



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 50 No. 7 • July 2025



Day of Peaceful Protest for the Survival of Yukon River Salmon

On June 20, 2025, more than 150 Tribal leaders, members, and allies gathered to stand in solidarity with the people of the Yukon River and its tributaries to advocate for the protection of Yukon River salmon. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), in accordance with Full Board Resolution 2025-05, sponsored this statewide protest in partnership with Denakkanaaga, Native Movement, Native Peoples Action, Yukon River Drainage Fishermans Association, and the Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission. This event helped raise awareness at the state, national, and international levels about the devastating impact of the salmon crisis on the people of Interior Alaska.

In Fairbanks, the protest began at Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall, where participants received buttons, patches, and signs. The group then marched to the Chena River, where prayers and offerings were shared in honor of the salmon. Protests also took place in the communities of Tanana, Eagle, Shageluk, and Nulato.

Why We Protested

Salmon runs along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers have collapsed. While Alaska Native communities—who have depended on salmon for subsistence since time immemorial—face complete fishing bans, industrial trawlers continue to intercept salmon

offshore.

State and federal management systems have failed to protect Yukon River salmon. Despite years of warnings, data, and advocacy from Tribes, no meaningful steps have been taken to reduce bycatch or restore salmon populations. Tribes have borne 100% of the conservation burden while representing only 1% of the total user group.

These decisions have led to significant cultural loss, food insecurity, and negative impacts on the mental, physical, and spiritual health of our people. After years of being ignored, Alaska Native leaders and communities took

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

Listen Now!

New Episodes Every Week

Your weekly update from Tanana Chiefs Conference - featuring news, upcoming events, highlights, and more! TCC Weekly is a short-form podcast produced by TCC to keep our communities, partners, and employees informed about what's happening across the region!

Listen on KRFF 89.1 FM and Spotify!

SCAN ME!



IN THIS ISSUE...

PAGE 3: Tribal Energy Sovereignty

PAGE 5: Clinical Continuing Education

PAGE 7: Dental Department FAQ

PAGE 9: Working Together to Confront the MMIP Crisis

PAGE 10: 2025 Graduates

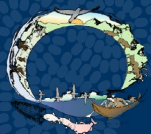


Mission

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

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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 and Tribal Members,

We are busy preparing for our annual TCC Partners Boat Trip, scheduled for July 8–10. We will be visiting the communities of Evansville, Alatna, Allakaket, Hughes, and Huslia. Accompanying us will be representatives from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and members of local and state government. This trip is a powerful way for decision-makers to gain a firsthand understanding of life in rural Alaska—how their policies and services truly affect our people—and to hear directly from the communities they serve.

Last month, I had the honor of attending the Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference in Galena. It's always one of my favorite gatherings each year—an opportunity to listen to the wisdom of our Elders and the energy and ideas of our youth. I want to thank Loudon for once again being such gracious hosts. I'm already looking forward to next year's conference in Gwichyaa Zhee (Fort Yukon).

Last month, I also traveled to Anchorage, where the Alaska Federation of Natives hosted meetings with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin. I was able to raise important concerns with Administrator Zeldin, including the continued lack of maintenance funding for water and sanitation systems in rural Alaska. I also voiced our deep concern about the recent decision to cut funding for the \$20 million project in Huslia, which would have brought new solar energy infrastructure, clean water access, and housing improvements to the community. These are vital needs, and we will continue to advocate for their restoration.

Later in the month, I attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Convention in Connecticut. While at the convention, I also had the opportunity to meet with Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Scott Davis. I invited him to join us on our upcoming Partners Boat Trip, and he shared the welcome news that the Alaska BIA office will not be closing. As many of you know, I currently serve as the NCAI Alaska Area Vice President, a role I've been honored to hold. While I had not initially planned to run for another term, I've received strong encouragement from Tribal leaders across Alaska—and even from Senator Lisa Murkowski—to continue in this capacity. After thoughtful consideration, I have decided to run for one final term this November at the NCAI Annual Convention. I look forward to the opportunity to continue representing our region and our state on the national stage. I look forward to seeing you all at the NCAI Annual Convention in Seattle.

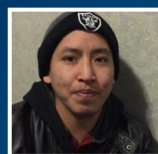
Mahsi' Choo,
Chief Brian Ridley
Tanana Chiefs Conference



MISSING



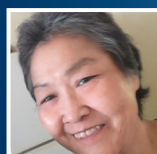
Lorraine
Ginnis



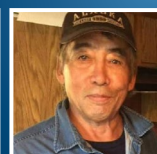
Willis
Derendoff



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.

