



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 50 No. 1 • January 2025



TCC Wins National Quality Improvement Award

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is proud to announce receiving the AAAHC Bernard Kershner Innovation in Quality Improvement Award for our 'Accelerated Hepatitis C Screening of Patient Population' project. This award highlights our commitment to improving health outcomes for Alaska Native patients.

Hepatitis C (Hep C) poses significant health challenges, with Alaska Native communities experiencing disproportionately high death rates. TCC's initiative introduced enhanced screening protocols, provider education, and systemic improvements to

address these disparities and improve patient care across our region.

The project's success reflects the dedication of our team. Vanessa Ketzler, TCC's Quality Management Director, and Jenni Prewitt, Quality Analysis/Quality Improvement Specialist, accepted the award during the AAAHC Achieving Accreditation conference's networking reception.

The Bernard A. Kershner Innovations in Quality Improvement Awards honor organizations achieving measurable success in patient care and safety. Named after a visionary leader in ambulatory health care, these

awards celebrate innovation and excellence in quality improvement.

This recognition underscores TCC's mission to promote the wellness of Alaska Native people and our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes. Congratulations to the entire team for their impactful work as we continue striving for excellence and ensuring world-class care for our Tribes and beneficiaries.



Scan to learn more.

Happy New Year!
From your friends at
Tanana Chiefs Conference



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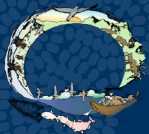


Mission

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

Dear Tribal Leaders,

Last month, I, along with members of our Executive Board and Interior Tribal leaders, had the honor of attending the White House Tribal Nations Summit in Washington, D.C. This summit provided a valuable platform to engage directly with the outgoing administration, including President Biden and Vice President Harris. We were able to thank their administrative staff for their efforts and accomplishments, including the Gravel-to-Gravel Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the successful Department of the Interior (DOI) self-governance agreement. These milestones are a testament to the progress we can achieve through collaboration. We look forward to meeting the new administrative staff as they are brought on board and building those relationships to ensure strong advocacy on behalf of our Tribes.



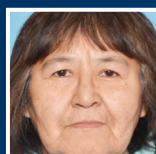
I also want to bring your attention to an important event taking place in February. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) will be hosting a meeting in Anchorage from February 3rd to February 12th. This meeting is critical for addressing the challenges we face regarding fisheries management and sustainability. TCC is offering to cover the travel expenses for one representative from each TCC village to attend. When we show up in numbers, we send a clear and powerful message that these issues matter deeply to us and our communities. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting our Tribal communities, I am pleased to share that the Executive Board has once again approved an Economic Development Fund distribution for our Tribes this year. These funds can be used for any projects that promote economic development within your community. Additionally, we will be sending out a fund balance distribution, which provides unrestricted funds for your Tribe to use as needed. These distributions reflect our dedication to empowering Tribes with the resources needed to achieve their goals and address their unique priorities.

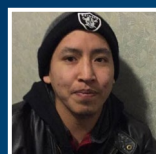
I want to wish you all a Happy New Year! I am looking forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming year. Let us continue to work collaboratively to strengthen our communities and build a brighter future for generations to come.

Mahsi' Choo,
Chief Brian Ridley
Tanana Chiefs Conference

MISSING



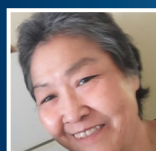
Lorraine
Ginnis



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
for more information.

TCC Announces New Leadership Appointments in Tribal Protection & Safety

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is proud to announce the appointment of two exceptional individuals to leadership roles within the Tribal Government and Client Services Division. These appointments reflect TCC's ongoing commitment to enhancing public safety, Tribal protection, and community wellness.

Michael Gho - Tribal Protection and Safety Director



Michael Gho steps into the role of Tribal Protection and Safety Director, with a rich history rooted in service and community connection. Raised in Fairbanks and spending summers at Lake Minchumina, Michael pursued a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Alaska before embarking on a career with the Fairbanks Fire Department. After retiring as a captain and paramedic, Michael expanded his public safety expertise through various roles, including:

- Tribal Peace Officer.
- Alaska State Trooper.
- Village Public Safety Officer with Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Beyond his professional achievements, Michael has experience as an assistant big game guide, commercial fisherman, and river racer with the Fairbanks Outboard Association. A devoted family man, Michael and his wife raised two sons who are now established professionals in the Fairbanks community. His leisure time is spent at his cabin, enjoying boating, fishing, hunting, and treasured moments with family.

