

Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION & FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

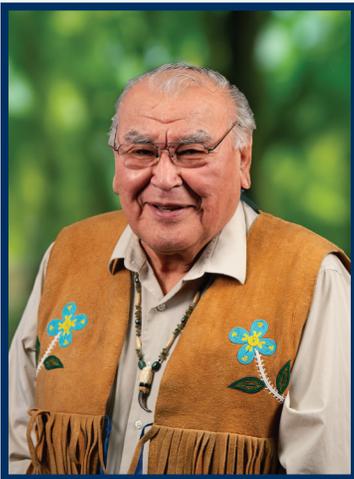
# AGENDA



 **ROOTED IN STRENGTH**  
RISING TOGETHER



# KEYNOTE Address



## SECOND TRADITIONAL CHIEF ANDY JIMMIE

Andy Jimmie, a tribal member of Minto who was raised in the village, has long been recognized as a respected leader in Alaska Native health and Tribal governance. A former Chief of the Minto Village Council, Andy currently serves as the Second Traditional Chief of Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and has dedicated decades of service to strengthening the Alaska Tribal Health System and advocating for the wellbeing of Alaska Native people.

Andy served as Chairman of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Regional Health Advisory Board from 1991 to 2024, providing more than three decades of steady leadership. He has also served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Alaska Native Health Board and the National Indian Health Board, represented TCC on the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Board of Directors, and chaired the Alaska Native Elder Health Advisory Committee.

Throughout his career, Andy has championed efforts to improve health outcomes for Alaska Native people, including reducing cancer rates, expanding eldercare services closer to home, addressing mental health and substance use challenges, lowering suicide rates, and advancing low-cost water and sewer solutions for rural communities. He also played a key role in supporting the creation of the Dental Health Aide Therapy program, helping expand access to oral healthcare in rural Alaska.

Rooted in his Athabascan heritage, Andy leads with humility, compassion, and deep cultural knowledge. He is widely respected for his thoughtful leadership, remarkable memory, and ability to connect complex policy issues to the lived experiences of Native families.

Over the years, Andy has also served on the Doyon, Limited Board of Directors, on the TCC Executive Board, and as President of the Seth-De-Ya-Ah Village Corporation. He currently serves as Traditional Chief of Minto and on the Denakkanaaga Board.

Andy Jimmie's legacy reflects a lifetime of service, cultural strength, and unwavering dedication to improving the health and wellbeing of Alaska Native people and strengthening Tribal health systems for future generations.

## A SHARED VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

The combined experience and leadership of Chief Andy Jimmie and Dr. Jessica Black represent the strength of our region—rooted in culture, grounded in history, and guided by a shared commitment to community well-being. Their keynote address at the 2026 Annual Convention will offer an important and inspiring look at how advocacy, self-determination, and cultural connection continue to shape the future of healthcare for Alaska Native people.

TCC is honored to welcome these distinguished leaders as they share their insights, vision, and hope for the generations to come.



### DR. JESSICA BLACK

Dr. Jessica Black is Gwich'in from the villages of Gwichyaa Zhee (Fort Yukon) and Toghothlele (Nenana). A respected scholar, educator, and advocate, she serves as Associate Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor, and Interim Director for the Center for One Health Research in the College of Indigenous Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Dr. Black earned her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) at UAF before completing her master's and PhD in Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research explores the relationship between governance and well-being in Alaska Native communities, focusing on Tribal stewardship, cultural connectivity, and community-driven wellness. Her work elevates Indigenous knowledge systems and centers the lived experiences and priorities of Indigenous people.

In her leadership role at the College of Indigenous Studies, Dr. Black supports institution-wide initiatives including the Alaska Success Initiative, fundraising for the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center, and advancing university-wide strategic priorities. She brings a deep commitment to uplifting students, communities, and Alaska Native scholarship.