Enhancing Tribal Energy Sovereignty in the Tanana Chief Conference Region

By Jolene Malamute, Infrastructure Administrative Assistant III

In the Tanana Chief Conference (TCC) region, residents face significant challenges related to energy costs and supply. The average cost of electricity is 65 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), while the price of diesel fuel exceeds \$7 per gallon. Most communities still rely on legacy diesel generators and decades-old power lines to provide electricity to rural villages.

In the fall of 2022, significant funding was made available through the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) under BIL 40101(d). This allocation is available to States and Tribes to prevent power outages and to strengthen and modernize America's power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters. TCC worked with nearly a dozen Tribes to apply individually for this non-competitive, allocation-based grant.

In May 2023, an amendment to the funding opportunity allowed Tribes to apply under one application, reducing the administrative burden associated with reporting, project management, and reapplication each year during the five-year funding period. As a result, TCC collaborated with the village of Nulato to assemble a consortium and successfully secured \$2 million in funding for the group.

In 2024, this funding was doubled to a total of \$5.5 million, bringing the cumulative funding to over \$7 million in the past three years. Since TCC is not eligible to apply independently, the Nulato Tribe serves as the applicant while TCC provides technical project

management, financial reporting, and budgeting. TCC also facilitates discussions with federal grant officers and assists Tribes in overcoming ongoing challenges during the application process.

Grid resilience project examples include reconductoring and repairing power poles, improving bulk fuel storage, workforce development, utility training, and implementing backup battery storage solutions. It is important to note that there are specific restrictions, such as no new electricity generators or solar panels unless they are replacing old equipment, and no new power lines to subdivisions. All plans are subject to change and require authorization.

The funding requires two sources of cost matching. For their applications, Tribes must provide a 15% cost match on the federal funds received, while sub-awardees (electric utilities) need to provide a one-third cost match on their portion of the subaward if they are small utilities (less than 4 million megawatt-hours of generation).

To further support these projects, TCC has secured \$1 million in matching funds from the Denali Commission. However, one of the significant challenges for Tribes has been collaborating with local electric utilities and fuel vendors on potential projects.

Through these initiatives, TCC and its partner Tribes are working to enhance energy resilience, reduce costs, and ensure a more reliable energy future for communities in the TCC region.

NOW ENROLLING!

Head Start

School Starts Sept. 1st!

Give your child a strong start with Head Start! Our program supports children's learning and development while providing valuable resources for the whole family. Interested in enrolling or have questions? Talk to your local Head Start teachers or family advocates. They're here to help!

Beverly Madros

Family Advocate for Nenana & Nulato
beverly.madros@tananachiefs.org
1-907-452-8251 ext. 3175

Tanya Yatlin

Family Advocate for Huslia, McGrath, & Tanana
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Waverly Neal

ERSEA Specialist
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1-907-452-8251 ext. 3998

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Cowles Street Summer Road Construction

Alaska Department of Transportation is closing a portion of Cowles Street over the summer as they work to reconstruct the road.

This closure will change how you access Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center and the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Emergency Department. This closure will last most of the summer.

Scan to learn more or visit

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/cowles-street-summer-2025-closure-and-alternate-access-route-for-chief-andrew-isaac-health-center/>



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

unified action to demand change.

“For years Alaska Native leaders have fought to demand change, and accountability from state and federal management officials,” stated Diloolia Erickson, director of the Tribal Resource Stewardship Department at Tanana Chiefs Conference, “This protest allowed us, as Native people, to uplift each other, and bring awareness to this dire situation. We must educate and let others know what is occurring in our river systems.”

This protest is not only to educate and inform but it also provided time for tribal leaders, members and allies to gather in community and to put prayers into the river for the salmon. In accordance with Full Board Resolution 2013-18, TCC staff is also directed to hold a day of prayer for the waterways, animals and people every June. The resolution states “Our Native Traditions, beliefs and lifestyle links us all who live along the Alaskan river systems in a spiritual manner.”

Chief Julie Roberts of Tanana reaffirmed this at their protest when she addressed her community, “What’s happening to our way of life? What’s happening to our children? Our fish are so important, it’s our health. We’re going to do a blessing for our river, my mom she always talked about the river having its own spirit and we have to respect that, the spirit of the river”



The Fight Continues

The Day of Peaceful Protest brought attention to this crisis, but our advocacy must continue. The Tribal Resource Stewardship Department (TRSD) offers regular opportunities for Tribal members to learn how to effectively advocate for our natural resources and provides guidance for submitting public testimony to policymakers.

The Hunting and Fishing Task Force also accepts donations to help support continued advocacy efforts. Visit www.tananachiefs.org/get-involved to learn more about upcoming opportunities and how you can help.

Baasee’ to Our Salmon Protectors

This event was made possible through the dedication of many passionate advocates, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed.

