

Englishoe concluded.

Mackenzie Englishoe's keynote speech served as a powerful reminder of the strength that lies in unity, the importance of empowering youth voices, and the necessity of intergenerational collaboration in shaping a future grounded in tradition, resilience, and possibility.



See the Full Keynote Speech:

<https://tinyurl.com/EnglishoeKeynote>



SCAN  
HERE

## 2024 TCC Resolutions

During the 2024 TCC Annual Convention, the Full Board of Directors passed the following resolutions:

- 2024-01** End Rape Culture in Our Village and Hold Sexual Predators Accountable
- 2024-02** Support Survivors of Sexual Violence with Victim-Centered Services and Create Awareness to End Violence in our Tribal Communities
- 2024-03** Restricting Sport Hunters to Protect the TCC Region Moose Population
- 2024-04** TCC Renewable Portfolio Standard
- 2024-05** Tribal Moose Management Development: A Roadmap for Tribal Co-Stewardship
- 2024-06** Addressing Harm and Sexual Abuse as a Root Cause of Generational Trauma
- 2024-07** Funeral Services Coordination Assistance

- 2024-08** Casket Availability Assistance
- 2024-09** Organizing a Search and Rescue Team for the TCC Region
- 2024-10** Need for Access to End of Life Care Accommodations that are Culturally Appropriate
- 2024-11** Safety Cabins within TCC Region
- 2024-12** Opposition to Artificial Salmon Enhancement and Hatcheries in the Yukon River Watershed
- 2024-13** Research and Establish a Lotto for the TCC Region
- 2024-14** CAIHC, Andrew Jimmie Building
- 2024-15** Crisis Response and Stabilization
- 2024-16** Elders and Disabled People in the TCC Region All Have Reliable Access to Medical Alert Devices
- 2024-17** Advocate to the State of Alaska Respond in a Timely Manner to Requests to Transport of Our Loved Ones Home After Death When the State of Alaska is Responsible

- 2024-18** Compensation for Unsuccessful Subsistence Hunting and Fishing
- 2024-19** Client-Focused Master Planning to Ensure Capacity and Accessibility of TCC Services Region Wide
- 2024-21** In Support of the SOA Dept. of Education and Early Development Establishing a Cultural Education Program
- 2024-23** Public Safety Rover Housing
- 2024-24** Tribes Demand Constitutional Rights' for Justice in Rural Villages to be Upheld
- 2024-25** Establish Youth-Driven Culturally-Relevant Drug Prevention Curriculum
- 2024-26** Media Campaign
- 2024-27** Opposing the Release of Wood Bison in the Lower Tanana
- 2024-28** Supporting An Exemption from the Build America Buy America Act
- 2024-29** Urging TCC to Pursue Immediate Legal Action to Address the Yukon Salmon Crisis

[www.tananachiefs.org/resolutions](http://www.tananachiefs.org/resolutions)



# TCC Hosts Annual Potlatch

TCC held its 2024 Annual Potlatch on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall in Fairbanks.

We would like to thank all those who made this potlatch possible; Aaron Heath, Alex Hanna, April Mowery, Barb Pacheco, Chelle Johnson, Chuck Stickman, Clifford Cole, Colita Guffey, Connie Sommer, Darrell Frank, Doug Carlo, Effie Kokrine Students, Tsiyaa Cuny, Felicia Alexie, Frank Thompson, Isaiah Horace, Jacqueline Kohntopp, Jason Paskvan, Lance Albert, Larry Esmailka, Leah Morgan, Lilly John, Lisa Donat, Lorena Village-Center-Simon, Luke Titus, Luann Lauesan, Nathan Flynn, Paul Ostbloom, Richard Frerichs, Roger Manuel, Ryan Martin, Shana Cadzow, Taila Dahmen, Tanna Carter, TCC Emerging Leaders, TCC Facilities, TCC Youth Delegates, Travis Cole, all of the cooks, servers, hunters, everyone who helped clean up after the potlatch and anyone else we may have missed. Mahsi' Choo to all of you!



# TCC Convention Services Fair

The TCC Services Fair took place on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Attendees had the opportunity to explore some of the services available to Tribal members, clients, and patients.

Representatives from departments such as Behavioral Health, Alaska Public Health, and Home Care were present to provide information and answer questions. From healthcare to workforce support, attendees had access to a wide range of resources.

The event was a great success, with participants engaging with various service providers and learning about the valuable offerings within the TCC community. Mahsi' Choo to everyone who attended and contributed to making the Services Fair a meaningful experience.





## Dawn Newman - Itinerant

By Linden Stackiokas

Dawn Newman probably could not help becoming a health aide: her grandmother Nora and her sister Kim were both health aides before her. It was due to their example, as well as serious encouragement from Kim, that Dawn decided that she could make it through the training and join their ranks.

Born and raised in North Pole, Dawn married a man from Rampart. He wanted to move home and Dawn recalls that “once we decided to live there, even before we moved, I saw the recruitment ad for a health aide for Rampart and applied.” The process of getting hired was a long one, about seven months, in part because the village had to approve Dawn as their choice before she was allowed into the stringent training program. That was seven years ago, and she has been a health aide ever since.