David Atteberry - Public Safety Manager

David Atteberry has been appointed as the Public Safety Manager, bringing decades of dedication and service to others. David's career spans diverse roles, including service as a United States Marine, firefighter, police officer, and owner of a non-governmental organization working in Africa. For nearly ten years, he has served as a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) with Tanana Chiefs Conference, achieving several significant milestones:

- First VPSO selected as a class leader of a fully integrated Alaska State Trooper Academy.
- First VPSO to attend the FBI's Crisis Negotiator Course.
- First VPSO assigned to the Alaska State Trooper Special Emergency Response Team as a negotiator.
- First VPSO MMIP Investigator, addressing the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons.

David's dedication to public safety is mirrored by his family, with two adult sons also serving in public safety roles. He lives with his wife and two stepchildren from Minto. In his free time, David relishes cabin life, hunting, fishing, and working on his trapline.

These appointments strengthen TCC's mission to serve and protect Tribal communities throughout the region. Please join us in welcoming David Atteberry and Michael Gho to their new roles. Together, their leadership will enhance TCC's commitment to advancing public safety and Tribal sovereignty for the benefit of all.



Purchased Referred Care Pays for Lifeline Services

Did you know that TCC - Purchased Referred Care (PRC) will pay for Lifeline Services in Fairbanks and in the Villages provided through Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Auxiliary?

Lifeline is a 24-hour assistance system designed for individuals who live alone or are home alone. It provides urgent or emergency support in situations such as falls, feeling unsafe, or physical disabilities. All you need for this service is a telephone or cellphone. You will then receive a Lifeline alert button to wear around your neck.

If you are interested, please contact your Primary Care Provider (PCP) at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center to see if you meet the Medical Requirements for this service. Your Provider at Chief Andrew Isaac will need to place a referral for these services to be funded by PRC.

Help is always here...

988

24 HOURS A DAY • 7 DAYS A WEEK



Free & confidential support for people in suicidal crisis.

Your story isn't over...

Cooperating Agency Efforts on Chum Bycatch EIS

By Diloolaa Erickson, Tribal Resource Stewardship Department Director

In May of 2024, Tanana Chiefs Conference's (TCC) Executive Leadership signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to act as a cooperating agency in the next draft of the Chum Salmon Bycatch Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will be used by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) to decide how they will go about setting Chum Salmon bycatch limits for the Bering Sea Pollock fisheries.

Since July of 2024, TCC's Tribal Resource Stewardship Department (TRSD) staff have been working in close collaboration with other Tribal cooperating agencies - Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITFC) - to co-author multiple sections which will be included in the main body of the EIS. Collaborators are also working to develop several more detailed documents to be included in the appendix section of the EIS.

These documents were compiled with input from as many Tribal advocates as TCC's TRSD staff could collect during the limited timeframe available for drafting. The appendix documents are considered living documents. If you find errors or missing information while you're reading them, please reach out to the TRSD so that we can update the documents as needed. This document should be an accurate representation for the TCC Tribes and their Tribal Members.



Our contributions as a cooperating agency means that we are actively collaborating in the EIS development and providing specialized knowledge. Cooperating agencies are integral to ensuring that the EIS thoroughly examines the environmental, cultural, and economic impacts of bycatch. For Tribal organizations, this role highlights the importance of integrating Tribal expertise, traditional ecological knowledge,

and community-specific concerns into the decision-making process. By contributing as co-authors, Tribes ensure the EIS reflects a deep understanding of the cultural, ecological, and subsistence significance of chum salmon. This collaboration emphasizes the critical need to address bycatch impacts in a way that respects Tribal rights, sustains salmon populations, and supports the long-term health and resilience of Indigenous communities and ecosystems.

The Chum Salmon Bycatch EIS will be presented at the upcoming NPFMC's special meeting in Anchorage, scheduled for February 3-10, 2025. During this meeting, the NPFMC will be given several staff presentations on the different sections of the EIS, and public comment on the EIS will also be heard. At the subsequent meeting, taking place September 29th-October 8th, 2025, also in Anchorage, the NPFMC will decide which action alternatives will be used to establish Bycatch limits for Chum Salmon in future fishing seasons.