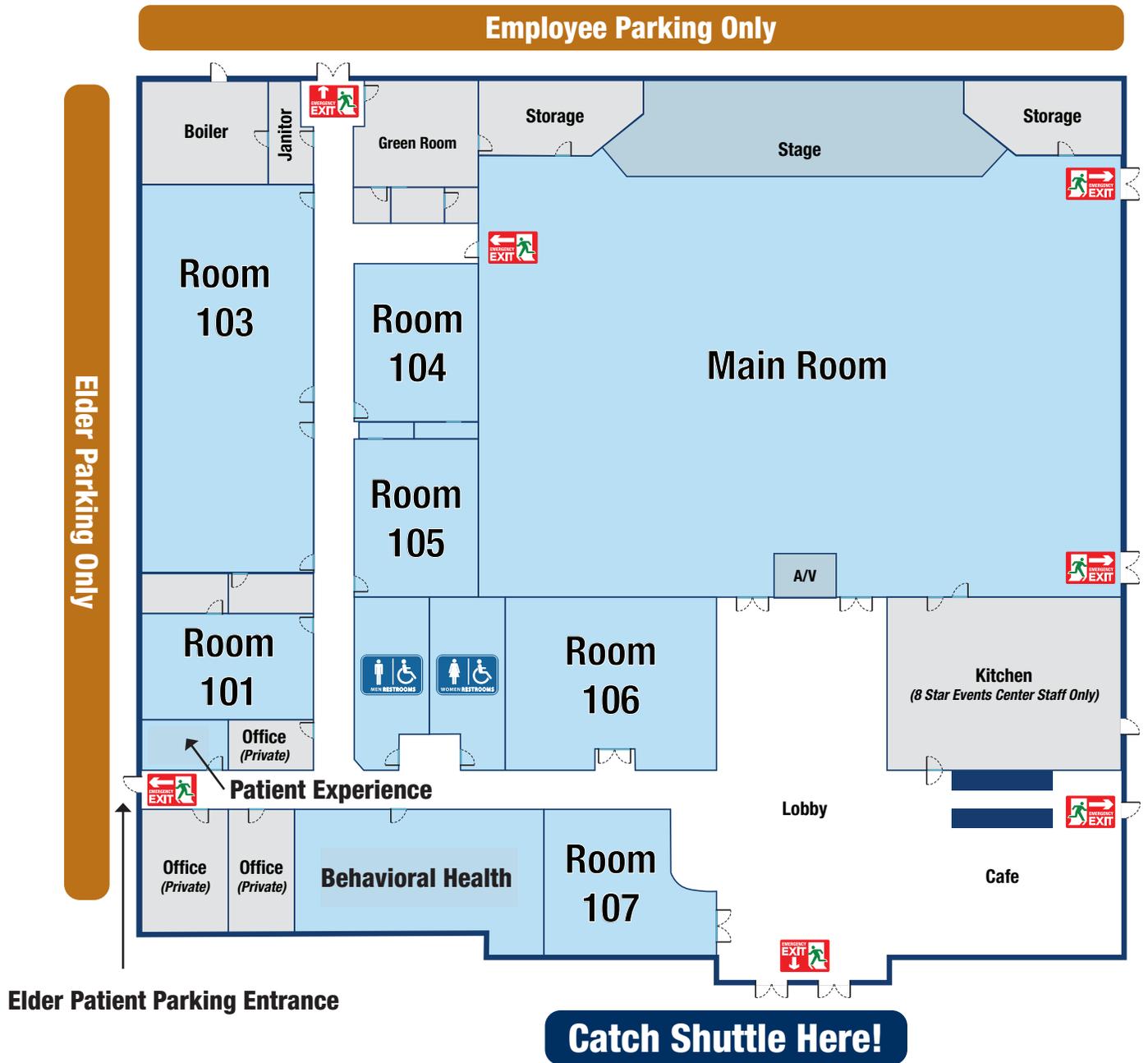
Dr. Black lives in Fairbanks with her family but remains closely connected to Gwichyaa Zhee, where she returns regularly to hunt, fish, gather, and participate in cultural practices that ground her work and identity. She also serves on TCC's Regional Health Advisory Board, carrying forward her commitment to the well-being of Tribal members across the region.

**Monday, March 9 | 1:00pm**

**8 Star Events Center | 1485 30th Ave., Fairbanks, Alaska**

Catch our Keynote Address live in person or on our livestream at [www.tananachiefs.org/live](http://www.tananachiefs.org/live).