After working in Rampart for almost five years, Dawn wanted to make a change. Rather than leaving the program, she switched positions and became an itinerant health aide. The flexibility of making her own schedule was the deciding factor; with a husband and two girls at home, she needed a break from the intense schedule she had in Rampart. As an itinerant, Dawn could decide when and where she wanted to work. Her placements have included Northway, Circle, Eagle, Kaltag and Galena, among others.

One of the things that surprised Dawn about her job, despite grow-

ing up watching relatives doing the work and the TCC training she had gone through, was the advanced level of care health aides are expected to provide. Doing well baby checks, taking blood for lab work, establishing treatment plans, giving shots and medications, knowing when it is time to confer with physicians in Fairbanks, a health aide’s level of knowledge cannot be superficial. It is no exaggeration to say that Dawn must know enough to respond to people’s health needs at every step of their life’s journey, from birth to death.

As for all health practitioners, some of Dawn’s patients are easier to work with than others. For anyone whose job and joy it is to care for others, it is frustrating to have people who wait until a small health problem turns into an emergency, or who don’t take their medications as prescribed, or who fail to return for follow up care. Last November, there was a lengthy article in the Arctic Sounder newspaper, naming other difficulties health aides face when trying to provide treatment, including domestic violence, mental health issues, and alcohol or drug abuse. Even when these issues are not present, the calmest and most rational of people who are stressed by ill health and fear can lash out in anger or blame the health aide when they don’t get well quickly. Despite these challenges, Dawn and those she calls

“my amazing co-workers” remain committed to bringing quality health care even to the remotest of villages.

She copes with the intensity of her job by using her off time to relax with her family, and, depending on the season, doing the hard physical labor of subsistence activities such as moose hunting and wood gathering. She loves to do large projects, such as the condo renovation she recently completed. She and her family take every opportunity to travel, with Las Vegas being a favorite destination.

Asked what advice she would give to a person considering a career as a health aide, Dawn said, “Make sure you are ready for the challenges. Even when you are not working, you are still representing health aides and TCC. That means you can end up doing less socializing because you can’t be partying—not only because it looks bad but because you are often on call so you can’t be impaired. But the advantages of the job are many. There is travel for training and to villages. Great co-workers and supportive supervisors. And you get to learn vast amounts of stuff that you never thought you would or could learn.”

The rewards of being a health aide were good enough to keep Dawn’s grandmother and her sister in the profession. And they are more than good enough for Dawn.



### TCC Shuttle Service

TCC’s complementary Patient Shuttle Service now has extended hours to meet the needs of patients traveling to Fairbanks for medical appointments.

#### WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday • 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Call (907) 347-0765 for appointments outside the route schedule.

#### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Saturday - Sunday • 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Call (907) 687-8338

#### AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Monday - Friday • 5:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday • 6:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday • 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

SCAN TO VIEW MORE SHUTTLE INFO!



### Let’s Talk!

Helping you help loved ones struggling with substance misuse. This support group is open to everyone and is completely free! It does not require commitment or active engagement in services. Drop in whenever you need support!



Scan the QR Code for more info & join us Wednesdays via Zoom 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

# 2024 TCC Award Winners

## 2024 TCC Fairbanks Employee of the Year **Aaron Heath**

This year's Fairbanks Employee of the Year is Aaron Heath from Facilities. Even though Aaron is married with 2 young children, he responded to a no-heat call at one of our facilities on Christmas Eve 2023. He has continuously cleared his personal schedule to meet emergency needs for TCC. Through his work for TCC, Aaron has traveled to the majority of our villages. On one trip, he discovered the boiler in the Tribal office was down and repaired it on the spot, saving the Tribe a potentially long wait time for a contractor in Fairbanks. Recently on a trip to the same village, Aaron repaired a

sewage leak in the village water plant. Residents in the rural villages that Aaron has traveled to have nothing but kind words for him. He has additionally used his personal time to study and understand TCC's mechanical systems, sharing his knowledge with coworkers and helping them to feel more confident performing repairs within our facilities. For an entire year, Aaron also spearheaded a program to remote monitor the physical conditions of the rural

clinics and our facilities in town, which has given us the ability to monitor internal temperatures, the levels of fuel in the tanks, and the functionality of the water recirculation pumps. Due to this monitoring system, Graf's building was saved from costly and inconvenient freezing this winter. Aaron's dedication to TCC and our Tribes is unwavering, and TCC congratulates him for this honor.



## 2024 TCC Rural Employee of the Year **Dale Keeling**

This year's Rural Employee of the Year is Dale Keeling, a Community Health Aide (CHA) in Manley Hot Springs. He was nominated for his outstanding dedication to the mission and tireless effort to ensure the health and wellbeing of his community. Dale has been a full-time Community Health Aide in Manley Hot Springs for over six years, and has an extensive background in pre-hospital medicine with over 20 years working as a paramedic firefighter. As a CHA, he has earned the trust and confidence of the community through countless clinic interactions and home visits. Many residents of Manley Hot Springs live out of town, and on several occa-

sions, Dale has driven to a resident's home to check on them. He has administered life-saving medical care many times, but last year, Dale responded to an emergency where a patient was severely injured after running their motorcycle off the road. The patient agreed to a medevac flight for a higher level of care due to their trust in Dale as a provider and community member, and thus was able to receive the medically necessary care. Dale is an EMT instructor, and has certified other CHAs in Emergency Trauma and Emergen-

cy Medical Technician specialties. He has acted as an advisor to the CHA program when building emergency carts, ensuring that everyone is properly equipped to care for patients experiencing emergencies. Dale's expertise, confidence, and tireless work as a Community Health Aide has led to progression of the program, and he exemplifies quality and compassion in patient care. Tanana Chiefs congratulates Dale on this honor and extends our gratitude for his service.