TCC's TRSD staff, in collaboration with KRITFC and YRITFC, will host multiple outreach events and advocate trainings on this EIS effort. These initiatives aim to prepare Tribal advocates and partners to actively participate in decision-making spaces and advocate for management practices that protect the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) salmon.



Learn more about this process and how you can be involved:

More opportunities for informational sessions and assistance sessions will be posted on our social media outlets

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 03, 2025, 6-7PM virtually: Unlocking the EIS Process: Learn How to Engage and Make an Impact

This webinar will offer an overview of the EIS process, key insights into the current EIS draft, and a roadmap of what to expect as the process moves forward.

Jan. 17-19, in person in Galeana, AK: Tribal Advocate Training co-hosted by TCC TRSD & Loudon Tribal Council

This training session will cover the NPFMC EIS process, cooperating agency documents, and drafting tribal advocate's public testimony both verbal and written.

Jan. 21, 2025, 6-7pm virtually: Amplifying Tribal Voices: Engaging in the EIS Process to Protect Our Resources

Join our virtual testimony training and support session to learn how to make your voice heard and ensure your perspective is on the record!



Scan to review TCC's Appendix Documents on the TRSD landing page.

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/fish-commission/>

2025 TCC Calendars Available Now!

Send your mailing address to Communications_Dept@tananachiefs.org or call 907-452-8251 ext. 3424 to get your calendar today!



Protecting Your Newborn from RSV

By Lauren Wise, TCC PharmD

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or RSV, is a common virus that affects the lungs. RSV starts in the fall and peaks in the winter, alongside other infections such as the flu and COVID-19. RSV is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or from direct contact such as by touching a door-knob or kissing an infant.

Why should I care?

RSV can be a very dangerous infection for the vulnerable people in your life. RSV is the leading reason infants are hospitalized in the United States. Each year, over 80,000 children have to go to the hospital because of RSV. In Alaska, children experience rates of RSV that are *seven times higher* than the national average for children.

How do I know my child has RSV?

Your healthcare provider can easily check for RSV, along with other common respiratory viruses like flu and COVID-19, with a nasal swab. RSV may not be severe when a child first comes in contact, but it can become more severe a few days later. Children may have runny noses, they may eat and drink less, and they can develop a cough and difficulty breathing. Very young infants (less than 6 months old)

may seem more irritable, have decreased activity, or make more grunting noises. Children may or may not have a fever, too.



How can I protect my infant?

Infants can be protected from RSV with immunizations, which helps to prevent severe illness from RSV exposure. During RSV season, infants can receive an immunization in two ways: either from a maternal vaccine given in late pregnancy, or from protective antibodies given shortly after birth. Older children who are less than 20 months of age and who are at risk can also receive protective antibodies. These immunizations provide protection that lasts about 5 to 6 months.

What else can I do to keep my baby safe?

Practice good hygiene, like covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands frequently, and cleaning surfaces regularly in your home. If you're feeling sick, stay home to recover and minimize the risk of spreading RSV, as it can lead to serious, life-threatening infections in others.

Please reach out to your care provider for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Check Out These Resources For More Information

American Lung Association:



National Foundation for Infectious Diseases:



CDC - RSV Infection:



Healthychildren.org
Info for Alaska Native Families:



Floyd Green presenting at the BIA Providers Conference in Anchorage.

BIA Housing Highlights

By Mitchell Shewfelt Sr., TCC Housing Department Manager

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Housing Department was selected by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the second year in a row amongst 40 other regional HIP providers throughout Alaska to speak at the annual BIA Providers Conference held every December in Anchorage. Housing program manager Floyd Green represented TCC giving a presentation about recent and upcoming housing projects in the region.

Housing is the top priority targeted each year by communities in the TCC region with Tribal members seeking to build more affordable and energy efficient homes. Tribal members are encouraged to apply every year to show the need to build homes in our region for more BIA funding.



Ready for a Rewarding Career?
Apply Today to Become a Dental Health Aide Therapist!

Deadline to Apply:
February 15th, 2025

Contact:

Dr. Christine Ho, DHAT Coordinator
christine.ho@tananachiefs.org
907-451-6682 ext. 3587

2024

A Year in Review

JANUARY



Chief Ridley Provides Testimony at House Tribal Affairs Special Committee: TCC Chief Brian Ridley testified to the House Tribal Affairs Committee, addressing the salmon crisis, subsistence funding, and Native representation, urging Indigenous knowledge integration for sustainable resource management and equitable access for future generations.

