



The Council

Incorporated as *Dena' Nena' Henash*
Vol. 51 No. 2 • February 2026



ROOTED IN STRENGTH RISING TOGETHER

2026 TCC Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is pleased to announce its upcoming Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting, taking place March 9–12 at the 8 Star Event Center in Fairbanks, Alaska.

This year's theme, "Rooted in Strength, Rising Together," highlights the power of community and connection. Our roots—shaped by culture, language, land, and the wisdom of our Elders—ground us in identity and purpose. By honoring those roots and supporting one another, we rise collectively. Through collaboration, shared responsibility, and unity across our Tribes, we continue working toward a stronger, healthier future for our people and the generations to come.

The convention will address a range of timely topics, including those identified by Tribal delegates through survey feedback. Panels featuring representatives from TCC, Tribal leadership, Elders, Emerging Leaders, and state, local, and federal agencies will provide updates and reports. Delegates and community members will also have opportunities to ask questions and share feedback on the information presented.

Several key elections will take place during this year's event, including:

- **Chief/Chairman** (currently held by Brian Ridley of Eagle)
- **Upper Tanana Subregional Representative** (currently held by Chief Herbert Demit of Tanacross)

- **Yukon Koyukuk Subregional Representative** (currently held by Chief Charlie Green of Louden)

A full list of positions open for election is available at: www.tananachiefs.org/tcc-election-information-2026/

This meeting is open to the public, and Tribal members are encouraged to attend to hear updates from TCC leadership and Tribal delegates on topics that impact you. A resource fair and bazaar will also be held—look for more details in next month's edition!

If you are unable to attend in person, the event will be livestreamed at: www.tananachiefs.org/live

For the most up-to-date convention information, visit: www.tananachiefs.org/convention2026/

2026 Convention Deadlines

- January 27th - Candidacy Window Opens
- February 6th at 5pm - Full Board Resolutions Due
- February 13th - Background Check Deadline
- February 26th at 5pm - Candidacy Window Closes

See pages 10-11 for more information about election criteria and requirements.



IN THIS ISSUE...

- **PAGE 3:** Gun Safety Video
- **PAGE 4:** 2026 Education Summit
- **PAGE 5:** Teen Dating Violence
- **PAGE 6:** 6-Pack Training Recap
- **PAGE 8:** Annual Tribal Government Training

Letter from the Chief



Mission

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign

Tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

Vision

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

Executive Board

Trimble Gilbert, Arctic Village
1st Traditional Chief

Andrew Jimmie, Minto
2nd Traditional Chief

Brian Ridley, Eagle
Chief/Chairman

Sharon Hildebrand, Nulato
Vice-President

Charlie Wright, Rampart
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit, Tanacross
Upper Tanana

Claude 'Joe' Petruska, Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James, Gwichyaa Zhee
Yukon Flats

Ivan Demientieff, Grayling
Lower Yukon

Lori Baker, Minto
Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green, Galena
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski, Nulato
Elder Advisor

Mackenzie Englishoe, Gwichyaa Zhee
Youth Advisor



Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Members,

I hope this message finds you well and that you were able to enjoy time over the holidays with your family and friends. I had the opportunity to spend quality time with my family, which I always appreciate and value, especially during this time of year.

Last month, Tanana Chiefs Conference hosted the Tribal Government Training in Fairbanks, bringing together Tribal Leaders and Tribal Administrators from across our region. This training created a space for collaboration, shared learning, and skill-building to help strengthen governance and administration within our communities. I was grateful to attend, to see so many familiar faces, and to participate in the Chiefs Forum. The conversations and connections made during this training reaffirmed the importance of coming together to support one another and learn from shared experiences.

TCC also hosted the 2026 Education Summit, which focused on the vital role education plays in strengthening our communities and shaping the future of our people. The summit brought together Tribal leaders, educators, and partners to discuss key issues such as teacher recruitment and retention, Indigenous language revitalization, cultural connections to learning, scholarship opportunities, and workforce preparation. These discussions reinforced the importance of education systems that reflect our values, support our students, and ensure future generations are grounded in culture while prepared for opportunity.