Special thanks to Native Movement for hosting art builds where participants created the powerful signs and banners carried during the protest. We’re also grateful to the Herring Protectors for donating herring eggs from Sitka and to Travis Cole for donating salmon that was shared with Elders attending the event.

Tsin’ij to the Dene’ Eslaanh dance group for their beautiful performance, and to Kenneth Frank for offering a traditional prayer for the salmon, the river, and the people.

We also recognize and appreciate those who organized and participated in village protests—your voices matter.

Finally, mahsi’ choo to everyone who showed up, stood in solidarity, and continues to speak out to protect our salmon.



The Importance of Continuing Education Through Clinical Skills Workshops in Urgent Care

By Elena Larranga, Physician Assistant/Urgent Care & Float Providers Team Lead

Given the evolving and high-demand nature of Urgent Care, continuing education is not just a professional responsibility, it is a critical component of delivering high quality, evidence-based care. Clinical skills workshops, held regularly for Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) Urgent Care staff, serve as a vital platform for ongoing learning, skill refinement, and confidence-building among providers. These hands-on sessions, which focus on procedures such as splinting, suturing, biopsies, and the management of common urgent care presentations, directly impact the quality of care we provide to our patients.

Benefits for Providers

For clinicians, these workshops offer a structured environment to reinforce core competencies, stay current

with best practices, and learn new techniques or updates to procedural protocols. Even experienced providers benefit from the opportunity to practice rarely used but essential skills in a low-pressure, collaborative setting. These workshops promote professional growth, encourage clinical curiosity, and ultimately enhance diagnostic and procedural accuracy.

Benefits for Patients

When providers are confident and well-practiced in essential clinical procedures, patients benefit from more efficient, safe, and effective care. Improved provider proficiency leads to faster interventions, reduced complications, and higher patient satisfaction. Patients trust their care teams more when they see that their providers are skilled, knowledgeable, and

committed to staying up-to-date in their practice.

Supporting a Culture of Excellence

These workshops also foster a team-based culture of continuous improvement. By encouraging knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer learning, we strengthen our Urgent Care teams and raise the standard of care across our facilities. This culture of ongoing education not only improves clinical outcomes but also boosts provider morale and retention.

Clinical skills workshops conducted at CAIHC are a cornerstone of excellence in Urgent Care. They support providers in maintaining and advancing their skills, and most importantly, they translate into safer, more effective care for the patients we serve.

Chief Peter John Tribal Building 5th Floor Closure

Due to continued renovations to the building, the 5th floor will be temporarily closed from June 12th through October 1st.

The following programs under Family Services and support will be affected during this time:

- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- General Assistance
- Child Care Assistance
- LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
- Employment & Training
- Education & Indigenous Learning

Call 907-452-8251 to schedule an appointment.

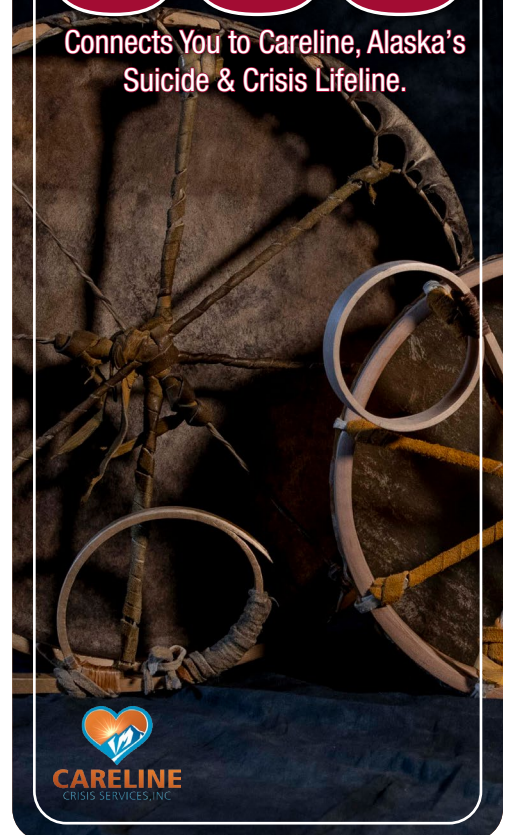
**All in-person
appointments must
be scheduled in
advance.**



NEED TO TALK?
Help is just three digits away.

988

Connects You to Careline, Alaska's
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.



CARELINE
CRISIS SERVICES, INC.

Sam Knapp Does More than Grow Food—He Stores it Most of the Winter and Writes About It

By Heidi Rader, Professor of Extension at University of Alaska Fairbanks

Sam Knapp could do anything. He has degrees in physics and chemistry as well as an advanced degree in plant ecology. Yet here he is in Fairbanks, Alaska, making a living growing a wide variety of crops that he stores and sells only in the winter. Oh, and writing about it. I asked him why.