Chief Trimble Gilbert Received National Honor: First Traditional Chief Dr. Rev. Trimble Gilbert of Arctic Village received the National Heritage Fellowship for excellence in traditional arts. Senator Lisa Murkowski delivered the news, joined by Tanana Chiefs Conference and Fairbanks Native Association representatives. (Photo by Evon Peter)



Healing & Culture at Tanana Wellness Event: The Tanana Tribe in partnership with TCC hosted a two-day wellness event fostering unity and well-being through cultural activities like the AK Blanket Exercise, traditional crafts, and hands-on workshops. This gathering was inspired by the late Donna Folger's vision for a positive community event.



FEBRUARY

2024 Reclaiming Our People Summit: This summit focused on addressing behavioral health and wellness in the region through collaboration with Tribal leaders and community members. The event featured breakout sessions to gather feedback, with TCC committing to develop subregional plans to improve services and support rural communities.



MARCH



One People, One Voice: The 2024 TCC Annual Convention united Tribal leaders, youth, and stakeholders to address issues, pass 27 resolutions, approve the MMIP Response Plan, and highlight progress in healthcare, justice reform, and Tribal infrastructure.

TCC's Energy Sovereignty Program Awarded \$26 Million: TCC received funding from the Department of Energy to expand solar and battery energy systems in eight Tribal communities, reducing diesel reliance and greenhouse gas emissions. The project aims to modernize infrastructure, lower energy costs, and empower Tribal communities with cleaner, sustainable energy solutions.



APRIL

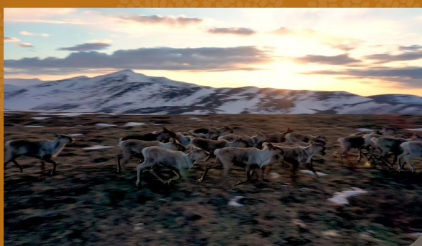


Healing Gathering on Boarding School Trauma:

The Talking Circle Healing Gathering provided a safe space for Elders to share experiences and address trauma from the boarding school era. Through storytelling, breakout sessions, and prayer, the event promoted healing, resilience, and reconciliation while honoring the strength and courage of Indigenous communities.

Biden Administration Announced "No Action" on Ambler Road Project:

The Biden Administration's decision marked a significant victory for the Alaska Native community and environmental justice. This decision, informed by Indigenous Knowledge and Tribal advocacy, protects vital ecosystems, subsistence resources, and the cultural heritage of the region.



MAY



A Transformative Journey with the TCC GO Career Explorers:

The Nulato Career Explorers class, a collaboration between TCC, Yukon-Koyukuk School District, and UAF, equipped students with job-seeking skills and career development, earning university credit. This successful initiative empowered students through community support and expert instruction, fostering a sense of belonging and career readiness.

JUNE

Protecting Our Salmon for Future Generations:

In June, TCC leaders met with the Loudon Tribe to discuss urgent salmon conservation efforts on the Yukon River, addressing alarming population declines. TCC remains committed to advocating for sustainable practices, fighting for Indigenous representation in decision-making, and continuing legal actions to protect salmon and their habitats for future generations.



AUGUST



Annual Boat Trip Connects Rural Alaska to Decision Makers:

The annual August boat trip allowed TCC leaders and decision-makers to visit Upper Tanana communities, fostering connections and discussions on healthcare, transportation, and food security with lawmakers and federal representatives.

2024 Food Security Summit:

The 2024 Food Security Summit focused on Tribal food sovereignty, teaching participants strategies for self-sufficiency and sustainable food systems. Attendees engaged in workshops on gardening, food preservation, and hunter safety, while also touring the Botanical Gardens to explore research on increasing local food security.



OCTOBER



TCC Signs Two Historic Agreements with DOI:

The Self-Governance Funding Agreement and the Gravel to Gravel MOU strengthen Tribal self-governance, promote co-stewardship of Alaska's lands, and integrate Traditional Knowledge with western science to address environmental challenges.

Chief Ridley Advocated at Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council:

Chief Ridley urged action on the salmon crisis, emphasizing its impact on Alaska Native communities and advocating for better management, bycatch reduction, and stronger resource protection.



NOVEMBER



Launch of The Story of Tobaan Etseh:

TCC hosted the launch of The Story of Tobaan Etseh, a new Denaakk'e language learning book, at the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center, celebrating Koyukon Athabascan traditions. The event featured a video premiere, giveaways, and the opportunity to meet with the book's creators to get the book signed.