# 8 Star Events Center Map



## Shuttle Services Schedule

### Daily Schedule

Wedgewood Resort ⇄ Westmark Hotel ⇄  
 Sophie Station Suites ⇄ 8 Star Events Center

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM – Every 15 min  
 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM – Every 30 min

### Evening Events Shuttle

Wedgewood Resort ⇄ Westmark Hotel ⇄  
 Sophie Station Suites ⇄ 8 Star Events Center

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM – Every 30 min  
 (Monday & Thursday Only)

# Room Assignments

## Caucus Rooms:

Lower Yukon Caucus: Green Room  
Upper Kuskokwim Caucus: Room 101  
Upper Tanana Caucus: Main Meeting Room  
Yukon Flats Caucus: Room 104  
Yukon Koyukuk Caucus: Main Meeting Room  
Yukon Tanana Caucus: Room 105

## Elder's Lounge

Monday, March 9th - Thursday, March 12th  
Room 101

## Behavioral Health Talking Room

Monday, March 9th - Thursday, March 12th  
Offices

## Tribal Resource Stewardship Department

Monday, March 9th - Thursday, March 12th  
Room 104

# Services Fair Booths

## Lobby

Alaska Communication Systems  
Information Booth

## Room 103

Alternate Resources  
Ambulatory Surgery Center  
Behavioral Health  
Cancer Care & Infusion Center  
Case Management / Patient Navigation  
Dental Clinic  
Diabetes / WIC  
Eye Clinic  
Gateway to Recovery  
Grow our Own / Clinical Staff  
Indigenous Healing  
Nursing (Vaccine Clinic)  
OB / GYN  
Patient Travel  
Purchase Referred Care  
Quality Management  
Reentry  
Tribal Protective Services  
Tribal Social Services  
Wellness & Prevention  
Wright Air Service

## Resource Fair

Monday, March 9th - Tuesday, March 10th  
Rooms 103, 106, and 107

## Arts and Crafts Fair

Wednesday, March 11th - Thursday, March 12th  
Rooms 103, 106, and 107

## Patient Experience

Monday, March 9th - Thursday, March 12th  
Office \*Reference Map

## Room 106

Alaska Native Rural Veterinary, Inc.  
Doyon, Limited  
Fairbanks Native Association  
Interior Native Vote  
Interior Regional Housing Authority  
Red Cross  
Veterans Affairs

## Room 107

105L & Rural Projects / Facilities  
Energy Assistance  
Family Services and Support  
Home Care  
Housing First  
Human Resources  
Infrastructure  
Office of Environmental Health  
Probate  
Safety  
Tribal Enrollment  
Wildland Fire Program  
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

# Day Events

## Arts and Crafts Bazaar

**March 11&12 | 8:00am-4:00pm**

**8 Star Events Center**

**1485 30th Ave., Fairbanks, Alaska**

Celebrate the artistry and entrepreneurship of our region during our Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting.

Visit over 40 booths featuring Indigenous-made crafts, artwork, and specialty items created by local vendors. Over two days, discover meaningful gifts and unique treasures while supporting small businesses and honoring the creativity and cultural traditions that strengthen our communities.



## TCC Services Fair



**March 9&10 | 8:00am-4:00pm**

**8 Star Events Center**

**1485 30<sup>th</sup> Ave., Fairbanks, Alaska**

Come to TCC's Annual Convention Resource Fair to learn more about the services and programs you have access to as a beneficiary and a patient of Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center!

Representatives from Health Services, Behavioral Health, Dental, Eye Care, Cancer Care, Family & Social Services, Housing, Energy Assistance, Tribal Services, Veterans Affairs, Wellness & Prevention, and more will be available.

# Evening Events

## Welcoming Dinner

**Monday, March 9 | 5:30pm**

**Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall  
111 Clay St., Fairbanks, Alaska**

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce proudly hosts this annual reception to welcome Tanana Chiefs Conference delegates to Fairbanks for an evening of connection.

This event strengthens business relationships between urban and rural communities while fostering social and cultural engagement.



Join us as we welcome  
TCC delegates and  
their families to the  
Golden Heart City!

## Annual Potlatch



**Thursday, March 12 | 6:00pm**

**Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall  
111 Clay St., Fairbanks, Alaska**

The potlatch is an annual tradition as we close out our Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting in a good way.

Join us for plenty of food, laughter, singing and dancing.



# MONDAY, MARCH 9

**8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER - TCC Annual Convention Meeting**  
Rev. Dr. Trimble Gilbert, First Traditional Chief, Vashrajj K'q̄q̄ (Arctic Village)  
Chief Brian Ridley, Chairman, TCC

**8:40 a.m. Invocation**  
Moment of Silence for those who have passed as well as the Missing & Murdered  
Indigenous Peoples

**8:45 a.m. Presentation of Colors**  
Alaska Native Veterans Association

## **Welcome Addresses**

Rev. Dr. Trimble Gilbert, First Traditional Chief, Vashrajj K'q̄q̄ (Arctic Village)  
Andy Jimmie, Second Traditional Chief, Minto  
Mackenzie Englishoe, Chair, Emerging Leaders Youth Advisory  
Chief Brian Ridley, Chairman, TCC