Sam and Danielle Knapp in the storage facility with a variety of winter squash.

Post-college Sam was working in an office as an engineer and volunteered on a farm on the weekends. He found the weekend work a lot more rewarding than the office work. Climate change mitigation and food security motivate him as well. Although reality has set in and his view of farming is now less idyllic, he still finds the work satisfying, worthwhile and well-aligned with his values.

At Offbeet Farm (<https://offbeet-alaska.com/>), co-owned by wife Danielle Knapp, Sam grows potatoes, beets, turnips, winter squash, kale, garlic, onions, and more. While this may seem like standard locally-grown veggies, what's different is you won't see them at the farmer's market in the summer. But come January, they will have some of the only local produce in town—and you'll see it up until March.

There are many reasons why Sam focuses on storing vegetables and selling them in the winter. For one, it's part of his ethos to improve food security. Having local produce in the summer is a piece of the food security puzzle, but what about the rest of the year? He's also found a wide-open market in the winter for local produce and currently has a wait list for his winter Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program. Also, he enjoys growing the crops, and enjoys a less hurried lifestyle in the summer. Not having to grow and sell the crops at the same time allows him to spread out

his workload.

Carving out his own niche as a market gardener storing and selling crops, Sam had to write his own manual which turned into the book, *Beyond the Root Cellar: The Market Gardener's Guide to Growing and Storing Vegetables for Off-Season Sales and Food Security*, published last year. This book is nothing if not thorough and well-written. One chapter, entitled "Not Your Grandmother's Root Cellar" (coined originally by Janaki Fisher-Merritt), sums up much of the idea behind the book, which is essentially to modernize the techniques and facilities used to store produce on a small farm or at home. In his book, Sam shares detailed information on constructing a storage area or building and climate control. For each crop that he grows and stores, Sam writes about choosing varieties, cold hardiness, when and how to harvest the crop, trimming and processing for storage, how to store the crops, as well as common problems. Finally, he shares case studies from real storage farmers that he interviewed.

Sam said he follows the breadcrumbs of cited research back to their sources rather than relying on others' assertions and interpretations of previously done trials, as we all should do. This is important because many of the conventions for storing crops in a root cellar are based on anecdotal evidence. In addition to using research-based information, he also uses case studies from other farmers, and he meticulously keeps his own on-farm records. Then he takes it one step further and details how he uses research (including his own) in decision making, factoring in practicality as well as the bottom line. He places guard rails on acceptable and ideal storage conditions. [The Commercial Storage of Fruits, Vegetables, and Florist and Nursery Stocks](#), a nearly 800 page USDA handbook, was one of Sam's favorite resources.

I asked Sam about what some of his favorite varieties were. Choosing a variety for fresh eating is very different than choosing one for its storability. He also chooses ones that excel in organic production. Of course, taste factors in, but the question is, how does it taste after a few months in storage

not how it tastes pulled fresh out of the ground. For beets, Subeto is his top pick and for carrots it's White Icicle. Boletus is known for its storability, but it doesn't seem to do as well in organic production, so he is looking for an alternative. Many of the crops that store well are direct seeded (beets, turnips, carrots, kale, etc.) or from a seed potato, but [winter squash](#) should be started indoors a few weeks before planting out.

In his book, Sam guides us through a decision-making process that pulls from research, on-farm research, practicality, and the bottom line which has utility for all kinds of on-farm decision making beyond storage consideration. Sam provides farmers in Fairbanks, Alaska, and beyond with highly-relevant information for growing and storing crops for most of the winter. He notes that often the most valuable information comes right from your own farm or garden. Sam would love to see more farmers growing and storing food for winter sales, and he's given would-be storage farmers a jump start with his book.



Sam Knapp harvests beets at Offbeet Farm. Photo by Phil Knapp.

Questions about gardening or the Tribes Extension Program? Visit www.uaf.edu/ces/tribes Contact Heidi at hbrader@alaska.edu or (907) 474-6620. For more articles like this, go to: <https://it-growsinalaska.community.uaf.edu/>

Heidi Rader is professor of Extension in partnership with TCC. This work is supported by the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program Project 2022-41580-37957. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Dental Department:

Frequently Asked Questions

What times can I walk in as a patient?

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 7:30AM & 1:30PM
- Wednesday: 8:30AM & 1:30PM

I checked in first for Dental Urgent Care (DUC). Why are other patients being seen before me?

Patients are not necessarily seen in the order they arrive. All patients are triaged and prioritized based on the urgency of their condition, whether they've traveled from a village, and whether they are Elders or children. Additionally, patients with scheduled appointments are also being seen.

Why is there sometimes a wait for Dental Urgent Care?

