



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 50 No. 11 • November 2025



Standing Strong, Standing United: TCC Returns to the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention

This year's Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Convention marked an important moment for Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and Doyon, Limited as both organizations officially rejoined AFN after several years away. The 2025 theme, "*Standing Strong, Standing United*," could not have been more fitting. From the opening ceremonies to the final gavel, the sense of unity, optimism, and shared purpose was felt throughout the convention hall. It was good to be back—standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters from

across Alaska to focus on the challenges and opportunities that unite us.

The Interior Region was well represented throughout the event. Natasha Singh, a Tribal member of Stevens Village, delivered this year's keynote address, powerfully emphasizing the strength and sovereignty of Alaska Native people. Sam Demientieff of Holy Cross was recognized as *Elder of the Year*, an award that honors an Alaska Native Elder who exemplifies the highest values and qualities important to Native people—those who lead by example, preserve culture,

and uplift their community through a lifetime of service. Rev. Dr. Anna Frank of Minto received the *Citizen of the Year Award*, which recognizes individuals whose commitment and leadership have made a lasting difference in improving the lives of Alaska Native people and rural communities. Both honorees have devoted their lives to teaching, guiding, and strengthening our people, and their recognition brought great pride to the Interior delegation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

Share Your Community Story

Across our region, communities are doing amazing things - from hosting cultural gatherings and wellness events to creating opportunities for youth, celebrating achievements, and strengthening village life.

These stories will be featured in our monthly Council newsletter so that we can all celebrate the creativity, resilience, and unity of our communities.

To submit your story, scan the QR code or visit www.tananachiefs.org/community-stories



IN THIS ISSUE...

- PAGE 3:** Indigenous Youth Stand United Against Ambler Rd
- PAGE 7:** Netr'edax Healing Gathering
- PAGE 8:** A Path to Home Ownership through BIA & IRHA
- PAGE 10:** Disaster Assistance Available

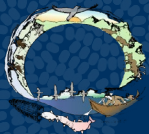


Mission

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 Englishhoe, Gwichyaa Zhee
Youth Advisor



Letter from the Chief

Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Members,



Last month, I traveled to Anchorage to attend our Executive Board Meeting, the Tribal Unity Gathering, and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Convention. It was an important week for collaboration, discussion, and strengthening relationships across our Tribal network and with our partners statewide.

Our Executive Board Meeting went very well. We had several key guest speakers join us for meaningful discussions, including Commissioner of Public Safety James Cockrell and his staff, who spoke with the Board and answered questions about public safety and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) issues. We also welcomed Natasha Singh, President of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), along with her staff, to talk with our Board about ongoing challenges with water and sewer infrastructure across our region. We deeply appreciate both Commissioner Cockrell and President Singh for taking the time to meet with us for these important conversations.

The Tribal Unity Gathering was also a great success, featuring many insightful panels and speakers from across Alaska. I want to recognize Chief Ivan Demientieff of Grayling, who serves on our Executive Board as the Lower Yukon Subregional Representative, for representing TCC on the panel "Voting for Our Ways of Life: Protecting Our Subsistence Rights." During my National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) report, I also had the honor of inviting NCAI President Mark Macarro to address the Tribal leaders in attendance. I sincerely appreciate President Macarro for taking the time to join us and share his words of encouragement and unity.

Finally, this year marked a significant milestone as Tanana Chiefs Conference and Doyon, Limited rejoined the Alaska Federation of Natives. It was good to be back—standing together with our brothers and sisters from across the state to focus on the challenges and opportunities that unite us. We were proud to see strong Interior representation throughout the convention, including Natasha Singh delivering this year's keynote address, Sam Demientieff of Holy Cross being recognized as *Elder of the Year*, and Rev. Dr. Anna Frank of Minto receiving the *Citizen of the Year Award*.

I also want to congratulate Sharon Hildebrand on being elected as the Interior Village Representative for AFN through unanimous consent of the caucus—and extend my gratitude to outgoing representative Pearl Chanar for her years of dedicated service.

TCC submitted four resolutions at this year's convention, all of which passed on the floor. One supports restoring Mount Foraker's Indigenous name, Deenaalee Be'ot. Another affirms support for Alaska Native realty programs and calls for greater Tribal control over land probate and realty services. A third calls for mandatory Indigenous orientation and cultural awareness training for all public officials and staff upon entering service. The final resolution reaffirms our ongoing commitment to Tribal sovereignty and self-determination across all levels of government.