## **In Memoriam**

Robert 'Charlie' Wright, Secretary / Treasurer, TCC

## **Committee Assignments**

Chief Brian Ridley, Chairman, TCC

## **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**

*CHAIR:* Lower Yukon: Chief Ivan Demientieff, Grayling  
Upper Kuskokwim: Chief Alice Dale, McGrath  
Upper Tanana: Taniesha Moses, Northway  
Yukon Flats: Chief Nancy James. Gwichyaa Zhee  
Yukon Koyukuk: Brooke Sanderson, Loudon  
Yukon Tanana: Chief Lori Baker, Minto

## **ELECTIONS/CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:**

*CHAIR:* Upper Tanana: Chief Karma Ulvi, Eagle  
Lower Yukon: Chief Ivan Demientieff, Grayling  
Upper Kuskokwim: Claude "Joe" Petruska, Nikolai  
Yukon Flats: Chief Jacqueline Balaam, Birch Creek  
Yukon Koyukuk: Chief Gloria Patsy, Nulato  
Yukon Tanana: Chief Thelma Nicholia, Hughes

## **Welcome Addresses - Sister Organizations**

Aaron Schutt, President, Doyon, Limited  
Melissa Charlie, Executive Director, Fairbanks Native Association  
Eugene Paul, Chief Executive Officer, Interior Regional Housing Authority

## **Welcome Addresses - Mayors**

Mayor Grier Hopkins, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Mayor Mindy O'Neill, City of Fairbanks  
Mayor Larry Terch III, City of North Pole

**10:15 a.m. BREAK**

- 10:30 a.m. Elder Addresses**  
Sharon McConnell, Executive Director, Denakkanaaga'  
Jack Wholecheese, First Chief, Denakkanaaga' Board of Directors
- 10:45 a.m. Emerging Leaders Report**  
Mackenzie Englishoe, Chair, Emerging Leaders Youth Advisory Council
- 11:15 a.m. Get Out the Native Vote**  
Jackie Arnaciar Boyer, Campaign and Policy Director, Alaska Voter Hub
- 12:00 p.m. HONORING LUNCH - Lunch Provided**  
Employee of the Year – Fairbanks Excellence in Public Safety  
Employee of the Year – Rural Foster Parent of the Year  
Tribal Administrator of the Year
- 1:00 p.m. Introduction of Theme and Keynote Speakers**  
Andy Jimmie, Second Traditional Chief, Minto  
Dr. Jessica Black, Gwichyaa Zhee (Ft. Yukon) and Toghotthele (Nenana)
- 2:30 p.m. Health Report**  
Dr. Jessica Black, Health Board, Fairbanks Native Association, Chair, TCC  
Jacoline Bergstrom, Executive Director Health Services, TCC
- HEALTH BOARD**  
Edna Riley, Health Board Representative, Yukon Tanana, TCC  
Beverly Kokrine, Health Board Representative, Yukon Koyukuk, TCC  
Victor Joseph, Health Board Representative, Tanana, TCC  
Agnes Tony, Health Board Representative, Upper Kuskokwim, TCC  
Sylvia Pitka, Health Board Representative, Upper Tanana, TCC  
Patricia Salmon, Health Board Representative Yukon Flats, TCC  
*Question and Answer*
- 3:00 p.m. BREAK**
- 3:15 p.m. Changing our Culture Panel**  
Chief Charlie Green, Louden  
Chief Gloria Patsy, Nulato  
Jenny “Boomer” Bryant, Louden  
Erin Morotti, Executive Director of Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living  
Michael Gho, Tribal Protection and Safety Division Director, TCC  
Lonnie Buresch, Tribal Government Support Manager, TCC  
Jeff Roe, Assistant District Attorney, Alaska District Attorney Office  
Mackenzie Englishoe, Chair, Emerging Leaders Youth Advisory Council  
Will Mayo, Rampart/Tanana  
*Question and Answer*
- 5:00 p.m. RECESS - TCC Annual Delegates Meeting**
- 5:00 p.m. Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Welcome Reception**  
Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall



# TUESDAY, MARCH 10

**8:30 a.m. RECONVENE - TCC Annual Delegates Meeting**  
Invocation

**Executive Session can be called at any time.**

**8:40 a.m. Emerging Leaders Panel**

*Moderator:* Natalie Newman, Emerging Leader Vice-Chair  
Mackenzie Englishoe, Emerging Leader Vice-Chair, Gwichyaa Zhee  
Emmersyn Wiehl, Emerging Leader, Ruby  
Allyonna Mandragan, Emerging Leader, Beaver  
Pearle Green, Emerging Leader, Loudon

**EMERGING LEADERS:**

Ashley Luke, Emerging Leader Secretary, Healy Lake  
Brooke Demientieff, Emerging Leader, Holy Cross  
Hannah Ekada, Emerging Leader, Nulato  
Kristen Law, Emerging Leader, Nenana  
Linda Pitka, Emerging Leader, Healy Lake

**YOUTH DELEGATES:**

Arctic Village: Angelina Gilbert and Sanaya Yatlin  
Koyukuk: Christian Moses  
Anvik: Dalisha Huntington and Fairah Huntington  
Manley: Kendra Prybilla  
Rampart: Genevieve Johnson  
Nenana: Gracelyn Yako  
Huslia: Quentin Derendoff  
Allakaket: Clifford Cole  
Grayling: Nevaeh Opferman and Savannah Opferman  
*Question and Answer*

**10:10 a.m. Convention Sponsorship Check Presentation**  
Chief Brian Ridley, Chairman, TCC

**10:15 a.m. BREAK**

**10:30 a.m. Congressional Delegation Addresses**  
Congressman Nick Begich, House of Representatives  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate  
Senator Dan Sullivan, United States Senate

**12:00 p.m. HONORING LUNCH - Lunch Provided**  
Patty Hyslop Award

- 1:00 p.m. Cancer Care and Prevention Panel**  
*Moderator:* Jacoline Bergstrom, Executive Director of Health Services, TCC  
Jenny Lessner, Chair, Cancer Prevention & Detection Workgroup, TCC  
Angie Lucien, Cancer & Infusion Center, Team Lead, TCC  
Mike Roylance, Cancer Case Review Workgroup, Chair, TCC  
Bessareen Gonzalez, RN, Oncology Nurse Navigator, Cancer Care & Infusion Center, TCC  
*Question and Answer*
- 2:15 p.m. Nenh Ya Ghe Che Tal'No "From the Land" Panel**  
*Moderator:* Amber Vaska, Executive Director of Tribal Government and Client Services, TCC  
Dr. Allison Kelliher, MD, Tribal Doctor, TCC  
Audrey Sunnyboy, Nenana Elder, TCC  
Jenny Bryant, Louden Secretary / Treasurer, TCC  
Taniesha Moses, Northway Tribal Administrator, TCC  
*Question and Answer*
- 3:30 p.m. BREAK**
- 3:45 p.m. Tribal Innovations Panel**  
*Moderator:* Gary Shu, Community and Infrastructure Development Division Director, TCC  
Tiffany Simmons, Chief Learning and Development Officer, TCC  
Floyd Green, Housing Project Manager, TCC  
Chief Thelma Nicholia, Hughes  
Chief Charlie Green, Louden  
*Question and Answer*
- 5:00 p.m. ADJOURN – TCC Annual Delegates Meeting**



# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER - TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting**  
Rev. Dr. Trimble Gilbert, First Traditional Chief, Vashrajj K'qq (Arctic Village)  
Chief Brian Ridley, Chairman, TCC

**Executive Session can be called at any time.**

**Invocation**

**8:40 a.m. Credentials Committee Reports**  
Chief Karma Ulvi, Committee Chair

**8:45 a.m. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**  
Robert 'Charlie' Wright, Secretary / Treasurer, TCC

**Adoption of Agenda**  
Chief Brian Ridley, Chairman, TCC

**Adoption of Minutes**  
Draft March 10-13, 2025, Delegates & Full Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Chief Brian Ridley, Chairman, TCC

**9:15 a.m. Chief's Report**  
Chief Brian Ridley, Chairman, TCC  
*Question and Answer*

**10:45 a.m. BREAK**

**11:00 a.m. Financial Report**  
Ben Shilling, Chief Financial Officer, TCC  
Max Mamontov, CPA, Altman & Rogers  
*Question and Answer*