2024 Special Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting:

This gathering focused on hunting and fishing, the Reclaiming Our People initiative, the VPSO Arming Pilot Program, behavioral health, drug trafficking, and future policy strategies.



Protect Yourself & Your Loved Ones from Human Trafficking

By David Atteberry, Public Safety Manager

Human trafficking of Alaska Native women is a growing concern, especially as many are lured to large cities in search of better opportunities, only to face exploitation. These women often leave their rural communities for employment, education, or to escape poverty, but their isolation and limited resources make them vulnerable to traffickers.

Traffickers exploit the dreams of these women by offering false promises of jobs in industries like hospitality or entertainment. Some may even pretend to be romantic partners. In larger cities like Anchorage, where industries such as oil, tourism, and construction attract transient populations, traffickers operate with greater anonymity, making detection difficult.

Why Alaska Native Women Are at Risk

Alaska Native women and girls face unique challenges, including limited

access to social services in rural communities. When they arrive in cities, they often lack support systems and struggle to navigate unfamiliar environments, making it harder to seek help.

Efforts to combat trafficking include training for local law enforcement and advocacy by organizations like the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center and the Alaska Native Justice Center. However, addressing root causes—such as poverty, lack of education, and historical trauma—remains critical to preventing exploitation.

Safety Tips for Traveling to Hub Cities

Traveling from rural Alaska to cities like Anchorage or Fairbanks can offer opportunities, but also risks. Human traffickers disproportionately target Alaska Native women due to systemic vulnerabilities and community isolation. Stay safe by following these tips:

Plan Your Travel Carefully: Share your itinerary with trusted family or friends, including where you'll stay. Use reliable transportation and avoid isolated areas, especially at night.

Stay Connected: Keep your phone charged and carry a portable charger. Use location-sharing apps so trusted contacts can monitor your movements.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings: Traffickers often target public spaces like bus stations, airports, and malls. Be cautious of strangers offering unsolicited help, rides, or work opportunities.

Trust Your Instincts: If something feels unsafe, leave immediately. Seek help from law enforcement, hotel staff, or others nearby.

Know Where to Find Help: The National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) is available 24/7. In emergencies, call 911.

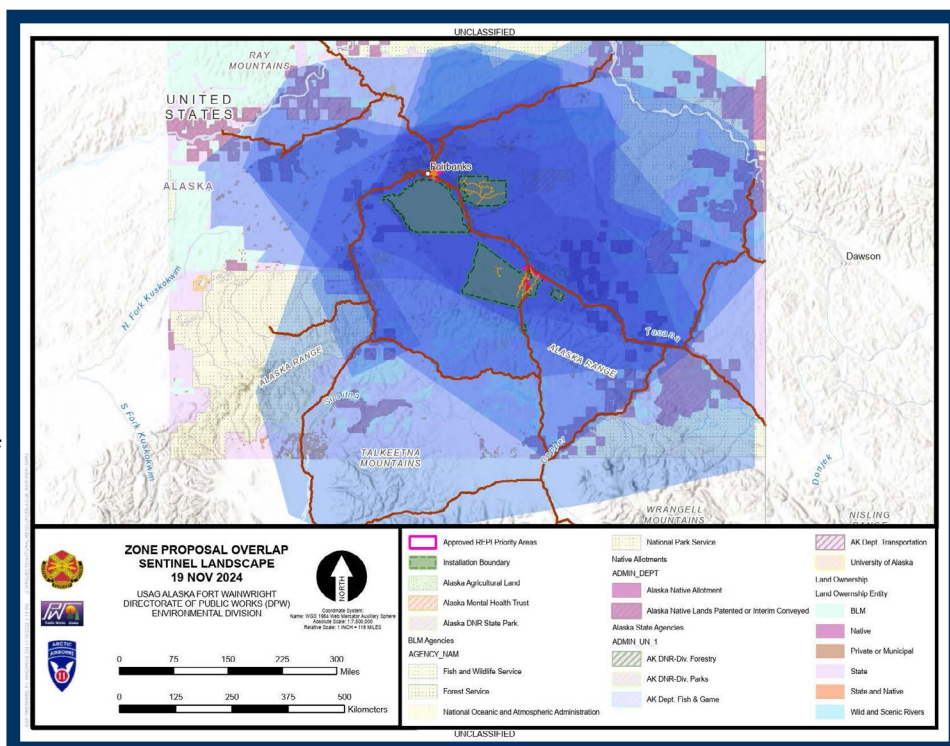
By staying vigilant and prepared, you can reduce risks and focus on a safe, successful trip. Awareness is the first step toward empowerment and protection.