To learn more about this year's AFN Annual Convention and TCC's resolutions, please see page 4 of this newsletter.

Mahsi' Choo,
Chief Brian Ridley
Tanana Chiefs Conference



Indigenous Youth Stand United Against the Ambler Road

By TCC Emerging Leaders Council

We are the Emerging Leader Youth Advisory Council of the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) — twelve Indigenous young leaders, ages 18 to 24, representing the next generation's voice for the 42 Tribes of Interior Alaska. Together, we stand in unified opposition to the Ambler Road Project — a development that threatens our ancestral lands, traditional ways of life, and the future we are determined to protect.

Our ancestors fought to preserve our homes, our lands, and our ways of being. Now it is our turn to continue that fight. We refuse to stand by while industrial development pushes deeper into our homelands, ignoring our voices and the long-term consequences for our people and the environment that sustains us.

We are already rich — rich in our land, our waters, our animals, our culture, our language, and our way of life. These are the sources of our true wealth, and we will not trade them for short-term jobs that disconnect us from who we are.

The Ambler Road would cut through critical habitat, changing the migratory routes of the caribou and disturbing the moose populations that sustain our people. It would bring man camps into rural areas, threatening community safety and cultural integrity. We are already seeing the imbalance in access to our traditional foods — in the Yukon-Tanana region that is highly accessible by roads, 754 moose were harvested last year, and only 27 were taken by local people living in our villages. This reflects a deep and grow-

ing inequity that projects like Ambler Road will only make worse.

As the next generation of Indigenous leaders, we stand with the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors in opposition to the Ambler Road. We call on all Tribes, leaders, and allies to stand with us — to protect the land, water, and animals that have sustained our people since time immemorial.

And to our decision-makers, corporations, and the federal government: our youth are watching. They are counting on you to do what is right — to choose protection over profit, and to honor your responsibility to future generations.

The time to act is now.

The land needs us.

And we are prepared to protect it.

Tanana Chiefs Conference Condemns Decision to Advance Ambler Road

Last month, President Donald Trump announced his decision to reverse the Biden Administration's action on the Ambler Road Access Project—directing federal agencies to move forward with issuing the necessary permits within 30 days.

This decision comes despite years of opposition from Tribes, local communities, and organizations who have raised serious concerns about the long-term cultural and environmental impacts this road would have on our lands and ways of life.

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is deeply disappointed by this decision. The Ambler Road threatens to open a path for industrial mining through the heart of the Brooks Range and across lands that are vital to caribou migration, fish habitat, and the subsistence practices that sustain our people. Once again, the federal government has prioritized outside interests over

the voices of the Alaska Native Tribes who live in and depend on these lands.

"This decision is a direct affront to the voices of Alaska Native people,"

**"We stand firm:
we will not be
silenced."**

Chief Brian Ridley

said Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley. "It places corporate and extractive agendas over our rights, our lands, and our future.

Despite this, we stand firm: we will not be silenced. We will continue to fight, to resist, and to protect our lands and waters for the generations who come after us."

TCC will continue to stand in solidarity with our member Tribes, regional partners, and allies to oppose the Ambler Road and to ensure that federal and state agencies respect Tribal sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous peoples to determine what happens on our lands.

We will share updates as we learn more about next steps in the permitting process and how Tribes can continue to make their voices heard.



NOW STREAMING

New Episodes Every Week

NEW EPISODES

Tune in every Monday at 9:30AM on KRFF 89.1 or listen on Spotify and YouTube.

SCAN TO LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

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!

Visit www.tananachiefs.org/tcc-weekly to listen and learn more!

Standing Strong, Standing United: TCC Returns to the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention, Continued

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

TCC also congratulates Sharon Hildebrand on her election as the new *AFN Interior Village Representative* through unanimous consent of the Interior Caucus. This position, which was previously elected during TCC's Annual Convention, is now elected at AFN—aligning the Interior with other regions across the state. TCC extends its heartfelt gratitude to outgoing representative Pearl Chanar for her many years of dedicated service and steadfast advocacy on behalf of Interior Alaska's Tribal communities.

