



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
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One Name Is Too Long: Gathering of Remembrance Honors Missing Loved Ones

Nearly 300 people gathered at Golden Heart Plaza in Fairbanks on May 5 for the annual Gathering of Remembrance. Families, Tribal organizations, community leaders, and community members came together to honor victims of unsolved homicides and remember missing Indigenous loved ones. Held on National MMIP Awareness Day, this year's gathering was the largest yet.

Reverend Shirley Lee reflected on the meaning of the gathering after

more than 30 years of advocacy and remembrance.

"Each year, it gets harder and harder for me to say the names," Lee shared. "Names of loved ones taken by violence, names of loved ones who have disappeared, their life ending, unknown. The list is long. One name is too long."

Leaders from Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and partner organizations were invited to speak during the event. Chief Sharon Hildebrand reflected on

the importance of remembering every person and family affected by the crisis.

"Each name matters. Each story matters. These are not just cases—they are our people. Our daughters. Our sons. Our mothers. Our fathers. Our siblings. Our relatives."

Local elected officials and law enforcement representatives also shared remarks. Fairbanks Mayor Mindy O'Neall spoke about the dis-

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Congratulations! Class of 2026

From tiny caps to PhDs, we're celebrating all of our 2026 grads! Send your favorite grad's photo and help us honor their accomplishment in the July edition of *The Council*.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS BY JUNE 12, 2026

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/2026-graduation-photo-submissions/>



SCAN TO
SUBMIT

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Mission

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign Tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

Vision

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

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1st Traditional Chief

Andrew Jimmie, Minto
2nd Traditional Chief

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Yukon Flats

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Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green, Galena
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski, Nulato
Elder Advisor

Mackenzie Englishoe, Gwichyaa Zhee
Youth Advisor



Letter from the Chief

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

Last month, many of our communities experienced flooding as breakup moved across our rivers. During this difficult time, we here at TCC remained focused on supporting our Tribes and communities impacted by the flooding. TCC's Incident Command Team responded immediately to reports of flooding as they occurred, and I made sure to remain available to our Tribal leaders and community members throughout the situation.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with all those whose homes and lives were impacted. In challenging moments like these, we are reminded of the strength of our people and the importance of coming together to support one another.

May also brought many meaningful opportunities to connect and celebrate. I had the honor of attending an honoring dinner at the University of Alaska Fairbanks recognizing three incredible Alaska Native leaders — Aġnik (Polly Schaeffer) and Vera Metcalf, who received honorary doctorates, and Maurice McGinty, who received the Meritorious Service Award. It was truly special to celebrate these individuals and their lifelong contributions to our people and communities. Maurice is from my home village of Nulato, and I was especially proud to see him receive this well-deserved recognition. You can learn more on page 10 of this newsletter.

I also had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Attorney Michael J. Heyman to discuss ways we can better align TCC public safety priorities with Department of Justice and Alaska MMIP initiatives. Our conversation focused on identifying practical ways to strengthen on-the-ground response efforts in Interior Alaska communities. The issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons remains a top priority for TCC, and we continue working to strengthen support and response efforts across Interior Alaska communities.

That same month, I was honored to speak at the Gathering of Remembrance. I was deeply moved to see so many people gathered together at Golden Heart Plaza to honor loved ones who are missing or who have been taken too soon. Events like these are important because we cannot forget. We must continue to remind families that we see you, we stand with you, and you are not alone. This work takes all of us working together to create safer communities for future generations.

I have also continued participating in our monthly Alaska Native Roundtable discussions with our sister organizations, local leadership, and law enforcement partners. These meetings are an important opportunity to share information, strengthen partnerships, and work together on the issues impacting our communities.

Finally, I recently had the opportunity to visit several communities in the Upper Tanana subregion. You can see photos from these visits on page 12 of this newsletter. I always feel grateful to travel through our beautiful region and spend time listening to leaders who care deeply about the future of their people and communities. I look forward to continuing these visits across our region in the months ahead.

Ana Masee',
Sharon Hildebrand
Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference



TCC Health Aides Honored at 2026 Community Health Aide Forum

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) proudly celebrates the outstanding Community Health Aides who were recognized at the 2026 Community Health Aide Forum. These honors reflect the dedication, leadership, and compassion that Health Aides bring to their communities every day.

Lydia David, Community Health Practitioner (CHP) in Tetlin, received the prestigious North Star Award. This award recognizes a Health Aide or Clinical Supervisor who demonstrates exceptional leadership and service. For more than 20 years, Lydia has been the backbone of health care in Tetlin. She is known for delivering high-quality patient care, honoring her culture, respecting Elders, and always putting her community first. Her commitment extends beyond her village, as she mentors new Health Aides and continues to serve with strength and consistency. Lydia's work reflects

a deep dedication to the people she serves.