To balance scheduled appointments and urgent care needs, we adjust the number of dentists assigned to DUC each day. On days when only one or two dentists are available for urgent care, wait times may be longer.

Note: On Friday afternoons at 1:30pm, all available dentists are assigned to DUC.

Why is there a wait list for exams, and why is it so long?

TCC serves a large patient population. A wait list helps ensure equal and fair access to exams for all beneficiaries. The wait list serves two significant purposes; first it serves as a recall exam list for patients who are due for their follow up exam, and second is a way to set up exam appointments fairly and consistently. We want to make sure that those patients who have been waiting the longest are the next ones contacted for an appointment.

However, when our Dental Team travels to villages in the region, there is often little to no wait for an exam. If you live in a village we serve and are interested, please contact your local clinic to schedule an exam during a village visit. Once you've had an exam, you may schedule follow-up appointments at the Fairbanks clinic if needed.

We are actively working to reduce exam wait times. If you'd like to be added to the Exam Wait List or have a concern that you shouldn't wait for an exam, please contact the Dental Front Desk. Your health and well-being are our top priority.

Why can't you schedule farther than three weeks out?

Limiting scheduling to three weeks in advance helps improve access to care and reduces the number of missed appointments. Regardless of how far out we schedule, availability can still vary, and you may need to call back if your preferred date is full.





Fentanyl's Deadly Impact on Interior Alaska Native Communities

By David Atteberry, Public Safety Manager

Alaska Native communities in the Interior are facing a growing crisis as fentanyl is increasingly being mixed into other drugs, leading to a devastating rise in overdoses and deaths. Once primarily linked to heroin, fentanyl is now being found in methamphetamines, cocaine, counterfeit prescription pills, and even marijuana. This alarming trend puts individuals at extreme risk, especially those who may not realize they are consuming fentanyl.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Even a tiny amount—equivalent to a few grains of salt—can be fatal. Many of our rural communities have limited access to emergency medical services, making overdoses even more dangerous. The remoteness of villages means that response times are often too long, and life-saving interventions like naloxone (Narcan) must be readily available within the community.

Drug dealers are pressing fentan-

yl into pills that look like prescription medications or mixing it with other substances to increase potency and maximize profits. This makes it nearly impossible for users to know what they are taking, leading to unintended and often deadly overdoses. The spread of fentanyl is tearing through families, creating deep and lasting harm to our communities.

Tanana Chiefs Conference, Tribal leadership, and law enforcement agencies are working to combat this crisis by increasing access to Narcan, promoting fentanyl test strips, and providing education on the dangers of synthetic opioids. Community involvement is key—by raising awareness, supporting prevention efforts, and looking out for one another, we can help protect our people.

This crisis affects us all. It is crucial that we work together to keep fentanyl out of our villages and ensure that every community has the resources needed to save lives.



Act Fast, Save a Life!

Get FREE Narcan Spray

To place your order, visit:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCCNARCAN>

Questions? Call Wellness & Prevention at
 (907) 452-8251 ext. 3941





Open to All Patients, Staff, & WIC Participants

Free Prenatal Breastfeeding Class

Third Wednesday of Each Month | 12:00 - 1:00 pm | Virtual

In this class you will learn:

- How do you get a good start breastfeeding your baby?
- When and who to call for help if challenges arise?

To Register, Contact: TCC WIC Program
 (907) 451-6682 ext. 3773 | wic@tananachiefs.org



Future Dates:
 July 16, 2025
 August 20, 2025

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Working Together to Confront the MMIP Crisis

By Michael Gho, TCC Tribal Protection & Safety Division Director

For generations, Alaska Native and Native American communities have experienced the heartbreaking and persistent crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)—an issue that, for far too long, was overlooked by mainstream institutions. Thankfully, in recent years, this crisis has begun to receive the attention it deserves, with more agencies acknowledging its gravity and committing to action. The collaboration between the Tribal Community Coalition on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (TCC MMIP) and the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) marks a meaningful step forward. This partnership not only seeks to improve investigative outcomes, but also to strengthen communication and coordination between law enforcement and Tribal communities.

How TCC MMIP and FPD Work Together

The TCC MMIP initiative is rooted in a commitment to addressing the long-standing and complex crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people. With a focus on cultural sensitivity and community-centered approaches, TCC MMIP ensures that the voices of Indigenous families are heard and respected throughout the investigative process.

The Fairbanks Police Department (FPD), meanwhile, brings critical law enforcement infrastructure and investigative expertise to the partnership, helping to formalize procedures and provide broader resources for case management.

A key element of this collaboration is the integration of TCC personnel at the patrol level during initial missing persons reports. This means that when a case is reported, TCC representatives are among the first responders—working side by side with FPD officers to gather information and offer culturally appropriate support to affected families. This joint response strengthens the early stages of investigations and builds deeper trust between law enforcement and the Indigenous community.