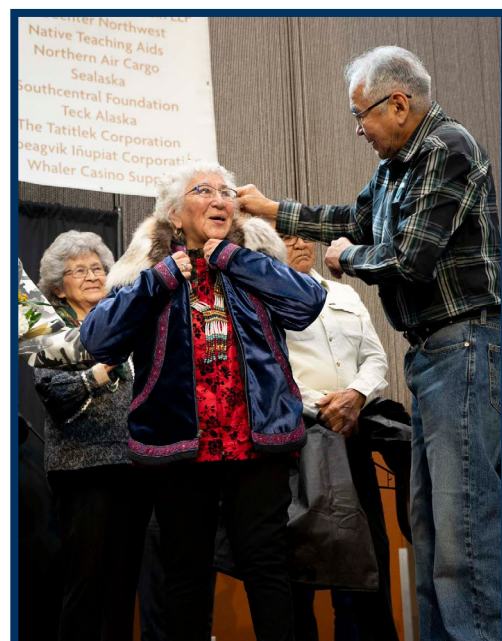
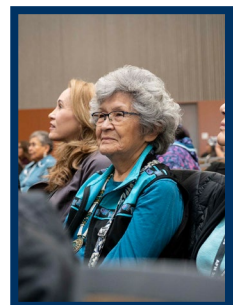
TCC submitted four resolutions at this year's convention—each rooted in the values of cultural preservation, self-determination, and responsible stewardship of Alaska's lands and communities. All four passed on the AFN floor. One calls for restoring the Indigenous name of Mount Foraker to *Deenaalee Be'ot*, meaning "child of Denali" or "Denali's wife," to honor Koyukon Athabascan heritage and restore traditional place names. Another urges the U.S. Department of the Interior to retain the ANCSA 17 D-1 Public Land Orders that protect wild food resources essential to Alaska Native subsistence and food security. A third

resolution advocates for mandatory Indigenous orientation and cultural awareness training for all elected, appointed, and hired officials upon entering public service, to ensure that decision-makers understand the histories, laws, and sovereign rights of Indigenous Peoples. The final resolution calls for transferring closed school buildings in rural Alaska to Tribal Governments for use as community and cultural spaces—revitalizing villages while making practical use of existing infrastructure.

Together, these resolutions reflect TCC's continued commitment to protecting our lands, uplifting our people, and advancing Tribal sovereignty. This year's AFN Convention was a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when we stand together in unity. TCC is proud to once again have a seat at the table—joining in statewide discussions that shape the future of our communities, our lands, and our children.

To learn more about all of the resolutions passed at this year's AFN Annual Convention, visit:

<https://nativefederation.org/resolutions-archive/>



Natasha Singh Calls for Bold Leadership and Unity in AFN Keynote Address

Stevens Village Tribal member and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium President Natasha Singh delivered a powerful keynote address at this year's Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Convention, reflecting on this year's theme — *"Standing Strong, Standing United."*

Singh opened with a challenge to the audience — and to Alaska itself — to embrace transformation:

"Big risk and big change are exactly what we need to make generational impacts."

She reflected on how Indigenous resilience and connection to the land, water, and one another continue to anchor Alaska Native people through times of hardship.

"Our culture and our values are our source of strength," she said. "Whether you live in the city or the village... our values have endured."

Drawing on the history of the Alaska Tribal Health System, Singh reminded listeners of the unifying effort that shaped Alaska's model of self-governance.

"Unity doesn't happen on its own. It takes real effort and a shared commitment... Even when we could hold out for the best outcomes for our regions,

we yield to a higher purpose to ensure that each region and the smallest co-signer enjoys a fair outcome."

She noted that through this unity, Tribes in Alaska now deliver some of the most advanced and culturally grounded healthcare in rural America.

"Because of our unity," she said, "we have leveraged our ability to meet regional and statewide priorities... and we stand strong."

Beyond health care, Singh highlighted the broader economic impact of Alaska Native organizations:

"Representing just 20% of Alaska's population, Alaska Native people and our organizations carry far more economic impact than our weight... The annual Federation of Natives convention is our way of telling Alaska — 'You're welcome for our excellence.'"

Her message also carried a sharp call for policy reform and fiscal responsibility, urging leaders to prioritize education, public safety, and essential community services over short-term political promises.

"There is not enough revenue to support healthy communities and a full PFD... The budget is a values document. It reflects what we are truly

"My hope for our generation is that we will stand united like the generation that came before us... and build a healthy state and a bright future."