## Village Public Safety Officer of the Year **Henry Martinez**

This year's Village Public Safety Officer of the Year Award recipient is Corporal Henry Martinez in Tanana. In 2023, Corporal Martinez responded to multiple incidents in which his life was in danger, including a shooting. He responded to this incident freshly graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy, and managed to stay alert, aware of his surroundings, and he was able to intervene, de-arm and detain the perpetrator. His actions were heroic, preventing harm to any other residents of the community. In December of 2023, Corporal Martinez received and acted upon a tip regarding drugs entering the community which

he serves. He responded swiftly and was able to collaborate with the Fairbanks Airport Drug Interdiction Team in detaining the suspect and confiscating the drugs at the airport. His quick action and collaborative work prevented dangerous drugs from entering the village of Tanana. "Henry Martinez's actions are a testament to the quality of training he received, his commitment to his community, public safety, and his profession," says Darrell Hildebrand, Public Safety Manager for TCC,

"His action reflect great credit upon himself, the community, TCC, The VPSO program, and the Department of Public Safety." TCC would like to thank Corporal Martinez, who lives in Tanana with his wife and five children, for his commitment to protecting his community, and congratulates him on this prestigious honor.



## Tribal Administrator of the Year Brooke Sanderson

This year's Tribal Administrator of the Year Award recipient is Brooke Sanderson of Louden. Brooke worked as the Environmental Protection Agency Indian General Assistance Program Coordinator prior to being selected as Louden's Tribal Administrator. In both roles, she has assisted the Tribe in organizing the Annual TCC Partners Boat Trip, and with connecting the Tribe with external partners on an array of infrastructure projects, including a solar project. She has worked behind the scenes to or-



ganize the Economic Summit and a meeting in which Louden hosted the Attorney General of the United States. According to her Chief, she has brought a positive and pleasant personality to the Tribal Council Office, resulting in many individuals reaching out for employment opportunities. Her hard work has earned her this prestigious honor, and TCC congratulates Brooke on her honor.

## Foster Parent of the Year Annette Moses

This year's Foster Parent of the Year is Annette Moses. A teacher, culture bearer, and foster parent from Huslia, Annette has dedicated her life to caring for multiple generations. Annette is a friend and mentor to the community of Huslia, and is quoted as having a grand understanding of the importance of keeping Indigenous culture alive. She connects with kindergarteners and first graders through her position as a teacher at the school in Huslia, passing down traditions and



the Denaakk'e language. She teaches ancestral practices at fish camps, berry picking excursions, and even teaches people how to cut and haul wood. Annette is quoted as being incredibly selfless, strong, motivated, dedicated, and well deserving of Foster Parent of the Year. Tanana Chiefs is grateful for her dedication to the people in her community, and congratulates her for this honor!

## IGAP Coordinator of the Year Patricia Salmon

This year's Indian General Assistance Program Award winner is Patricia Salmon, First Chief of Chalkyitsik. Patricia has been integral in projects ranging from drinking water, solid waste, to the overall health of her community. She's worked closely with TCC and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to develop a strong waste management plan for a new landfill, and helped to acquire both an enclosed waste burn unit and a used oil burner. Patricia has



made strides in backhauling heavy equipment, and is well known across the multitude of agencies across Alaska for being active in sharing her knowledge and insights into the improvement of solid waste practice and community environmental protection. TCC congratulates Patricia for her dedication to her role within her community, and this very well deserved recognition.

## Floyd Vent Sr & Sophie Joyce Sam Patti L. Hyslop Leadership in Sobriety Award



This year's Patti Hyslop Award winners are Floyd Vent Sr. and Sophie Joyce Sam. The Patti L. Hyslop Award is given to recognize the efforts of village leaders in sobriety, healing, and keeping alive the commitment to healing that was the cornerstone of Patti's life. Patti led the sobriety and healing movement in Tanana by encouraging people to make positive changes. This award recognizes those whose work sometimes goes unrecognized, and seeks to raise awareness about the progress of healing and sobriety on the village level. It goes to the person who provides a positive approach to encouraging sobriety and healing as part of the individual, Tribal and community wellness.



### 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

# Customer Experience Coordinator Here For You!

By Holly Edwards, TCC Customer Experience Coordinator

My name is Holly Edwards, and I am the Customer Experience Coordinator for Tribal Client & Government Services. Within my position, I am a point of contact when Tribal members have comments, questions or concerns. This past year, I have had the opportunity to travel out to some of our communities and visit with Tribal members and Tribes. I have actively participated in various community outreach events and trips, and organized community gatherings.

One of the key responsibilities I have as a Customer Experience Coordinator is traveling to villages for outreach activities. This involves engaging with community members and providing them with information about the services that Tanana Chiefs Conference

offers.