Addressing Misunderstandings in Procedures

While the collaboration between TCC and FPD represents meaningful progress, differences in procedures and communication styles can occasionally create challenges. One common source of confusion stems from the perception of overlapping roles. Though both parties share the goal of resolving cases effectively, their approaches differ; TCC emphasizes culturally responsive, community-based support, while FPD operates within a traditional law enforcement structure. Clearly defining roles and maintaining open lines of communication are essential to ensuring smooth coordination.

Another area of misunderstanding involves the perceived urgency in handling missing persons cases. TCC strongly advocates for immediate response and heightened visibility, recognizing the critical importance of early action—especially in Indigenous communities where trust in the system

has historically been strained. FPD, by contrast, may follow established protocols that can affect the pace of an investigation. Regular dialogue and alignment of priorities are necessary to bridge these differences and ensure that each case is approached with the urgency and cultural care they deserve.

Building Strong Communication

To help prevent misunderstandings, TCC MMIP and the Fairbanks Police Department hold monthly meetings. These regular check-ins give both teams a chance to talk about current cases, share updates, and work through any challenges with procedures or roles. Keeping communication open allows both sides to adjust their approaches when needed and respond more effectively.

This ongoing partnership is an important step in improving how missing persons cases—especially those involving Indigenous individuals—are handled. By working together from the start of a case and staying in regular contact, TCC and FPD are building a stronger, more united response.

It is crucial for them to continue addressing misunderstandings regarding procedures and roles, ensuring that their combined efforts lead to positive outcomes for families affected by these tragic circumstances. As they move forward, the focus must remain on building trust, enhancing communication, and prioritizing the needs of the communities they serve.

Every Tuesday

In-Season Teleconference

Every Tuesday at 1:00pm AKST

Tune into the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association's weekly teleconference for first-hand information, management Q&A, and to share traditional ecological knowledge.

1-800-315-6338

Participant Code:
YUKON# (98566#)

Congratulations 2025 Graduates

Abby Penn • 14



Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
8th Grade Promotion

Abigail Blackstock • 18



Northway
North Pole High School
High School Diploma

Adam B. Druck • 17



Northway
Walter Northway School
High School Diploma

Aiden Smith • 19



Alatna
Fairbanks BEST Homeschool
High School Diploma

Alexis Engler •



Fort Yukon
Fort Yukon School
8th Grade Promotion

Amelia Huntington •



Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
Pre-K Promotion

Arianne Jeal Derrickson • 18



Tanana
West Valley High School
High School Diploma

Aryssa S. Wright • 18



Chalkyitsik
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Asasha Martin • 18



Galena
West Valley High School
High School Diploma

Ashley Attla • 22



Hughes
University of New Mexico
Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry

Ashlyn Strom • 24



Fort Yukon
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Bachelors, Biological Sciences

Athena Rubio • 17



Nenana
Lathrop High School
High School Diploma

Bec Kranenburg • 18



Tetlin
North Star College
High School Diploma

Cadence Nollner • 18



Northway
Walter Northway School
High School Diploma

Chantz Chandler • 18



Minto
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Chelsea Joseph • 33



Kaltag
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Associates of Arts

Christopher Sanders • 17



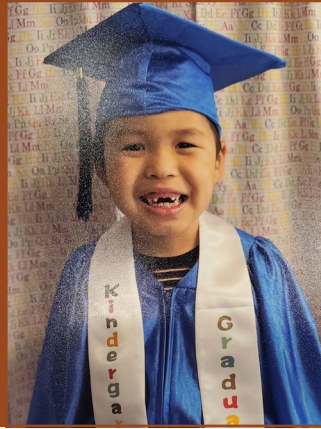
Kaltag
Kaltag High School
High School Diploma

Ciara Vent • 18



Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
High School Diploma

Curtis John Jr • 6



Shageluk
Nunaka Valley School
Kindergarten Promotion

Dalen Frank • 18



Venetie
John Fredson School
High School Diploma

Danelle Shellikoff • 37



Grayling
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Bachelors, Social Work

Dazlyn Dayton • 17



Koyukuk
North Pole High School
High School Diploma

Desiree Redfox • 18



Nenana
Monroe Catholic High School
High School Diploma

Eddie Robert Johnny • 18



Northway
St. Elias Community School
High School Diploma

Elijah Wigley • 17



Eagle
North Pole High School
High School Diploma

Elijah Winfrey • 24



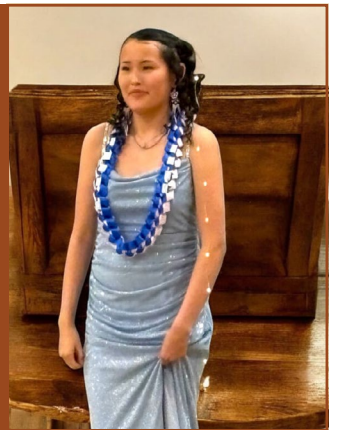
Minto
University of Alaska Fairbanks
B.B.A. Business Administration Finance