Natasha Singh



willing to invest in."

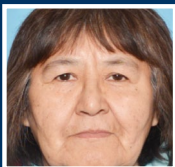
Singh concluded with an inspiring message of unity and hope for the future.

"When we come together united to demand our children have the tools to thrive — we are driving the impact our ancestors prayed for. My hope for our generation is that we will stand united like the generation that came before us... and build a healthy state and a bright future."

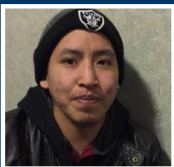
In closing, her voice wavered with emotion as she left the audience with these words:

"And my Natives, while you are in Anchorage this week, keep your heads held high and unite as a proud people — because this is our state."

MISSING



Lorraine Ginnis



Willis Derendoff



Debbie Nictune



Doren Sanford



Frank Minano



Craig Albert

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.



**Strong Start
Bright Future**

Well-Child Visits Matter

**Starting at Age 3:
Yearly Checkups**

These visits support healthy development, learning, communication, emotional wellness, and immunizations. They are also an opportunity to ask questions!



Growing Strong Together: The Importance of Well Child Visits

By Jenny Lessner, MD, TCC Family Medicine Physician

At TCC, we believe that caring for children means caring for the whole family and community. Regular well-child checks are an important way to keep babies, children, and teens healthy—not just when they're sick, but all year long.

At well-child visits, families can talk with their child's healthcare provider about growth, development, sleep, nutrition, learning, emotions, and any other concerns. It's also a chance to celebrate milestones and prepare for what's ahead—whether it's potty-training, navigating teen years, or learning healthy habits for life.

Many parents and caregivers don't realize that babies and toddlers need checkups every few months, depending on their age, and that older children and teens should be seen every year. A child's birthday is a great reminder—it's the perfect time to schedule a yearly well-child visit and celebrate another year of growing strong

and healthy.

Our TCC Family Medicine and Pediatric providers reminds us that prevention is key. Well-child checks help providers catch problems early, discuss immunizations, and support children's physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

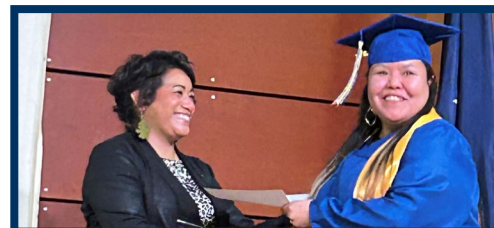
These visits also build strong relationships—between families, children, and their care teams. When children and teens see their providers regularly, they learn that going to the clinic isn't just about shots or illness—it's about growing strong, feeling safe, and being cared for by people who know them.

Take a moment to think about the children or teens in your life—your own, or maybe a grandchild, niece, nephew, or a young friend. Are they due for a checkup or have they missed one? Call today to schedule a well-child visit and help keep our community growing healthy together.

Celebrating Our Adult Literacy Council Graduates

By Blanche Murphy, TCC Education Program Coordinator

The TCC Education & Indigenous Learning Department would like to congratulate some recent Adult Literacy Council Graduates! On September 18th, the Literacy Council of Alaska celebrated 20 students receiving their GEDs. TCC Education & Indigenous Learning is proud to have helped finance four of the graduates, so they could complete their studies. A huge shout out to Cecilia King, Shashanna Northway, Satina Edwin, and Lydia Yatlin. We at TCC are proud to have helped you on your journey! We want to wish you the best in your future endeavors and hope you will continue your educational journey.



We Are Hiring!

Grant Development Specialists

If your Tribe has an updated community plan, please contact your Tribal Office about writing grants for your community!

Job Description:

- Work with your community to write relevant grant proposals
- Host public meetings to gather feedback from community members
- Produce and edit quality work
- Conduct research in a variety of ways

Qualifications:

- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- Currently reside in the village applying for contract
- Not a Tribal Council Member during the contract cycle

Wage:

\$22.50/hour, up to 400 hours

When:

February 1 - May 31, 2026

Application:

DUE - December 19, 2025
Available at your Tribal Office

Questions? Contact:

Millena Jordan, Community Planning Coordinator
millena.jordan@tananachiefs.org
907-452-8251 ext. 3099



Lung Cancer Awareness Month: Protecting the Breath of Our People

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month, a time to learn, share, and take action to protect our health and our communities. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Alaska and across the United States. But by learning the risks and taking steps for early detection, we can make a difference for ourselves and our loved ones.