In addition to traveling for outreach, I have also organized community gatherings. These events provide an opportunity for community members to come together, socialize, and learn more about our services. These gatherings serve as platforms for networking and fostering a sense of community among our clients.

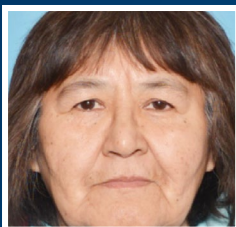
My most recent visit was to Holy Cross, where my family is from. This was my first visit to Holy Cross! I was able to meet not only the whole community but also with family, which was such a great opportunity.



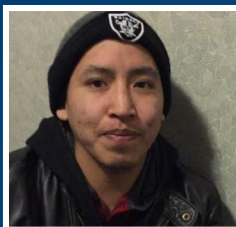
I can be reached by email at [Holly.Edwards@tananachiefs.org](mailto:Holly.Edwards@tananachiefs.org). I am here to work with our Tribal members and Tribes. I am available Monday through Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm.



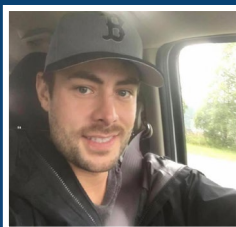
# MISSING



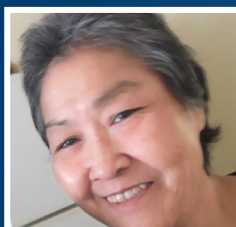
Lorraine Ginnis



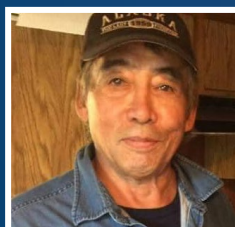
Willis Derendoff



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](http://www.tananachiefs.org/missing) for more information.

# Make Your Voice Heard! Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities

During the month of April, there are many opportunities to safeguard our fish and wildlife by sharing your testimony with state leaders and policy makers. Your involvement is crucial in preserving our natural resources and way of life. Learn more about these opportunities by scanning the QR codes below. Let's unite to ensure the sustainability of our environment for future generations.

April  
**1-9**

**North Pacific  
Management Council  
Meeting**  
Hilton Hotel • Anchorage



April  
**2-5**

**Federal Subsistence  
Board Wildlife  
Regulatory Meeting**  
Location TBA



April  
**5**

**Tribal Advocates  
Gathering**  
Prepare for testimony at  
the NPMC Meeting  
6pm-8pm • 49<sup>th</sup> State  
Brewing • Anchorage



April  
**8-11**

**Yukon River Panel**  
Marriott Hotel •  
Anchorage



April  
**15**

**Federal Subsistence  
Board Meeting**  
1pm-3pm • Hilton Hotel  
• Anchorage



## Iron Dog Welcoming Carnival

The 2024 Galena Iron Dog Welcoming Carnival took place February 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is hosted by Cynthia Erickson's suicide prevention program and My Grandma's House, with the support of The Iron Dog, TCC Wellness & Prevention, TCC Family Services, and the Alaska Suicide & Crisis Care Line. This year's efforts were focused on encouraging safety while traveling on the river, developing suicide and substance use awareness, and creating positive community connections.

Cynthia Erickson likes to refer to the Iron Dog as the NASCAR of Alaska. It is an exciting time of the year, and snow-machine racers are impactful role models for village youth. They set examples for what it means to lead a healthy lifestyle and encourage youth to work hard and chase their dreams. Our motto is, "Life is a team effort!" Similar to how the race teams work together on the trails, we as a community need to look out for one another and stick together.

Families and youth joined us to participate in healthy activities and cheer on the Iron Dog racers over the course



of four days. These activities included a paint night for youth, sign-making to cheer racers on, and wellness resources and information. Many wonderful items donated by various companies and programs were also given out during these events. These items included snow-machine helmets and goggles, Iron Dog t-shirts and hoodies, hats and gloves, neck warmers, and Columbia coats.

Furthermore, My Grandma's House and TCC Wellness & Prevention collaborated with the Alaska Safe Riders to provide snowmobile and outdoor safety education to K-12 students. Presenters provided information on proper gear for cold weather, what to pack in your emergency kit, how to get out of an open hole on the river, how to save someone who fell through the ice, and many other useful tips.

A Family Scavenger Hunt also took place that prompted community members to complete acts of kindness for Elders or someone in need, develop family safety plans, add reflective tape to winter gear, save emergency contacts and resources to phones, spread suicide and substance use

awareness, and other tasks that encouraged safety, prevention, and community connectedness. The winner of the scavenger hunt received a Garmin InReach Satellite Communicator to use while spending time in the outdoors!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to those who made the Galena Iron Dog Welcoming Carnival possible and to everyone who attended. Remember, "Life is a team effort!" You are not alone, and together we are stronger!



# 2024 Reclaiming Our People Summit

The Reclaiming Our People Summit, organized by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), took place on February 21-22, 2024, in Fairbanks. The event welcomed both the general public as well as Tribal representatives. This event was designed to address Behavioral Health and Wellness concerns in the TCC region by fostering collaboration among Tribal Leaders and community members. With a focus on prevention efforts, the summit aimed to support rural communities.