Elizabeth Shoemaker •



Koyukuk
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration

Emma Okin • 14



Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
8th Grade Promotion

Fairah Huntington • 13



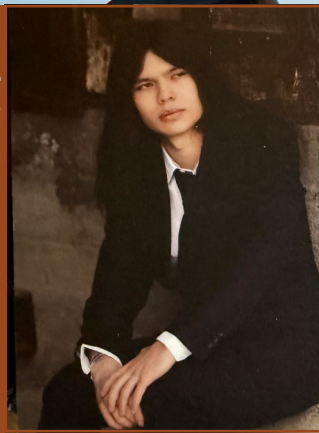
Anvik
Blackwell School
8th Grade Promotion

Faith Stickman • 5



Nulato
TCC Head Start
Pre-K Promotion

Gavin Murphy • 18



Northway
Star of the North
High School Diploma

Gisele Shewfelt • 14



Hughes
Fairbanks BEST Homeschool
Middle School Promotion

Gunner Frank • 13



Minto
Barnette Magnet School
8th Grade Promotion

Hannah Olin • 18



Huslia
Raven Homeschool
High School Diploma

Indy Simon • 5



Huslia
TCC Head Start
Pre-K Promotion

Isabella Rose Peter • 6



Fort Yukon
Fort Yukon Elementary
Kindergarten Promotion

Jaden Moses • 18



Alatna
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Jase Bradford MacDonald • 18



Dot Lake
Lathrop High School
High School Diploma

Jenny A. Johnson • 44



Northway
University of Alaska Fairbanks
BA, Healthcare Management and LPN

Kairon Dayton • 14



Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
8th Grade Promotion

Kayloni Elswick • 19



Holy Cross
Iditarod Distance Learning Center
High School Diploma

Kehlani Chanel Druck • 6



Chalkyitsik
LADD Elementary
Kindergarten Promotion

Kevin Jimmie • 18



Northway
Walter Northway High School
High School Diploma

Kevin Nicholi Jr • 18



Grayling
David Louis Memorial School
High School Diploma

Kylie Burgett • 6



Galena
Anne Wien Elementary School
Kindergarten Promotion

Lydia Rose Yatlin • 20



Huslia
Literacy Council of Alaska, Fairbanks
GED

Marvin Grant • 17



Tanana
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Michelle Titus • 31



Venetie
Alaska Pacific University
LPN

Nekoya Wiehl • 18



Tanana
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Nevaeh Moreland • 18



Fort Yukon
Career Education Center
High School Diploma

Normen Vent • 17



Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
High School Diploma

Olivia Leia Gallen • 18



Northway
International School of Mesa del Sol
High School Diploma

Owen Roberts • 17



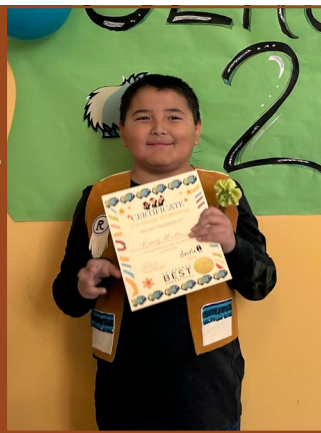
Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
High School Diploma

Raegan Stratton • 6



Healy Lake
Tri-Valley in Healy
Kindergarten Promotion

Randy Gallen • 11



Hughes
Fairbanks BEST Homeschool
Elementary School Promotion

Reuben Frederick Cardenas • 18



Chalkyitsik
North Pole High School
High School Diploma

Richard Dayton • 17



Koyukuk
Lathrop High School
High School Diploma

Riley Nicholi • 18



Grayling
Andrew K. Demoski School
High School Diploma

Riley Teasdale • 14



Northway
Randy Smith Middle School
8th Grade Promotion

Robyn Ludecker • 25



Kaltag
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Juris Doctor



Rodney Dayton • 14



Koyukuk
Tanana Middle School
Middle School Promotion

Roland Smoke • 17



Minto
Minto School
High School Diploma

Ryan Dean Strom Jr • 18



Fort Yukon
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Sean Michael Gallen • 18