Lung cancer doesn't just affect people who smoke. About one in five people diagnosed with lung cancer have never used tobacco. Other risks include breathing in secondhand smoke, exposure to radon gas or air pollution, or working around certain chemicals or dust over many years. In Alaska, where many people heat their homes with wood or live in older buildings, clean air and safe ventilation are especially important.

One of the best ways to protect yourself is through screening. A simple, low-dose CT scan can find lung cancer early—before symptoms ap-

pear and when it's easier to treat. If you are between the ages of 50 and 80 and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years, you may qualify for free or low-cost screening. Talk to your healthcare provider or contact your local clinic to learn more.

Prevention is powerful, too. Quitting tobacco is the most effective way to lower your risk, and help is available. TCC Tobacco Prevention offers free resources to promote tobacco education and cessation throughout our region. Visit www.tananachiefs.org/wellness-prevention/tobacco to learn more.

This November, take time to protect your lungs—and encourage others to do the same. Share information, talk to Elders and family about screening, and support those trying to quit smoking. Every small step helps our communities stay strong, healthy, and breathing easy for generations to come.



TCC Wants to Hear Your Ideas on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Workforce Development, in partnership with Business Impact Northwest, is inviting Tribal members to share their thoughts and ideas about small business and entrepreneurship across the region.

Your voice matters—by taking a few minutes to complete our short survey, you can help shape future opportunities and training programs designed to support aspiring and current Alaska Native business owners. The feedback gathered will guide upcoming three-day small business trainings in each sub-region, ensuring that sessions reflect the real needs and priorities of our communities.

Whether you already operate a small business, dream of starting one, or simply want to strengthen local economic opportunities, your input is valuable. Together, we can build programs that help our people grow sustainable, community-driven businesses that contribute to local economies and self-sufficiency.

Join the Great American Smokeout NOVEMBER 21, 2025

Take the first step toward a healthier future! Join the Great American Smokeout, and commit to quitting tobacco for just one day—or for good. Every step toward quitting is a step toward healing our lungs, our communities, and future generations.

**EASY TO
REMEMBER**
Help is just three
digits away.

988

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



Scan here to
take the survey!



www.tananachiefs.org/services/job-training/

Questions? Contact:

Katina Charles, Workforce
Development Manager
katina.charles@tananachiefs.org
907-452-8251 ext. 3199

Netr'edax Sobriety Potlatch

Brings Community Together in Celebration and Healing

More than 125 people gathered in Fairbanks for the Netr'edax Sobriety Potlatch, an evening of celebration, reflection, and community hosted by Tanana Chiefs Conference. The event welcomed those who have been personally impacted by addiction, as well as friends, family, and supporters who came to honor the strength of individuals in recovery.

The evening began with a prayer at 6 p.m. and opening remarks by Brian Ridley, followed by a meal of moose soup, and open sharing. Participants took turns sharing their experiences, strength, and hope in a moderated circle that ensured everyone who wished to speak had a chance to be heard.

Travis Cole led drumming and singing to close the night out.

The potlatch highlighted the power of connection, culture, and storytelling in the healing journey — reminding everyone that recovery is not walked alone, but in community.

Clients from the Fairbanks Correctional Center and North Star Transitional Center prepared and served the moose soup. Additionally, True North Recovery and the Ralph Perdue Center, treatment agencies in Fairbanks, ensured their clients were in attendance at this important event. Mahsi' choo to these organizations for supporting this special event and to everyone in attendance for taking part.



We Are Hiring! Community Planning Specialists

If your Tribe has an expired 5-year community plan, please contact your Tribal Office about updating it!

Job Description:

- Work with your community to develop the plan
- Host public meetings to gather feedback from community members
- Have written, verbal, & basic computer skills
- Conduct research in a variety of ways

Qualifications:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Currently reside in the village applying for a contract
- Not serve as a Tribal Council Member during the contract cycle

Wage:

\$22.50/hour, up to 400 hours

When:

February 1 - May 31, 2026

Application:

DUE - December 19, 2025
Available at your Tribal Office

Questions? Contact:

Millena Jordan, Community Planning Coordinator
millena.jordan@tananachiefs.org
907-452-8251 ext. 3099

Northway Tribal Member Becomes Homeowner with Assistance from BIA and IRHA Programs

Eliza Jimmie just moved into her new home in Northway. Becoming a homeowner was made easier and more secure for her by combining funding from two sources: Interior Regional Housing Authority's (IRHA) Home Ownership Program (HOP) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Housing Improvement Program (HIP), which is administered in Interior Alaska by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC).