Finally, I would like to thank the Tribal leaders who placed their trust in me in 2021 by appointing me to help guide Tanana Chiefs Conference through an unprecedented period of transition, and later electing me to serve my first official three-year term as Chief/Chairman. I remain deeply humbled by that trust and the opportunity to serve our Tribes during such an important time for our organization. As we approach next month's Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting, with my position again up for election, I want to share that no matter the outcome, my heart will always remain here with our Tribes of the Interior. I will always be grateful for TCC—the organization that shaped me—and for the Tribal leaders who have mentored, guided, and supported me throughout my journey. TCC is where I began my career, and the foundation it provided continues to guide my work and my commitment to serving our Tribes and communities.

Mahsi' Choo,
Chief Brian Ridley
Tanana Chiefs Conference

MISSING



Lorraine
Ginnis



Willis
Derendoff



Doren
Sanford



Debbie
Nictune



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.



Stay Strong and Healthy During These Long Winter Months

In February, it's easy to feel the weight of the season. Staying active can make a meaningful difference—for both physical health and emotional well-being. That's why TCC invites Tribal members to beat the winter blues by staying active at TCC's Fitness Center.

Located in the basement of the Chief Peter John Tribal Building, the Fitness Center is a welcoming space designed to support overall wellness during the colder months, offering access to exercise equipment and a safe place to move, stretch, and recharge. Regular physical activity can help boost energy, improve mood, and reduce stress—especially during long Interior Alaska winters.

Whether you're building a new routine or continuing an existing one, even small amounts of movement can have a big impact. TCC is here to support your wellness goals and encourage healthy habits all winter long.

To learn more about access, hours, and who can use the Fitness Center, visit www.tananachiefs.org/services/fitness-center/. Let's move through winter together—stronger, healthier, and supported.

Fitness Center Hours

Monday-Friday | 8:00AM - 6:00PM

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8am - 11am Patient Access Only	8am - 11am Patient Access Only	8am - 11am Patient Access Only	8am - 11am Patient Access Only	8am - 11am Patient Access Only
11am - 2pm Open Access	11am - 1pm Open Access	11am - 2pm Open Access	11am - 2pm Open Access	11am - 2pm Open Access
2pm - 4pm Patient Access Only	1pm - 2pm Elders-Only Fitness Class	2pm - 4pm Patient Access Only	2pm - 4pm Patient Access Only	2pm - 4pm Patient Access Only
4pm - 6pm Open Access	2pm - 4pm Patient Access Only	4pm - 6pm Open Access	4pm - 6pm Open Access	4pm - 6pm Open Access
	4pm - 6pm Open Access			

- **Patient-Only Access:** Reserved exclusively for patients to focus on their wellness goals in a dedicated environment.
- **Open Access:** Available to all TCC staff members and beneficiaries.



2026 TCC Calendars Available Now!

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

You can also stop by any of our buildings to pickup your copy!



Youth-Led Initiative Promotes Gun Safety Across TCC Communities

The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Tribal Protection and Safety Division, in collaboration with the Emerging Leaders Youth Council, has launched a new educational effort aimed at promoting gun safety. This initiative includes the development of a short, impactful video designed to raise awareness and encourage responsible practices among youth and community members.

This project was guided by TCC's Full Board of Directors through Resolution 2025-06: "Educating Youth & TCC Communities on Hunting and Gun Safety to Reduce Gun Violence and Preventable Deaths." The resolution underscores the importance of education and proactive measures to protect lives while honoring the cultural traditions of safe hunting.

By centering youth voices and fostering a sense of responsibility, the campaign seeks to create a safer environment for all. The video emphasizes key principles of gun safety, aiming to reduce preventable injuries and fatalities while preserving the values and practices that are integral to our communities.

Scan here to view the video



<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1FrqUBtKbQ/>

2026 Education Summit United Educators to Strengthen Learning Across Our Region

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) hosted the 2026 Education Summit, "Unifying Voices: Collaborative Approaches to Education," on Thursday, January 15, 2026, in Fairbanks. The Summit brought together Tribal leaders, educators, policymakers, and partners to explore innovative, culturally grounded approaches to education that support Alaska Native students and communities.

The day opened with welcoming remarks from Chief Brian Ridley, TCC Chief/President, followed by greetings from U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and Representative Maxine Dibert. Attendees also heard from TCC leadership representing Tribal Government & Client Services, Family Services & Support, and Education & Indigenous Learning, setting the tone for a day focused on collaboration and shared responsibility in education.

Participants engaged in a full agenda of presentations and breakout sessions addressing key education priorities across Alaska. Topics included teacher recruitment and retention, cultural connections to science education, language revitalization, and strategies for rooting education in culture and community. Presenters shared practical tools, policy updates, and successful models aimed at improving outcomes for students while honoring Indigenous knowledge and identity.