Sentinel Landscape Initiative Across the Eastern Half of the TCC Region

By Robert Sattler, Senior Archaeologist / Environmental Quality Analyst

Several federal land and resource managing agencies are planning a Sentinel Landscape initiative that covers the central and eastern areas of the TCC region. The program would be funded through a collaboration between the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. The initiative seeks to integrate management of military lands and surrounding public and private lands to accomplish larger landscape level conservation goals; such as wildfire management, invasive species control, and improving stream health for salmon. The broad land area includes ancestral lands in the Upper Tanana, Yukon Flats and Yukon-Tanana subregions (see figure). Led by the ecological services branch US Fish and Wildlife service (based in Fairbanks) the initiative will strive to develop a coalition of state, federal and tribal entities to work collaboratively on natural resources management. In a big picture, the coalition would monitor the health of the boreal forest of the Interior and its land and water resources. Plans are in the early stages and the organizers are seeking Tribal engagement beyond TCC resources staff. For further information, contact Matt Sprau, Conservation Planning Assistance, US Fish and Wildlife Service at 907-750-6772 or at matthew_sprau@fws.gov. You can also visit <https://sentinellandscapes.org/> to learn more.



Understanding Glaucoma: Preserve Your Sight

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can damage the optic nerve, which is responsible for sending images from the eye to the brain. Often called the “silent thief of sight,” glaucoma typically develops without noticeable symptoms in its early stages. Many people don’t realize they have it until vision loss has already occurred.

The most common type, primary open-angle glaucoma, progresses slowly and painlessly. It usually begins with loss of peripheral (side) vision, which can go unnoticed until the condition worsens. Another, more severe type, angle-closure glaucoma, occurs suddenly and can cause symptoms such as eye pain, headaches, blurry vision, and nausea. This is a medical emergency that requires immediate attention.

Certain groups are at higher risk for glaucoma, including individuals over 60, African Americans over 40, and those with a family history of the disease. Regular comprehensive eye exams are essential for early detection and treatment. While glaucoma cannot be cured, treatments such as medicated eye drops and laser procedures can help lower eye pressure and prevent further damage.

The best defense against glaucoma is education and regular check-ups. If

you are in a high-risk group or haven’t had an eye exam recently, schedule a visit with your optometrist. Early detection can preserve your vision and ensure a better quality of life for years to come. Don’t wait—protect your eyes today!

For more information, visit trusted resources like the [American Optometric Association](#) or the [National Eye Institute](#). You can also reach out to the Eye Clinic by calling 907-451-6682 and choosing Option 4.

Learn More Here

American Optometric Association:



National Eye Institute:



No Waitlist for Substance Use Assessment

Same day substance use assessments are available Tuesday-Thursday.

To schedule or speak to a provider, please contact Desiree Dan, Intake Coordinator, at 1-800-478-6822 Ext 3847. Or come in at the Al Ketzler Sr Building Suite 118 in Fairbanks.

If you are in a rural community, please reach out to your local BHA or clinic.

Clients are enrolled in case management following the assessment to facilitate enrollment in additional services. If you or a loved one is “waiting” for service, please contact us.

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!

An Interview with Jason Paskvan, TCC’s Climate and Energy Specialist

Recently, Jason Paskvan, the Energy and Climate Planning Specialist for Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), was featured in an interview discussing renewable energy with Amanda Byrd from the Alaska Center for Energy and Power on KUAC’s show “Energy of the North.”

TCC’s Infrastructure Division is working to incorporate renewable energy solutions into our remote communities, which will save residents many thousands of dollars and supply clean energy in the villages. Jason oversees part of the \$62.5 million Alaska Tribal Solar for All grant, aimed at giving Tribal residents along the Railbelt, a 700-mile area in Alaska that includes the electrical grid and geographical area served by the Alaska Railroad, access to solar energy benefits.

“It’s our own people bringing in this technology,” says Paskvan, whose Grandfather, Benedict Jones, was the first Chief of Koyukuk and one of the original Tribal members of Tanana Chiefs Conference. “The benefits from that are going to be for our people.”