The summit served as a platform for sharing insights, strategies, and solutions to enhance the overall well-being of the communities in the TCC re-

gion. Tribal leaders and community members had the opportunity to share their first-hand experiences, ask questions about services available and provide input on ideas for improvement.

Breakout sessions were held during the event, based on sub-region, to discuss the needs in each area of the TCC region. Based on feedback from Tribal leaders, TCC will be working to develop sub-regional Reclaiming Our People plans to address the issues around behavioral health needs, substance use, prevention and justice in our villages.

TCC would like to thank all of those



who attended the summit and shared their stories. TCC is committed to continuing our efforts to improve our services to better meet the needs of our Tribes, Tribal members and patients.



## NEW! Behavioral Health Patient Portal

*Manage Your Healthcare from Anywhere!*



**View Upcoming Appointments.**



**Directly Connect to Telehealth Visits.**

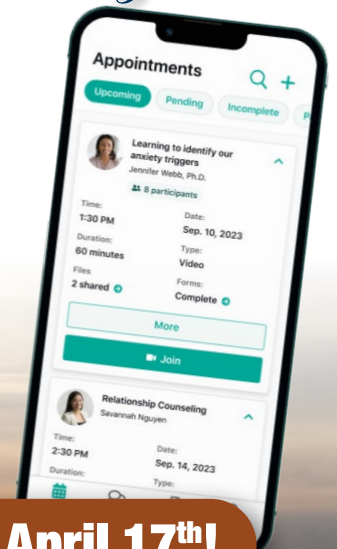


**Fill Out and Submit Forms.**

### Are you a Behavioral Health Patient?

Call and make sure we have your correct contact information so that you can access this great new service!

**Call 907-452-8251 ext.3800**



**Launching April 17<sup>th</sup>!**

# A HIDDEN DANGER

## Fentanyl in Our Communities

Something serious has come to our attention in the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) region: fentanyl-laced drugs. Fentanyl is a powerful drug that is much stronger than morphine. It is used in hospitals for severe pain, but it is also being mixed with other drugs illegally, putting people at risk of overdose.

Fentanyl is super strong – even a tiny bit, just 2 milligrams, can be deadly. Recently, there have been reports of people overdosing on fentanyl in our area. This is a big concern and we need to take it seriously.

The TCC Wellness & Prevention Division is aware of the situation and is working to help our communities. They can provide a medication called

Naloxone, which can reverse an opioid overdose quickly. If someone is overdosing, Naloxone can save their life.

**If someone is overdosing, Naloxone can save their life.**

The TCC Wellness & Prevention Division also has a lot of information about opioid misuse, how to prevent overdoses, and ways to get help if you or someone you know is struggling with drugs. It is important to learn about this so we can keep ourselves and our friends safe.

In short, fentanyl-laced drugs are a serious problem in our area, but we can do something about it. Stay informed and reach out for help if you need it. Let's work together to keep our communities safe and healthy!

### Find Out More Here:

If you need Naloxone for your village or want to learn more about how to use it, you can contact the TCC Wellness & Prevention Division. Scan the QR Code below for the Naloxone request form:

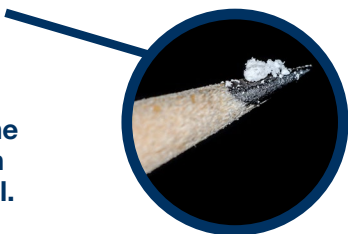


You can also call (907) 452-8251 ext. 3941 for Naloxone or for more information about how to keep your loved ones safe.

## WHAT IS FENTANYL?

FENTANYL IS A POTENT SYNTHETIC OPIOID

It only takes a very small dose of fentanyl (2 milligrams) to be lethal, such as the amount found on the tip of a pencil.



### POTENT

Fentanyl is up to 50x stronger than heroin and 100x stronger than morphine. A few grains of sand worth can be lethal.

### SYNTHETIC

Not plant-based. Made in a lab.

### OPIOID

Pain reliever like oxycodone, morphine and heroin.

**6 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl contains a potentially lethal dose.**

# Tribal Resource Stewardship Corner

## Update: Middle Yukon River Feasibility Project



By Brian Lepping, Project Lead

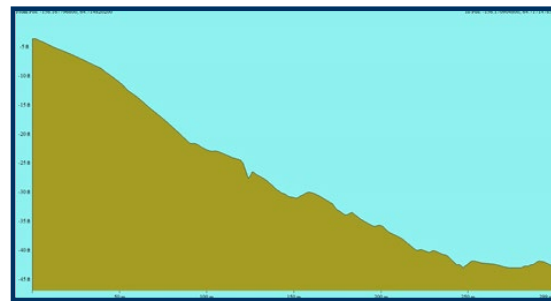
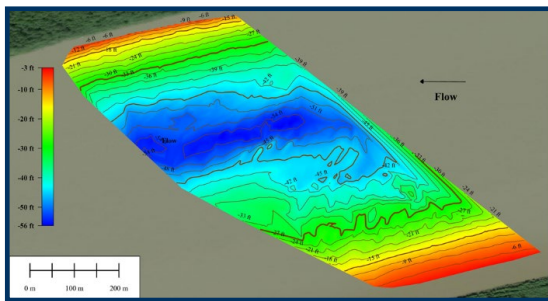
The Tribal Resource Stewardship Division is currently conducting a feasibility study on the Middle Yukon River that will use sonar to count salmon as they migrate through to their spawning grounds. Currently, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) operates two similar sonar counting stations: one in the Lower Yukon at Pilot Station and one in the Upper Yukon located near Eagle. These counting stations are used to provide fisheries managers with needed in-season information to direct management actions towards the fishery. TCC and its member Tribes are currently building Tribal scientific capacity by conducting the required feasibility efforts that will lead to the eventual operation of a sonar assessment project located in the Middle Yukon River. The project may eventually provide fisheries managers with information that can be used for improved in-season fisheries management actions. The feasibility efforts started in early 2023 when TCC hired a fisheries biologist to lead the sonar feasibility study.