Several sessions focused on Tribal

education leadership, including discussions on Tribal compacting of education, Johnson O'Malley funding, and Tribal scholarship and education programs. These conversations supported Tribes and school leaders in navigating governance, funding opportunities, and program development to better serve students.

The Summit also highlighted Indigenous language education, featuring interactive approaches such as games for language learning, along with presentations from partners at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Humanities Forum.

In addition to the presentations, a resource fair was held throughout the afternoon, connecting attendees with education, workforce, and cultural organizations offering resources and support for students, families, and educators.

The 2026 Education Summit reinforced TCC's commitment to collaboration, cultural strength, and educational equity. By bringing diverse voices together, the Summit created space for meaningful dialogue and strengthened partnerships dedicated to supporting education rooted in community, language, and culture.

For more information about TCC's education initiatives, visit www.tananachiefs.org/services/education/.





Circle of Protection: The Public Safety Dispatch

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention

By David Atteberry, TCC Public Safety Manager

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, an opportunity for families, schools, Tribal leadership, and public safety partners to strengthen efforts to protect our youth. Teen dating violence affects young people in every region of the country, but Alaska Native youth face some of the highest rates of interpersonal violence. By recognizing the warning signs, supporting young people, and encouraging safe communication, our communities can play an important role in preventing harm before it escalates.

Warning Signs of Unhealthy or Abusive Relationships

Dating violence is not always physical. It can begin with subtle behaviors that slowly increase over time. Some of the most common early warning signs include:

- Excessive checking in, texting constantly, or demanding to know where the other person is at all times
- Isolating a teen from friends, family, or cultural activities
- Jealousy presented as “love” or “protection”
- Pressuring someone to share passwords, unlock their phone, or reveal private messages
- Insulting, belittling, or humiliating the other person, either in private or in front of others
- Threatening to harm themselves, the other person, or property if the relationship ends
- Forcing or pressuring any sexual activity
- Stalking behaviors either in person or online



- These behaviors often escalate. The earlier they are recognized, the greater the chance of protecting the teen and offering meaningful support.

How Community Members Can Support Youth

Youth are more likely to reach out when they trust the adults around them. Community members can make a tremendous impact by being present, patient, and willing to listen. Helpful actions include:

- Showing youth that they have safe adults who believe them
- Talking openly about healthy relationships and boundaries
- Encouraging participation in sports, culture camps, and traditional activities that reinforce identity, confidence, and connection
- Helping teens recognize that controlling behavior is not love
- Being careful not to shame or blame the teen for the situation
- Connecting them with trained responders such as VPSOs, TPOs, behavioral health workers, and school staff



- Supporting families without judgment and reinforcing their cultural strengths

Small conversations can make a big difference. Many teens stay silent because they fear getting someone in trouble or being blamed. Compassion and understanding are often the first steps toward safety.

Encouraging Safe Communication and Reporting

In many of our villages there is no 911 system, so communication and reporting look different than in urban areas. Teens should know who they can call, where they can go, and which adults are trusted responders. VPSOs and TPOs are available to help youth and families understand their options and can assist with safety planning.

Encourage youth to tell someone they trust if they feel unsafe. Let them know that reporting is not about getting someone else in trouble but about protecting themselves and receiving support. In some situations, early reporting can prevent incidents from escalating into more serious harm.



Connection to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)

In some cases, dating violence and coercive relationships overlap with situations that increase the risk of a young person going missing. Isolation, control, and fear can create dangerous environments that place youth at higher risk. Strengthening prevention around teen dating violence is also part of strengthening MMIP prevention efforts across the Interior.

Working Together for Safer Communities

Protecting our youth is a shared responsibility. By learning the signs, listening without judgment, and fostering safe communication, we help build stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities. Teens deserve relationships that honor respect, kindness, and cultural strength. When we stand together, we give them the safety and support they need to thrive.

Employment & Training Hosts

Successful 6-Pack Class

By Sean Rice, TCC Employment & Training Coordinator

Employment and Training recently hosted a 6-Pack training course from December 8–18, with six dedicated participants. Led by Greg Mercier from Alaska Waters, the class covered essential topics for safe and effective water navigation, including:

- Rules of the Road
- Chart Navigation
- Emergency Procedures
- Cold Water Survival
- Cargo Handling
- Rules and Regulations
- Weather Safety

Each participant met rigorous requirements to earn their Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC), including:

- Obtaining a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card
- Passing a physical and drug test
- Completing and notarizing the 719B application packet
- Earning First Aid and CPR certification
- Documenting 360 days of sea service since age 16
- Paying government fees

We are proud of these individuals for their hard work and commitment to earning their licenses!