Johanna Coghill, CHP in Nenana, was also recognized as a nominee for the North Star Award, highlighting her strong leadership and commitment to her community.

Loren Thomas, CHA II, was nominated for the Rising Star Award, which honors Health Aides with fewer than three years of service who demonstrate excellence and contribute to improving health care in their communities. Loren's nomination reflects a promising and impactful start in the field.

The forum also honored Setting Stars, recognizing Health Aides who have passed away in the past year and whose service left a lasting impact on their communities. TCC Health Aides remembered in this category include Sharon Agnes, Rose Ambrose, and Jenny Joseph. Their contributions and



Lydia David, Community Health Aide in Tetlin, with the North Star Award.

dedication will not be forgotten.

TCC extends its heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to all of these individuals. Community Health Aides are a vital part of our region's health system, providing essential care, support, and connection. Their work strengthens the health and well-being of our communities every day.

Child Abuse Prevention Resource Fair Brings Community Together

In April, Tanana Chiefs Conference's (TCC) Tribal Social Services Program hosted the Child Abuse Prevention Resource Fair at Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall in Fairbanks.

Families, Elders, leaders, and community members gathered to learn about local programs and resources that support children, caregivers, and family wellness. The event emphasized the importance of prevention, strong community connections, and the shared responsibility of creating

safe and supportive environments where children can thrive.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect with organizations offering services focused on family support and child well-being. Indian tacos were served throughout the evening, helping create a welcoming and family-centered atmosphere.

TCC extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, participated, and helped make the event a success.



Gathering of Remembrance Honors Missing Loved Ones

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

proportionate impact the crisis has on Alaska Native communities.

“Indigenous people make up 20% of Alaska’s population, yet they are represented far more in the numbers of missing persons and homicide cases. These numbers reflect real families in our community, families who deserve answers, support, and a system that work for them.”

Na’ni’eezh Peter of Arctic Village performed two original songs in Dinjii Zhuh K’y’aa, the Gwich’in language, dedicating them to families searching for loved ones.

“This is such an emotional event,” Peter shared, “because we’re gathered for the people who we’ve lost and who we’re looking for. And my heart goes out to each and every one of you, to all of our community who is missing someone who shouldn’t be missing.”

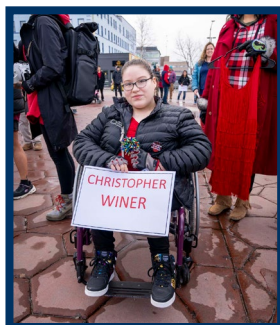
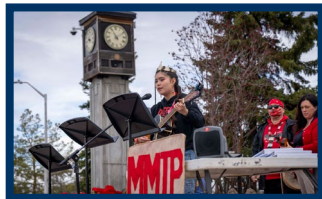
The gathering concluded with attendees casting carnations into the

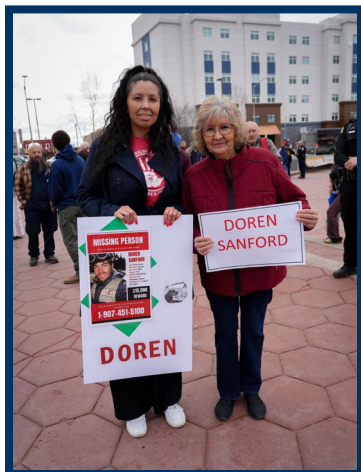
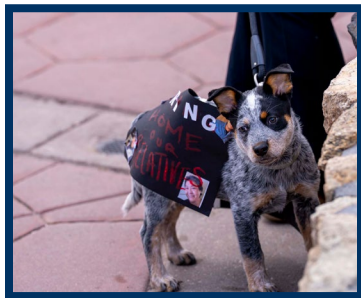
Chena River from the William Ransom Wood Centennial Bridge as a symbol of remembrance for loved ones who have been lost.