### Choosing a Site

The next step in the feasibility process was to locate some potential sites suitable for a sonar operation. A few of the key aspects that were looked for when identifying an appropriate section of a river included:

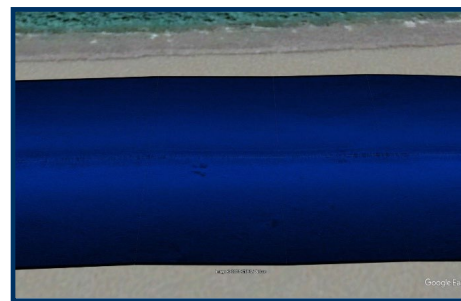
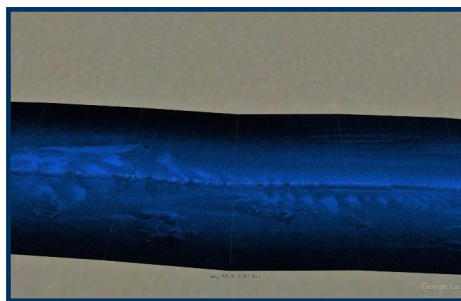
1. A single, unbraided, and relatively narrow channel
2. Smooth sloping and mostly linear river bottom profile
3. Suitable river characteristics related to flow and bottom substrates
4. Proximity to villages for project support

Using a combination of satellite imagery and local traditional knowledge, eight potential sites were located between the Bridge and Galena. In late July 2023, TCC contracted with Yukon River Transport to investigate each site thoroughly using sonar to make “maps” of the river bottom. Using latitude, longitude, and depth readings, we were able to produce the images below.



The image on the left shows a map of the depth profile at one of the locations where we collected data. It also shows what the land is like underneath the water. The image on the right is a cross-sectional view of the left descending bank. It is the view of the river bottom if we were looking directly upstream or downstream.

The sonar was also capable of viewing objects underneath the water that might obstruct sonar operations. We scanned near the shore at most of the sites to look for boulders, debris, or anything that could prevent the sonar from “seeing” passing fish. It produced images like the following:



On the left we have an image of what seems to be sand ripples with root wads embedded within the sand. This could potentially cause issues when we deploy sonar to count fish. On the right we have an image of what appears to be a smooth and debris-less bottom. These are just snapshots of what is visible at the time we were there. Images like these simply allow us to know what to expect when we visit these locations for further testing.

After generating these images of our eight selected sites and using the data we collected, we chose which sites we want to evaluate further in 2024. This year, we will revisit 2-3 of the sites selected. We are currently working with ADF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to borrow sonar equipment for the 2024 field season. During the coming summer months, we will be deploying sonar at each proposed site with the hopes of answering some basic questions to help us determine whether we can use sonar to effectively count migrating salmon in the Middle Yukon. In addition to gathering the information needed for this study in the coming years, we also hope to increase Tribal scientific capacity and to develop a permanent sonar project on the Middle Yukon River.



# Tanana Chiefs Conference Awarded \$26 Million to Expand Solar Power in 8 Villages

The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) \$26 million in clean energy funding for further expansion of solar power and battery systems in eight Tribal communities. Over the next five years, Nulato, Huslia, Minto, Kaltag, Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross will all receive large solar and battery energy storage systems to offset diesel used for the generation of electricity in their communities.



The Energy Sovereignty Initiative, adopted and implemented by TCC's Infrastructure Division, has already brought clean energy projects to the communities of Hughes and Galena. The OCED award will enable TCC, in partnership with our Tribes, to develop a more reliable grid while providing access to cleaner energy for these eight communities.

"One of our priorities as an organization is to foster Tribal sovereignty, empowering our people with the resources to raise their families, run their businesses, and provide a future for their communities," says Brian Ridley, Chief of TCC. "We are proud to have received this award that will

bring us even closer to that goal."

In collaboration with the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, the project team plans to modernize grid infrastructure, provide job training to Tribal communities, and develop the State's largest Tribally-owned and operated Independent Power Producer (IPP). The project will strive to offset diesel consumption by up to 40% in these communities, lowering and stabilizing energy costs and reducing over 1,550 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year over the project's 25-year lifespan.