New Training Request Form Available

Employment and Training is excited to announce our new Training Request Form, which allows community leaders to request on-site trainings for their village and/or subregion. It is now available on the Tanana Chiefs website. This form will help us better coordinate and bring training opportunities to villages and sub-regions, ensuring that each community receives the training they need.

Working together, we can make the most of our resources and continue to build strong, skilled communities.

Scan here for the Training Request Form



<https://www.tananachiefs.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Training-Request-Form-09.2025.pdf>



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!



Your board, YOUR VOICE

Vote Today!



Doyon
Limited

DEADLINES

PRIZES FEB. 13
ePROXY AND EARLY BIRD

PROXY MAR. 10
VOTE ONLINE AT eproxy.doyon.com

2026

ANNUAL MEETING
of Shareholders
FRI. MAR. 13
8 STAR EVENTS CENTER





February Health Spotlight: National Cancer Prevention Month

By Jenny Lessner, MD, TCC Physician & Clinical Projects Officer

February is National Cancer Prevention Month, a time to focus on steps we can take to lower cancer risk and find cancer early, when it is most treatable. As a Family Medicine Physician and chair of the Cancer Prevention and Detection Workgroup at TCC, I'm eager to help start conversations about cancer prevention in our community.

Cancer touches nearly every family, but the good news is that many cancers are preventable, and others can be found early through screening. At our TCC clinics, we work every day to help patients reduce risk, protect their health, and navigate prevention options that fit their lives.

Healthy Choices Matter

The American Cancer Society reminds us that the most important way to reduce cancer risk is through healthy lifestyle choices. These include:

- Not using tobacco or seeking help to quit
- Staying physically active, even with small, regular movement
- Eating healthy foods
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Avoiding alcohol use

These changes don't need to be perfect to make a difference. Even small steps can lower cancer risk.

A Vaccine That Prevents Cancer

Many people are surprised to learn that we have a vaccine that prevents cancer.

The HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine protects against the virus that causes six types of cancer, including mouth and throat cancers. When given at the recommended ages, HPV vaccination prevents more than 90% of these cancers. The vaccine works best when started before the teen years, which is why it is recommended beginning at age 9, but it is available for teens and many adults up to age 46. Remember, earlier vaccination provides stronger, longer-lasting protection.

Family History Is Important

Some cancers run in families, and because Alaska Native people have higher risks for certain cancers, sharing your family history of cancer with your primary care provider is especially important. Early or more frequent screening may be recommended if you or close family members have had:

Family History of Cancer?

Please contact your provider or call to schedule an appointment if you have a family history of colon, breast, or gastric (stomach) cancer. Sharing this information may allow for earlier cancer screening for you or your family members.

- Colon or colorectal cancer
- Breast or ovarian cancer
- Gastric (stomach) cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Or if several relatives have had the same type of cancer

Prevention Starts with a Conversation

Cancer prevention is not one-size-fits-all. It starts with honest conversations between patients, families, and their healthcare team—about lifestyle, vaccines, family history, and screening options.

This February, we encourage everyone in our community to:

- Ask questions
- Share family history
- Stay up to date on vaccines and screenings
- Take small steps toward healthier habits

TCC is here to support you every step of the way. Prevention today can make a life-changing difference tomorrow.

Make a Difference Become a Foster Parent

Help us reach our goal of having readily available foster parents in Fairbanks and across the TCC region to provide safe, loving homes at a crucial time in a child's life. Our Tribal communities have a need for caring, supportive families to care for our Tribal children who are in foster care.

Questions? Contact:

Julie Dietrich | Resource Family Specialist

julie.dietrich@tananachiefs.org | 907-452-8251 ext. 3372

Help Us Find
Safe Homes!