IRHA's HOP Program assists eligible low-income Alaska Native households in obtaining a home built by IRHA, and BIA's HIP funds a down payment or principal balance bolster for eligible households. For Eliza, the combination of these programs helps keep her mortgage payments lower; her housing situation is also sustainable well into her future.

- HIP funding focuses on down payment assistance for Alaska Natives and secures buyers lower mortgages and Annual Percentage Rates (APRs). TCC will assist with 30% of the total purchase price, capped at \$75,000. Examples: If a house is priced at \$200,000 x 30%, \$60,000 is the assistance amount. If a condo is priced at \$75,000, the funding at 30% is \$22,500.
- HOP funding focuses on mortgage lending solutions for buyers struggling

to secure loans under standard financing conditions. The program is a 20-year purchase agreement with IRHA to acquire a home through affordable payments. The repayment model varies depending on whether buyers reside in the rural or the urban Interior, but the function is to keep payments affordable for low-income families.

For TCC Tribal members, the HIP funding brings the possibility of home ownership to people in rural communities while still allowing them to subsist and continue the Indigenous way of life – practices that don't yield high income amounts.

"This is a way for us to build brighter financial futures for our village residents without them having to leave home," says Mitchell Shewfelt, Housing Program Manager at TCC, "And continuing our way of life, teaching it to our future generations, is more important now than ever."

For Eliza, the combination of these two programs means she can continue to raise her family in Northway.

"My kids and I are beyond blessed and grateful to be able to stay in our

village and have a home that will be here when they are grown," she says, "We want to say thank you to TCC, IRHA, BIA, and NVC on the joint collaboration of effort to get us into our new home."

Eliza is the first client in the history of TCC's stewardship of HIP to be assisted by the program, although more applicants are still house hunting.

"Eliza's home is the first collaboration between TCC and IRHA to buy housing together in our history," says Shewfelt, "and we are looking forward to helping many more in this way."

Although in Eliza's case, the two programs operate together, Shewfelt emphasizes that the programs can be used independently of one another and encourages everyone to look at the application and reach out with eligibility questions.

Home ownership comes with many benefits, including decreased housing costs, more options for home customization, and the building of personal credit. If you are interested in applying for the Housing Improvement Plan program,

you can learn more and apply at www.tananachiefs.org/services/housing, or call Mitchell Shewfelt at (907) 452-8251 ext. 3319.

Join us in building a brighter future, one home at a time!



New! Patient Travel

24-Hour Access Phone Number

This dedicated, toll-free number can be utilized for all patient-travel related services. Call this new number to directly schedule your travel, confirm your arrangements, or ask travel-related questions.

Dial
844-747-0808
for all your travel
needs!



November is Diabetic Eye Awareness Month: Protect Your Vision with Regular Eye Screenings

Diabetes can affect many parts of the body, and one of the most serious complications is vision loss. Diabetic eye disease is one of the leading causes of blindness among adults—but the good news is that early detection and treatment can prevent most vision problems.

For many people, changes to eyesight happens slowly and without pain. You may not notice symptoms until the disease has already caused damage. That's why getting an annual eye screening is one of the most important steps you can take to protect your vision if you have diabetes.

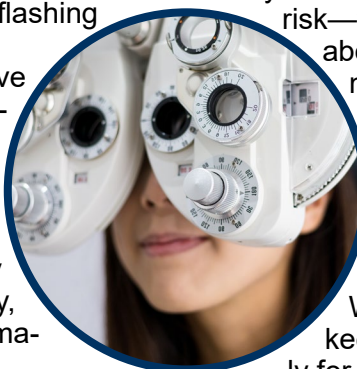
What to Watch For

Be aware of early warning signs that may signal eye changes related to diabetes:

- Blurry or double vision

- Sudden changes in how well you see
- Dark or empty spots in your vision
- Trouble seeing at night
- Seeing floaters or flashing lights

Even if you don't have symptoms or wear prescription eyewear, it's still important to schedule yearly screenings. Regular exams help detect diabetic retinopathy and other issues early, before they cause permanent vision loss.



stay on top of your vision health. We provide diabetic eye screenings, treatment plans, and education to help manage your risk.