"TCC communities have been clear in their desire to take part in the energy transition that is happening across the world and we're incredibly proud to be able to follow the success of the community of Hughes and others around the state to make this goal of decreasing dependence on imported diesel and diversifying the village energy supply a reality," commented Dave Messier, TCC Infrastructure Division Director.

er, Infrastructure Division Director for TCC.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, the project aims to improve grid reliability, enhance air quality, and decrease community energy burdens. Revenue from the Tribal ownership model will be used to ensure long-term operation and maintenance on the systems, reduce energy costs and develop future renewable projects in Tribal communities across the region. TCC plans to provide more than \$4 million worth of additional funds supported by the recently established federal tax credits to further increase the impact of the federal grants. We will also establish a utility board of Tribal leaders from across the region to oversee the newly established IPP and ensure long-term operation and maintenance across these systems.

TCC applauds the work of the Energy Sovereignty Initiative thus far and has already embarked on the mission to provide our remote communities with resources for cleaner, more affordable energy. We are excited about a future where this is attainable across all of our villages in the region.

We're incredibly proud to be able... to make this goal of decreasing dependence on imported diesel and diversifying the village energy supply a reality.  
-Dave Messier, TCC Infrastructure Division Director-

## Our Peer Review Process: Ensuring Excellence in Your Care

At Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), we want to ensure our patients receive the best care possible. That's why our doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other team members regularly review themselves and each other's work to see if they're providing excellent care to patients like you.

### Why It's Important

Through the Peer Review process, our providers continually assess and refine their practices. This collaborative evaluation ensures that they are delivering top-notch care, and it allows providers to learn from each other's successes and areas for improvement. By holding each other accountable, our team at TCC

remains at the forefront of excellence in healthcare.

### Ensuring Quality Care

When you choose TCC for your healthcare needs, you can trust that our commitment to excellence extends beyond words. The Peer Review process is just one of the many ways we ensure you and your family are well cared for at any of our TCC clinical locations.

### Thank You for Trusting Us with Your Healthcare Needs!

For more information about our peer review process, see pages 2-7 of the TCC Patient Handbook, which can be found by scanning the QR Code or visiting our website.

Questions? Contact: [MedicalPracticeCommittee@tananachiefs.org](mailto:MedicalPracticeCommittee@tananachiefs.org)

SCAN ME!



# Preparing For Flooding In Your Community

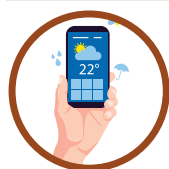
Tanana Chiefs Conference is always willing to assist Tribes when significant flooding strikes one of our Interior communities! However, it's still important that communities be prepared before flooding occurs. The villages that have the best outcomes after a disaster have prepared well for the disaster response and recovery, so we encourage everyone to be ready. TCC offers these tips to help you get ready for possible flooding:



## Make an Emergency Kit

Having an Emergency Kit is an essential step in preparing your household for flooding! Here are some of the things we recommend including in your kit:

- First aid kit
- Water
- Food (non-perishables)
- Batteries
- Flashlight
- Waterproof matches
- Extra clothes
- Emergency poncho
- Whistle



## Know The Flood Risk

Stay updated on changing weather conditions, forecasts and other emergency events. This will ensure that you are prepared and ready when you need to take action! It's important to monitor weather reports and know the status of breakup on the rivers.

## Have an Emergency Plan

- Do you know where your community's emergency shelter is? Is it the Tribal Hall, the school, or somewhere else?
- Do you know who will be in charge during a flood event?
- How will you know if it is time to move to a local shelter? Will there be a radio announcement or other warning?

**If you don't know these answers, get involved and ask your Tribal Council about the local emergency plan!**

## Questions?

Contact TCC's Office of Environmental Health.  
Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 4909  
Email: [oeht@tananachiefs.org](mailto:oeht@tananachiefs.org)  
Website: [www.tananachiefs.org/flood-preparedness](http://www.tananachiefs.org/flood-preparedness)

## Flood Preparation Tips

### A MONTH BEFORE BREAKUP:

- Find the high points around your property and other parts of the village where you can move items above flood level if needed.
- Make a list of any equipment (generators, snow machines, and chainsaws) that will need to be moved to higher ground during a flood.
- Locate any fuel storage that will need to be secured during a flood.
- Start putting together an emergency kit of items needed if you must leave your home.
- Ask your Tribal or City Administrator about the community flood preparations. This may include a local area to evacuate to, designated people to observe the river level and alert the community.

### TWO WEEKS BEFORE BREAKUP:

- Finish putting together your emergency kit. Remember food, water and medications!
- Remind others to plan for potential flooding, and help if needed.
- Track down available emergency response equipment in the village (boats, flotation devices, and maintenance and rescue tools).
- Get essential facilities (clinic, water treatment plant, electric utility, records storage with the City and/or Tribe, etc.) ready for possible flooding.
- Help identify "at risk" residents of the community. These are the people that need to be evacuated before flooding for medical reasons.
- Identify Elders or other people that may need assistance during a flood and help to make sure they are prepared. Remember their medications.

### WHEN A FLOOD WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED:

- Flood proof the essential facilities and other public buildings.
- Secure fuel tanks, small fuel containers and barrels to keep them from floating away.
- Move all vehicles and equipment to higher ground.
- Move all dry goods and canned food items above the high water level in your home.
- Mattresses and other items that could be damaged by water should be moved above the high water level in your home.
- If a shelter has been identified, move your needed items to this location.