Annual Tribal Government Training Held in Fairbanks

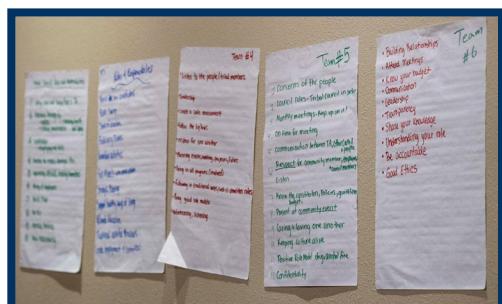
Last month, Chiefs, Tribal Administrators, and Council Members from across the region gathered in Fairbanks for Tanana Chiefs Conference's Annual Tribal Government Training. The two-day training provided an opportunity for Tribal leaders to strengthen governance knowledge, share experiences, and build connections with one another.

Participants engaged in dedicated forums for Chiefs and Tribal Administrators, a New Council Orientation, and interactive activities designed to support leadership development. Training topics focused on Tribal Council roles and responsibilities, personnel policies, elections, codes and constitutions, fiduciary responsibilities, bookkeeping and accounting practices, allowable and unallowable costs, fraud detection, and TCC distributions. Sessions also included

wellness and values-based activities, reinforcing the importance of balance and care in leadership roles.

The training opened and closed each day with prayer and words of welcome grounded in Ch'egwhtsen', emphasizing service from the heart and leadership rooted in respect and responsibility. An Alaska Blanket Exercise was also offered, providing participants with an interactive learning experience centered on history, understanding, and reflection.

Tanana Chiefs Conference extends its appreciation to all Chiefs, Council Members, Tribal Administrators, presenters, and staff who contributed to a meaningful and successful training. These gatherings continue to play an important role in supporting strong, informed Tribal governance throughout the region.



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!

Family Services and Support Hosts Christmas Lunch for Families

On December 23rd, Tanana Chiefs Conference Family Services and Support hosted a Christmas lunch and craft day for all TCC families to celebrate the holiday season. Everyone in the region was welcome, and the turnout didn't disappoint. Families ate lunch, participated in crafting activities, wrote letters to Santa, and even got a visit from Santa himself. Raffle prizes were drawn, and guests also learned about available programs through Family Services and Support. We are thankful to everyone who showed up to celebrate the spirit of the holidays with us!



FEBRUARY 19-25, 2026

Ride for Life Snowmachine Tour

Join TCC to learn important information about how to stay healthy and safe this spring!

2/19 - Minto • 2/20 - Manley Hot Springs • 2/21 - Ruby

2/24 - Takotna • 2/25 - McGrath • 2/26 - Nikolai

This wellness-centered journey brings together TCC's VPSO program, Wellness & Prevention, Tribal Courts, Family Services, Re-Entry and the American Red Cross, Alaska Veterans' Outreach, and My Grandma's House to share resources, supports, and services that help strengthen our communities. We look forward to connecting, offering hope, and building safety together. A community dinner and door prizes will be provided at every stop.

Questions?

**Call 907-452-8251
ext. 3291 or 3177**

Election Criteria 2026 TCC Annual Convention

SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

Executive Board of Directors

Subregional Positions:

Upper Tanana Subregion 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently Chief Herbert Demit, Tanacross

Yukon Koyukuk Subregion 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently Chief Charlie Green, Louden

Advisory Boards

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

Regional Health Advisory Board

Yukon Flats Subregion 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently Patricia Salmon, Chalkyitsik

Education Council

Yukon Tanana Subregion 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently Phyllis Erhart, Tanana, Seat D

Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently VACANT, Seat B

Yukon Tanana Subregion 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently Alex Hanna, Minto, Seat D

Yukon Flats Subregion 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently VACANT, Seat E

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current village director, as authorized by Tribal/village resolution. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Members of member villages of the corporation. (Article 4, Section 1)
- Full Time employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with exception of the Chief/Chairman. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chairman of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy.
- Must successfully pass the ICPA and (DHSS) Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check. (See also Executive Board Policy 50-5003). Executive and Health board candidates must turn in a completed and correct background check application to Human Resources by February

13th to guarantee background checks will be completed by February 26th. Individuals contemplating running for a board position should turn in a background check application immediately to ensure the ability to make corrections to mistakes in the lengthy application. All background check applications will be confidential and only Human Resources will have access to the application and the names of individuals. Those individuals that do not submit complete paperwork or fail to pass a background check will not be eligible candidates for the TCC Chief/Chairman, Executive Board or Health Board positions.

FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Officer Positions

Chief/Chairman 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, Eagle

Eligibility Criteria for Chief/Chairman:

- Officers must be Alaska Native members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1)
- Compliance with the TCC Employee Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #10-810. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to the election, according to policy #10-107 in order to serve their term if elected.