TCC’s portion of the Solar for All grant implementation currently includes four solar farms on the Alaska Railbelt. One of these is likely to be erected either in Nenana or in the Delta Junction area. The other three solar farms will be owned by other Alaska Native Tribes on the Railbelt, likely around South Central.

Listen to Jason’s interview here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NyVEobfehs0b5pe-9hxdEZisocLQq9K/view> and learn more about our Infrastructure Division and its initiatives here: <https://www.tananachiefs.org/infrastructure/>



Election Criteria 2025 TCC Annual Convention

SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

Executive Board of Directors

Subregional Positions:

Yukon Flats Subregion	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Chief Nancy James, Gwichyaa Zhee	
Yukon Tanana Subregion	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Chief Lori Baker, Minto	

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current village director, as authorized by Tribal/village resolution. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Members of member villages of the corporation. (Article 4, Section 1)
- Full Time employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with exception of the President. E-Board Members may serve as temporary or seasonal TCC employees. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must successfully pass an ICPA and Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check.
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors, with the exception of the President/Chairman of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. To be eligible as a candidate, individuals must successfully pass the background check the week before their election.
- Must successfully pass the ICPA and (DHSS) Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check. (See also Executive Board Policy 50-5003). Executive and Health board candidates must turn in a completed and correct background check application to Heather Rogers in Human Resources by February 11th to guarantee background checks will be completed by February 28th. Individuals contemplating running for a board position should turn in a background check application immediately to ensure the ability to make corrections to mistakes in the lengthy application. All background check applications will be confidential and only Human Resources will have access to the application and the names of individuals. Those individuals that do not submit complete paperwork or fail to pass a background check will not be eligible candidates for the TCC President/Chairman, Executive Board or Health Board positions.

Advisory Boards

The three TCC Advisory Boards make recommendations to the TCC Executive Board and President/Chairman. The Regional Health Board is selected by each respective subregion (Article 7, Section 2). The President/Chairman has the authority to appoint all individuals to the other advisory boards (Article 7, Section 5), but the most recent process has been for the subregions to democratically select representatives to each advisory board. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

Regional Health Advisory Board

Upper Tanana Subregion.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Sylvia Pitka, Northway	
Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Tony Agnes, Nikolai	

Education Council

E-Board Representative.....	1-year term (2024-2025)
Currently Chief Nancy James, Fort Yukon	
Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Chief Alice (Allie) Dale, McGrath	
Upper Tanana Subregion.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Larry Mark Sr., Tanacross	

Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently VACANT	
Upper Tanana Subregion.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently VACANT	
Yukon Tanana Subregion.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Alex Hanna, Minto (Resigned 2024)	
Yukon Flats Subregion.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Jacqueline Balaam, Birch Creek (Resigned 11/2024)	

FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Officer Positions

Vice President.....	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Sharon Hildebrand, Nulato	

Eligibility Criteria:

- Officers must be Alaska Native members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1)
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Advisory Board of Directors. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to their respective spring 2025 Subregional Advisory Board Meetings, according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

IRHA Board of Commissioners

Seat C	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Speedy Sam, Huslia	
Seat B	3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Kimberly Carlo, Gwichyaa Zhee	

Eligibility Criteria:

- * Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors (Article 18)
- Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commissioners (Article 18)

Important Dates and Deadlines

January 30th - Declaration of Candidacy Opens

January 30th at 8:00am the open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

February 7th at 5:00pm - Full Board Resolutions Due

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

February 11th - Background Check Deadline

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

February 28th at 5:00pm - Candidacy Window Closes

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

March 13th - Elections

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

ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:

TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors must successfully pass a federal ICPA background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act background check.

The TCC Executive Board has made the commitment to both comply with current laws, Board policies and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC Executive Board and Health Board candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 11th submitted to Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director. This allows enough time for the check to be completed. Only those candidates that successfully pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the respective elections.

2025 TCC ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES

RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED

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

RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY

- In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat after the third ballot, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.
- Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:
 - The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.
 - If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The

remaining candidates will be eliminated.