This groundwork can go a long way in avoiding damage and decreasing stress during breakup flooding. OEH is ready to support TCC villages with their environmental health concerns before and after flooding.

# April 29<sup>th</sup> George Attla Jr. Day

“You’re trying to beat time and then eventually time catches up with you. You can try your best; you may beat the competitors but you can’t beat time.”

-George Attla Jr.-  
*In Attla’s Tracks*

George Attla Jr. Day is a special occasion in Alaska, dedicated to honoring the memory of a remarkable individual. George Attla Jr., known for his extraordinary talent in dog mushing, was not just a sports hero but also a symbol of strength and cultural identity.

Born in 1933 near Koyukuk on the Yukon River, George grew up in a traditional lifestyle, learning essential skills like fishing and hunting from his family. However, it was his love for dog mushing that made him famous. By the 1950s, he had already gained a reputation as a legendary sprint dog racer, earning the nickname “Huslia Hustler.”

George’s accomplishments in the world of dog mushing were exceptional. He won numerous races

worldwide and received recognition for his achievements, including induction into the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame. His talent and dedication earned him the title of the Best Musher of the 20th Century.

In 1988, Governor Steve Cowper declared April 29<sup>th</sup> as “George Attla Day” in honor of his contributions.

In 2015, the Beaver Village Council submitted a resolution to officially recognize April 29<sup>th</sup> as George Attla Jr. Day, a decision supported by the TCC Full Board of Directors. This day serves as a time to remember and appreciate Attla’s legacy, celebrating his impact on Alaskan culture and sports.

George Attla Jr. Day is not just about

commemorating a sports legend but also about honoring a man who inspired others through his skill, determination, and cultural pride. Though George may no longer be with us, his spirit continues to inspire generations of Alaskans.

## TCC’s New Veterans Liaison

We are thrilled to announce the newest addition to the TCC family, Rhonda Lohrke, our Veterans Liaison. As our Veterans Liaison, Rhonda is here to provide personalized assistance to veterans navigating the complex landscape of benefits and services. Whether you’re seeking guidance on applying for Veterans Affairs (VA) health care, understanding eligibility for various benefits including education, travel, and allotments, or exploring other crucial support avenues,



Rhonda is your go-to resource.

**Here’s how Rhonda can assist you:**

- **VA Health Care Enrollment:**

Rhonda can assist with filling out the 1010 EZ form and collecting the required DD214, ensuring a smooth process for enrollment into VA health care services.

- **Navigating Benefits:**

Beyond VA benefits, Rhonda can connect veterans with the right people to determine eligibility for a range of other benefits, including education assistance,

travel benefits, and allotments.

- **Accessing Additional Support:**

Rhonda is also available to help our beneficiaries sign up for essential programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, and Tribally Sponsored Health Insurance, ensuring access to vital health-care services.

You can reach her Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM via the following contact information:

- Email: [rhonda.lohrke@tananachiefs.org](mailto:rhonda.lohrke@tananachiefs.org)
- Phone: 907-451-6682 Ext: 3707
- Fax: 907-459-3860



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

## The Council Newsletter

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424  
communications\_dept@tananachiefs.org  
[www.tananachiefs.org](http://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

<b>Fairbanks</b>	Home Care Provider
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Administrative Assistant I- Patient Travel
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Alternate Resource Coordinator
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Certified Nurse Assistant
<b>Fairbanks</b>	RN
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Emergency Medicine Clinical Trainer
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Cancer Care & Infusions Nurse Manager
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Certified Nurse Midwife
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Registration & Admissions Specialist
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Phlebotomist
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Staff Audiologist
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Dental Assistant Intern
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Staff Dental Hygienist
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Addictions RN
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Patient Experience Coordinator
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Housing First Case Manager
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Residential Support Technician
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Forestry Technician
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Tribal Social Services' Administrative Assistant
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Trauma Navigator
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Administrative Assistant I- Human Resources
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Service Coordinator
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Trauma and Grief Recovery Specialist
<b>Fort Yukon</b>	Home Care Provider
<b>Galena</b>	Staff RN
<b>Huslia</b>	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
<b>Huslia</b>	Substitute Teacher/Assistant Teacher
<b>Huslia</b>	Preschool Assistant Teacher
<b>Old Minto</b>	OMFRC Behavioral Health Consultant
<b>Tanacross</b>	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
<b>Tok</b>	Cook (Early Head Start)



### Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

Visit our website at [www.tananachiefs.org/careers](http://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 MARCH 21, 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

**APR  
4**

### Tribal Social Services Family Resource Fair

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall • 3:00pm-6:00pm  
Enter to win door prizes & meet Molly of Denali!

**APR  
9-10**

### 2024 Education Summit

Wedgewood Resort • 8:00am-6:00pm  
Registration required:  
<https://forms.gle/f7D37AAF2UX8mYRz8>

**APR  
11-12**

### Talking Circle Healing Gathering on Boarding School Trauma

April 11th: Westmark Gold Room • 8:00am  
April 12th: Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall • 2:00pm

**MAY  
15-16**

### Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Annual Meeting

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall • Fairbanks, AK

**MAY  
22-23**

### Executive Board Meeting

More details to come.