Northway
South Anchorage High School
High School Diploma

Sean Sam • 6



Arctic Village
Yukon Flats School District
Kindergarten Promotion

Shynnae Patrick • 17



Northway
Mentasta Katie John School
High School Diploma

Sienna Demoski • 18



Koyukuk
Fairbanks BEST Homeschool
High School Diploma

Stevie Janae Charlie • 18



Nenana
Options High School
High School Diploma

Surayia Bifelt • 5



Huslia
TCC Head Start
Pre-K Promotion

Talise Frank • 18



Northway
Walter Northway School
High School Diploma

Tami Esmailka-McManus • 5



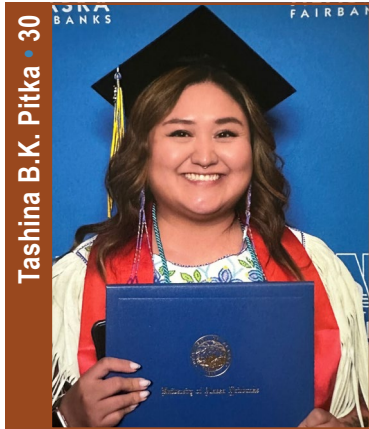
Nenana
Nenana City Public School
Pre-K Promotion

Tanner Higdon • 20



Huslia
Raven Homeschool
High School Diploma





Tashina B.K. Pitka • 30

Stevens Village
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Bachelor of Arts



Thadeus Moore • 18

Tanana
Maudrey J Sommer School
High School Diploma



Tilissa • 17

Arctic Village
Yukon Flats School District
High School Diploma



Tristan Huntington •

Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
Kindergarten Promotion



Vera Lestenkof • 64

Koyukuk
Alaska Career College, Anchorage
AAS, Business Administration & Human
Resources Management



Vika Kubanyi • 6

Rampart
Denali Elementary School
Kindergarten Promotion



Violet Ketzler-Sawyer • 27

Nenana
Evergreen State College
Bachelor of Arts, General Education



William T Hudson • 25

Nenana
University of Oregon
Economics

Grow Our Own

Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program

Starting September 2025 • Accepting applications now!

Earn full-time wages as a TCC employee while experiencing an excellent education and gaining hands-on experience.

Learn:

- How to record patient history
- Measure patient vital signs
- Give patients injections and medications

Contact Whitney Paolino to apply:

907-451-6682 ext 3042 | whitney.paolino@tananachiefs.org



**Only 4
participants will
be selected for
this cohort!**



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

Allakaket	Community Health Representative
Arctic Village	Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor
Fairbanks	RN Diabetes Care and Education Specialist
Fairbanks	RN Diabetes Care and Education Specialist - Advanced
Fairbanks	Security Officer I
Fairbanks	Optometry Director
Fairbanks	Referral Coordinator II
Fairbanks	Phlebotomist
Fairbanks	Remote Maintenance Worker I
Fairbanks	Office of Environmental Health Director
Fairbanks	General Surgeon
Fairbanks	Credentialing Manager
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Lead Clinical Associate
Fairbanks	Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Fairbanks	Lead Clinical Associate - Healthy Transitions
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II - Human Resources
McGrath	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Minto	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Nenana	Administrative Assistant II - MCDHC
Old Minto	Addictions Counselor II - OMFRC
Old Minto	Addictions Counselor I - OMFRC
Old Minto	Addictions Counselor Technician - OMFRC
Region-Wide	Health, Nutrition & Safety Coordinator
Tok	Clinical Support Staff/Medical Assistant
Tok	Urgent Care Technician



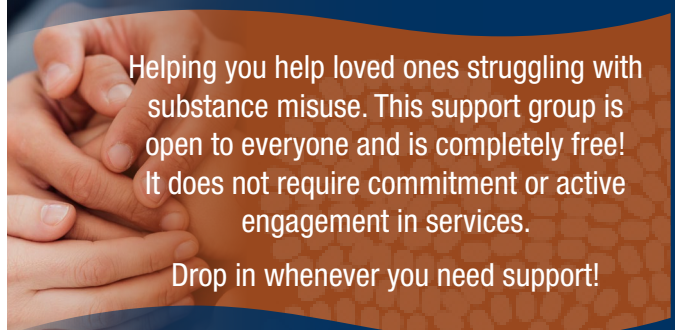
Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

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 JUNE 24, 2025

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

**JUL
3-4**

TCC Offices Closed
Independence Day

**JUL
8-10**

Partner Boat Trip
Evansville • Allakaket • Alatna • Hughes • Huslia

**JUL
21**

Elders Day of Caring
TCC and our Partners perform acts of service for Elders throughout the Fairbanks area.

**AUG
20**

Executive Board Meeting
8:30am - 5:30pm | Fairbanks, AK

**SEP
1**

TCC Offices Closed
Labor Day

**SEP
29-30**

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting
Egan Civic & Convention Center | Anchorage, AK
<https://www.npfmc.org/three-meeting-outlook/>