- If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.
 - If there are more than three (3) candidates tied for first highest vote, all of those receiving the first highest will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.
 - If all but one candidate ties for second, the Election Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the nominees who tied for second. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.
- Ballots where there are three (3) nominees. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot having three (3) nominees, the Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes, and conduct a subsequent ballot. If all three (3) nominees tie for the votes cast, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot including all nominees. If two nominees tie for the fewest votes cast, the Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the two nominees who tied for the fewest votes cast on the prior ballot. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.
 - Ballots with two (2) nominees. The nominee receiving a majority vote shall be elected. If neither nominee receives a majority vote, the Election Committee will prepare another ballot without elimination of the nominee receiving the fewer votes. This Election Committee will repeat this process as necessary until one nominee receives a majority vote.

**** Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2025 Full Board of Director's roll call.**

Full Board Resolutions

All resolutions must be received by fax, email, mail or in-person by 5:00pm Monday, February 7, 2025 to be considered for review at Convention. If you choose to mail in your proposed resolution, call 1-800-478-6822 ext. 3275 to notify Legal so that you do not miss the deadline.

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

Tanana Chiefs Conference
ATTN: Keith Rueben, Legal Department
122 First Avenue, Suite 600 | Fairbanks, AK 99701
FAX: (907) 459-3953
Email: keith.rueben@tananachiefs.org

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



Download the resolution form on our website.

Declaration of Candidacy

Individuals who want to declare themselves a candidate must submit a written, signed and dated letter of intent between 8:00 AM January 30, 2025 and 5:00 PM February 28, 2025.

Letters of intent must be received by fax, mail or delivered in person no later than 5:00 PM on February 28, 2025 to:

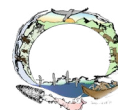
Tanana Chiefs Conference
ATTN: Chelle Johnson, Executive Coordinator
122 First Avenue, Suite 600 | Fairbanks, AK 99701
1-800-478-6822 ext. 3044 | FAX # (907) 459-3884
Email: chelle.johnson@tananachiefs.org

2025 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Robin Brown, General Counsel at robin.brown@tananachiefs.org



Download the letter of intent form on our website.

LETTER OF INTENT



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

DATE (Must be between 8 a.m. January 30, 2025 and 5 p.m. February 28, 2025)

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

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

Signature

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

Print Name

Phone Number

Email Address



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council Newsletter

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

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



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



FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Facilities Maintenance Technician
Fairbanks	Prevention Specialist
Fairbanks	Residential Care Coordinator I - Graf
Fairbanks	Healthy Transitions Project Manager
Fairbanks	Residential Care Coordinator I
Fairbanks	Sterile Processing Technician II - ASC
Fairbanks	Children's Services Clinical Associate
Fairbanks	Physician - Primary Care
Fairbanks	Addictions Certified Nurse Aide
Fairbanks	Nurse Manager - Addictions
Fairbanks	RN Diabetes Care and Education Specialist
Fairbanks	Staff RN
Fairbanks	Perioperative Nurse II - ASC
Fairbanks	Division of Wellness and Prevention Administrative Assistant
Fairbanks	Service Desk Technician
Fairbanks	Trauma Navigator
Fairbanks	Home Care Provider
Fairbanks	ICWA Advocate
Fairbanks	Forestry Technician
Nenana	Community Health Aide / Practitioner
Tok	Preschool Assistant Teacher

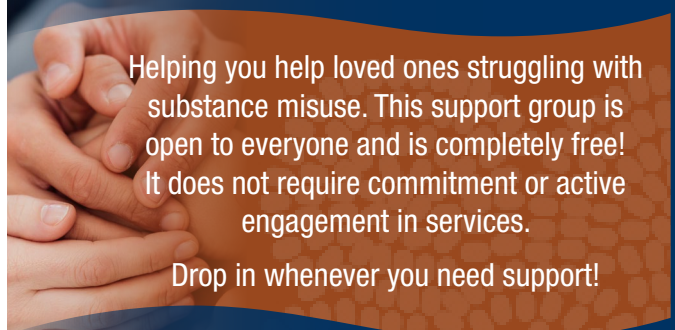


Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

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 DECEMBER 17, 2024

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JAN
1**

TCC Offices Closed
New Years Day

**JAN
3**

**Unlocking the EIS Process: Learn
How to Engage & Make an Impact**
6:00pm - 7:00pm | Virtual Event

**JAN
17-19**

Tribal Advocate Training
Galena, AK

**JAN
20**

TCC Offices Closed
Martin Luther King Day

**JAN
21**

**Amplifying Tribal Voices: Engaging
in the EIS Process to Protect Our
Resources**
6:00pm - 7:00pm | Virtual Event

**JAN
23**

Executive Board Meeting
More information to come