If you have diabetes—or are at risk—talk with your provider about scheduling your annual diabetic eye exam. Maintaining good blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels also helps protect your eyesight.

Your eyes are precious. With early care, you can keep seeing the world clearly for years to come.

To schedule your next eye exam or learn more about diabetic eye health, call Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center at (907) 451-6682 ext. 3220.

Take Action to Protect Your Sight

At Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, our eye care team can help you

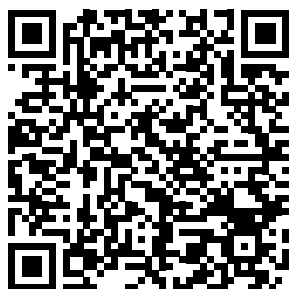
State Disaster Assistance Available for Impacted Communities

Governor Dunleavy has declared a State Disaster Emergency for multiple regions impacted by the powerful storms that brought high winds and flooding across Alaska earlier this month. This declaration includes the Yukon-Koyukuk REAA and the City of Galena, which cover nearly all of the Tanana Chiefs Conference region. This declaration opens access to state disaster assistance programs to help with recovery, housing, and emergency needs.

Individuals can also apply for state disaster assistance through:
<https://ready.alaska.gov/IA>
1-844-445-7131 (Mon–Fri, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

TCC also has emergency assistance available for households impacted by the storm. Tribal members who experienced damages or losses can contact Roxanne Sourapas at Roxanne.Sourapas@tananachiefs.org or 907-452-8251 ext. 3390 for information about available resources and eligibility.

THIS SITUATION IS
DEVELOPING. SCAN
FOR UPDATES.



Prevent Impaired Driving

Impaired driving remains one of the most preventable causes of death and serious injury across our communities. Yet, its effects ripple far beyond the individual behind the wheel. Impaired driving harms families, disrupts communities, and profoundly impacts our youth. As we strive for even safer communities and healthier futures, it becomes more critical to understand how impaired driving affects us, how we as community members can prevent impaired driving, and to look at these matters through a cultural lens.

The Impact of Impaired Driving on Youth, Families, and Communities

For youth, the consequences of impaired driving are especially grave. Motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of death for teenagers, and when alcohol or drugs are involved, the risk of death or serious injury skyrockets. Adolescents are particularly at risk as inexperienced drivers but also as passengers and pedestrians. Witnessing or being affected by an impaired driving incident can also cause long-term psychological trauma.

Families suffer profoundly. The emotional toll of losing a loved one or dealing with life-altering injuries is compounded by financial hardship, legal consequences, disrupted family dynamics, and the uncertainty of our futures.

Communities, in turn, feel the strain through increased healthcare costs, emotional burdens, and the broader social cost of lost people, whether that be the potential of our youth, capability of our adults, or wisdom of our Elders.

Prevention Strategies and Education Efforts

Education and early intervention remain the cornerstones of prevention. Programs focusing on teaching young people about the risks of impaired driving—often before they are even old enough to drive—help build awareness and decision-making skills. Some effective strategies include:

- **Education:** TCC's Department of Wellness and Prevention can provide education on the risks of substance use and its impacts on people at all stages of life. Additionally, Tribal Protective Services is able to provide a Drunk Buster activity, an obstacle course that is navigated

while wearing goggles that simulate the effects of being drunk.

- **Peer-led initiatives:** Empowering youth to lead discussions and create campaigns allows them to speak to their peers, and the community, about why they want people to avoid impaired driving. Adults are also encouraged to share their own messages on the topic with others in their community. This promotes an attitude of accountability towards tackling substance misuse issues, like impaired driving.
- **Parental engagement:** Parents play a critical role in modeling responsible behavior regarding substance use and setting clear expectations about drinking and drug use.
- **Policy support:** Strong, local policies aimed at helping people address the root cause of their drinking or substance use are critical to creating a local culture that can effectively handle those issues. They are health issues, and need to be treated as such.

Preventing impaired driving accidents is something that takes the whole community. There is a part to play for everyone, and everyone needs to do their part.

The Role of Culturally Responsive Approaches

Of course, dealing with any sort of issue takes strength and our communities are strong. That strength is found in our traditional values, the very things that allow us to create communities where everyone belongs. The cultural values of caring, village cooperation, responsibility to the village, and unity mean we hold in esteem the tools we need to reduce the harm caused by impaired driving.