IRHA Board of Commissioners

Seat E 3-year term (2026-2029)
Currently Kristen Moreland, Fairbanks

Eligibility Criteria:

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

ICPA & DHSS BACKGROUND CHECK

INFORMATION:

TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors must successfully pass a federal ICPA background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act background check. The TCC Executive Board has made the commitment to both comply with current laws, Board policies and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC Executive Board and Health Board candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 13th submitted to the Human Resources Director. This allows enough time for the check to be completed. Only those candidates that successfully pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the respective elections.

Important Dates and Deadlines

January 27th - Declaration of Candidacy Opens

January 27th at 8:00am the open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

February 6th at 5:00pm - Full Board Resolutions Due

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

February 13th - Background Check Deadline

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

February 26th at 5:00pm - Candidacy Window Closes

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

March 12th - Elections

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

2026 TCC FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES

RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED

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

RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY

1. In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat after the third ballot, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.
2. Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:
 - The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.
 - If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The remaining candidates will be eliminated.
 - If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot.

The rest will be eliminated.

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

*** Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2026 Full Board of Director's roll call.*

Full Board Resolutions

All resolutions must be received by fax, email, mail or in-person by 5:00pm Friday, February 6, 2026 to be considered for review at Convention. If you choose to mail in your proposed resolution, call 1-800-478-6822 ext. 3275 to notify Legal so that you do not miss the deadline.

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

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

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



Download the resolution
form on our website.

Declaration of Candidacy

Individuals who want to declare themselves a candidate must submit a written, signed and dated letter of intent between 8:00 AM January 27, 2026 and 5:00 PM February 26, 2026.

Letters of intent must be received by fax, mail, or delivered in person no later than 5:00 PM on February 26, 2026 to:

Tanana Chiefs Conference
ATTN: Chelle Johnson, Executive Coordinator
200 First Avenue | Fairbanks, AK 99701
1-800-478-6822 ext. 3044 | FAX: (907) 459-3953
Email: chelle.johnson@tananachiefs.org

2026 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Robin Brown, General Counsel at robin.brown@tananachiefs.org.



Download the letter
of intent form on our
website.

LETTER OF INTENT

DATE (Must be between 8 a.m. January 27, 2026 and 5 p.m. February 26, 2026)

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

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

Signature

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

Print Name

Phone Number

Email Address





Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council Newsletter

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424

communications_dept@tananachiefs.org

www.tananachiefs.org

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



Sign-Up to receive
our E-Newsletter!

Get important
updates straight
to your inbox.



FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Cook - Graf Program
Fairbanks	Clinical Training Manager
Fairbanks	Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member
Fairbanks	Squad Boss
Fairbanks	Registered Dietitian III
Fairbanks	Registered Dietitian I
Fairbanks	Registered Dietitian II
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II - IT
Fairbanks	Certified Nurse Assistant
Fairbanks	Sobering Center Technician I
Fairbanks	Security Officer I
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II - Clinical Services
Fairbanks	Program Manager - Graf Rheeneerhaanjii
Fairbanks	Release of Information (ROI) Specialist I
Fairbanks	Lead Nurse - Addictions
Fairbanks	Urgent Care RN
Koyukuk	Home Care Provider
Old Minto	Addictions Counselor Technician - OMFRC
Old Minto	Addictions Counselor I - OMFRC
Old Minto	Addictions Counselor II - OMFRC
Old Minto	OMFRC Camp Laborer
Region-Wide	Forester
Region-Wide	Forestry 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.

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF JANUARY 20, 2026

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

**FEB
2-11**

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Egan Center | Anchorage, AK | www.tananachiefs.org/events/north-pacific-fishery-management-council-meeting-3/

**FEB
16**

TCC Offices Closed

President's Day

**FEB
18-24**

Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting - Area M

Egan Center | Anchorage, AK | www.tananachiefs.org/events/alaska-board-of-fisheries-meeting/

**FEB
19-25**

Ride for Life Snowmachine Tour

Minto | Manley Hot Springs | Ruby
Takotna | McGrath | Nikolai

**MAR
5-7**

Spring Subregional Meetings

8:30am - 5:00pm | 8 Star Event Center | Fairbanks, AK

**MAR
9-12**

2026 TCC Annual Convention

8:30am - 5:00pm | 8 Star Event Center | Fairbanks, AK
www.tananachiefs.org/convention2026/