**12:00 p.m. WORKING LUNCH - Lunch Provided**

**1:00 p.m.** Chief Karma Ulvi, Committee Chair, Facilitator

**Interior Regional Housing Authority**  
Candidate Speeches and *Question and Answer*

**Chief/Chairman Officer**  
Candidate Speeches and *Question and Answer*

**2:00 p.m. Resolutions Committee Report**  
Chief Ivan Demientieff, Chair, Resolutions Committee

**2:15 p.m. BREAK**

**2:30 p.m. Consideration of Resolutions**  
Will Mayo, Resolutions Chair

**5:00 p.m. RECESS - TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting**



**8:30 a.m. RECONVENE - TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting**  
Invocation

**Executive Session can be called at any time.**

**8:35 a.m. Consideration of Resolutions, Continued**  
Will Mayo, Resolutions Chair

**10:00 a.m. BREAK**

**10:15 a.m. Consideration of Resolutions, Continued**  
Will Mayo, Resolutions Chair

**12:00 p.m. WORKING LUNCH - Lunch Provided**  
Performance by Dancing with the Spirit

**1:00 p.m. Elections Committee Report**  
Chief Karma Ulvi, Chair, Elections Committee

**Elections**

**Full Board of Director Elections**

**Ratify Full Board of Director Elections**

**Ratify TCC Subregional Advisory Board Elections**

Executive Board Subregional

Directors Regional Health Board

Members Education Council

Interior Athabaskan Tribal College Board of Trustees Members

**2:45 p.m. BREAK**

**3:00 p.m. Recognition / Oath of Office Newly Elected / Re-Elected Executive Board Members**

**3:15 p.m. Recognize any outgoing Executive Board / Officer Member / Outgoing Emerging Leaders**

**5:00 p.m. ADJOURN - TCC FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**5:30 p.m. TCC Annual Potlatch**  
Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall

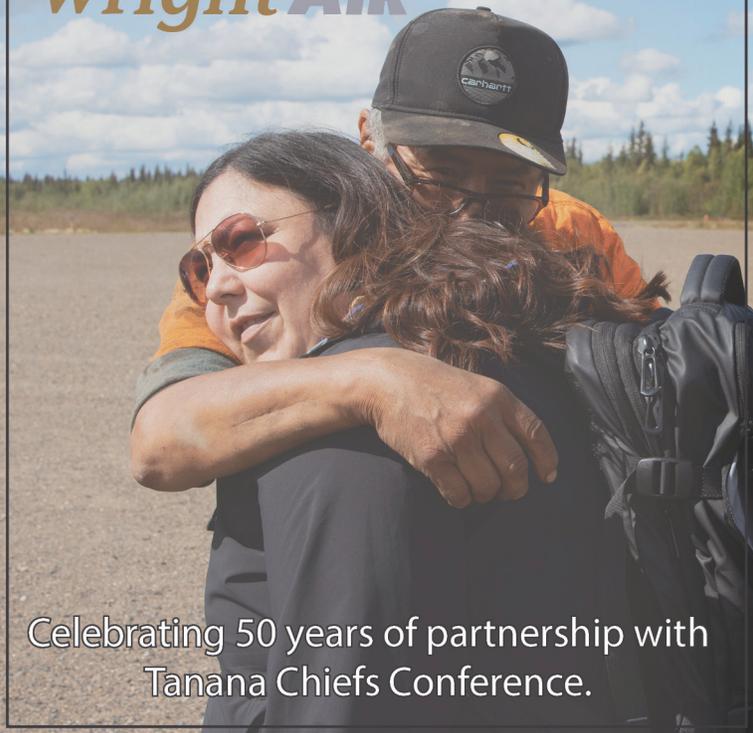


*Thank You!*

Maasee' | Dogidinh | Tsenan  
Mahsi' | Tsin'ee | Baasee'

Together, we honor our traditions and build  
a stronger future for the next generations.  
Thank you for being part of this journey!

It's More Than a Flight.  
It's a Connection.



Celebrating 50 years of partnership with  
Tanana Chiefs Conference.



Doyon is proud to support gatherings that bring us together,  
connecting our region, and strengthening our communities as  
we continue to **create our future together.**

Alaska Communications is proud to support the TCC Convention and be part of the Alaska FiberOptic Project.



Scan to learn more



Changing lives through technology



The theme for this year's convention, *Rooted in Strength, Rising Together*, celebrates our cultural roots while looking toward new and innovative ways to improve the lives of those we serve.



## WATCH THE LIVE BROADCAST

The 2026 TCC Annual Convention will be broadcast live on our website at [www.tananachiefs.org/live](http://www.tananachiefs.org/live)

Tanana Chiefs Conference | 122 1st Ave, Suite 600 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