Everyone has their part, a way to promote unity:

- Each community can work with their respected elders to create conversations around how to deal with impaired driving as a community and in the home.
- Leaders can work to identify and address the causes of impaired driving in their communities.
- Families can talk about the risks of impaired driving, the dangers of substance misuse, and how those things get in the way of accomplishing our goals.

- Individuals can make sure that they hold each other responsible for not driving impaired. Whether it's a designated driver, or other strategy, we owe it to each other to make sure we get home safe.

Through unity and responsibility to one another, we can reduce the harm that impaired driving causes to us.

Resources and Support Available in Our Region

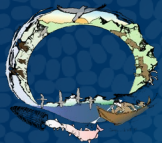
Fortunately, there are resources that can help our communities deal with impaired driving, and its root causes.

- **TCC Wellness and Prevention:** Invite Wellness and Prevention to your community. We can talk to people about many substance use issues, including impaired driving. We'll even help support you in establishing local efforts to deal with those issues and more!
- **Tribal Protective Services:** Whether it be VPSOs showing the dangers of impaired driving or their staff dedicated to helping victims of crime, this department has a wide variety of services that can benefit your community.
- **TCC Behavioral Health:** Often impaired driving is part of bigger problems. Behavioral Health is there to help. Whether it be through assessments, crisis response, or counseling, their staff are here to help with the larger issues of mental health and substance misuse.
- **Primary Care:** Impaired driving often results in severe injuries and death. It's our highly trained Community Health Aides that often end up on the front lines of these accidents.

If you or someone you know is affected by impaired driving or substance use, reaching out to these organizations can be the first step toward healing and change.

Conclusion

Addressing impaired driving is a community responsibility. By educating our youth, supporting families, and embracing the strengths of our culture respectful solutions, we can create safer roads and stronger communities. Let's commit to prevention not just as a policy, but as a shared value—because every life lost to impaired driving is one too many.



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The Council Newsletter

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Fairbanks	Family Services Intake Specialist
Fairbanks	Deputy Pharmacy Director
Fairbanks	Government Affairs Specialist
Fairbanks	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Fairbanks	Environmental Services Technician I
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II - Dental
Fairbanks	Anesthesiologist (Physician)
Fairbanks	Ambulatory Surgery Center
Fairbanks	Residential Support Technician
Fairbanks	Certified Nurse Assistant
Fairbanks	Lead Dental Assistant
Fairbanks	Receptionist - OJT
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Urgent Care
Fairbanks	Pharmacy Technician I
Fairbanks	Central Scheduler
Fairbanks	Community Health Practitioner - CHAP Instructor
Fairbanks	Nurse Practitioner - Urgent Care
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant Intern
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant I
Fairbanks	RN Clinical Educator
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Clinical Associate I
Fairbanks	Medical Director
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Clinical Associate Lead
Galena	Dental Assistant Intern
Galena	Edgar Nollner Health Center Operations Officer
Galena	ENHC Administrative Assistant I
Old Minto	Camp Counselor I

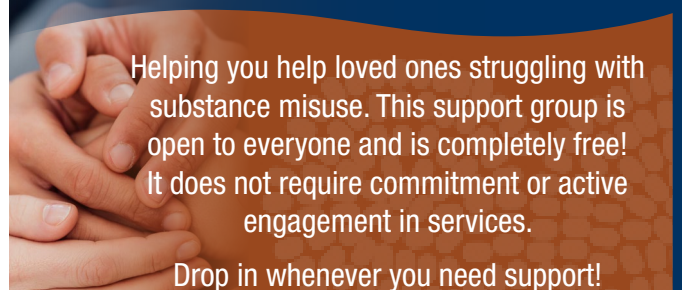


Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

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 OCTOBER 17, 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

**NOV
11**

TCC Offices Closed
Veteran's Day

**NOV
16-21**

NCAI National Convention
Seattle, WA

**NOV
18-21**

**Tribal Workforce Development
Specialist Training**
Westmark Hotel - Gold Room | Fairbanks, AK

**NOV
27-28**

TCC Offices Closed
Thanksgiving

**DEC
25-26**

TCC Offices Closed
Christmas

**JAN
1-2**

TCC Offices Closed
New Years Day