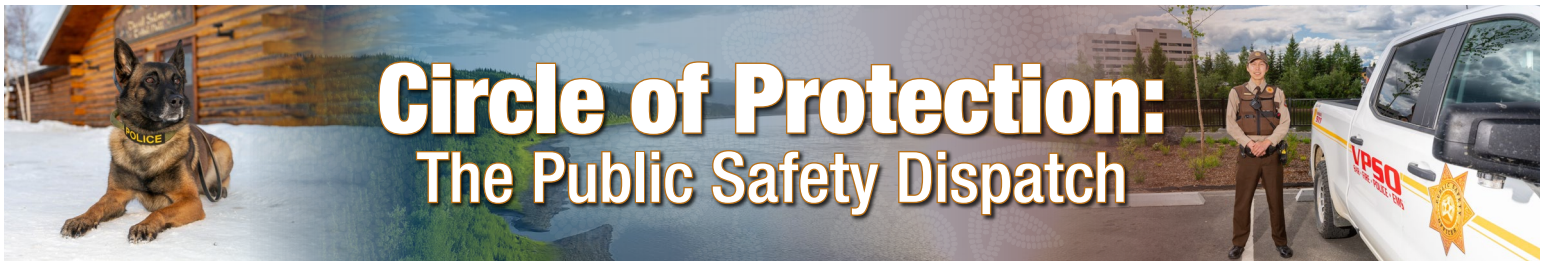
At TCC, we recognize that the MMIP crisis continues to impact many of our families and communities in deeply personal ways. Gatherings like this are important because they remind families that their loved ones are not forgotten and that our communities continue to stand beside them.

We are grateful to support this event alongside our partners at Fairbanks Native Association, Denakkanaaga, Doyon, Limited, and Interior Regional Housing Authority. We also extend our appreciation to local elected officials and law enforcement representatives who joined the gathering in support.

To all families and loved ones impacted by this crisis, we continue to hold you in our hearts.







Circle of Protection: The Public Safety Dispatch

Preventing and Extinguishing Cooking and Grease Fires

By Nathan Becker, TCC Village Public Safety Officer

Cooking fires are one of the leading causes of home fires, and grease fires are among the most dangerous. These fires can spread rapidly and are often caused by unattended cooking, overheating oil, or grease buildup. Understanding how to prevent and properly extinguish these fires is essential for public safety.



- **Maintain clean cooking surfaces:** Grease buildup on stovetops and in ovens can ignite. Regular cleaning reduces this risk.
- **Use proper equipment:** Ensure pots and pans are stable and avoid overfilling them with oil.
- **Have safety tools ready:** A fire extinguisher (Class K or multipurpose ABC) and a lid nearby can make a critical difference in emergencies.

- **Use a fire extinguisher** rated for grease fires (Class K) if the fire is spreading or cannot be controlled.

What NOT to Do:

- **Never use water:** Water causes grease to splatter and can spread the fire violently, making it much worse.
- **Do not move the burning pan:** Carrying it can cause the fire to spread or result in serious injuries.
- **Do not use flour or sugar:** These substances can ignite or even explode when exposed to flames.

Prevention of Cooking and Grease Fires

The best way to handle a fire is to prevent it from happening in the first place. Several simple precautions can significantly reduce the risk:

- **Never leave cooking unattended:** Most kitchen fires start when food is left cooking without supervision. Staying in the kitchen while frying, grilling, or broiling can prevent small issues from turning into emergencies.
- **Control heat levels:** Overheating oil can quickly lead to ignition. Always cook at appropriate temperatures and watch for signs like smoking oil.
- **Keep flammable items away:** Items such as paper towels, oven mitts, and food packaging should be kept away from the stove.

How to Safely Extinguish a Grease Fire

Grease fires require specific actions because they behave differently than other types of fires.

What to Do:

- **Turn off the heat** if it is safe to do so.
- **Smother the fire** by sliding a metal lid or baking sheet over the pan. This removes oxygen and can quickly put out the flames.
- **Use baking soda** to extinguish small fires. Baking soda can help stop the fire by interrupting the chemical reaction.

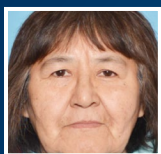
When to Call for Help

If the fire grows beyond a small, manageable size or you feel unsafe, evacuate immediately and call emergency services. Closing doors behind you can help slow the spread of fire while waiting for responders.

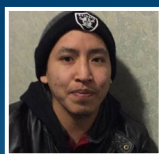
Conclusion

Preventing cooking and grease fires is a simple but critical part of public safety. By staying attentive in the kitchen, maintaining clean cooking areas, and knowing how to respond correctly in an emergency, individuals can protect themselves and others. Quick, informed action can mean the difference between a minor incident and a life-threatening situation.

MISSING



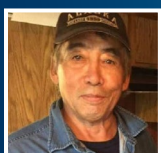
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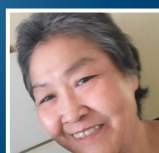
Doren Sanford



Frank Minano



Craig Albert



Debbie Nictune

SUBMIT TIPS ANONYMOUSLY:

Text AKTIPS followed by your tip to 84711 or visit <https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips>



Call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100, Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 or TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251 ext.3269. Visit www.tananachiefs.org/missing for more information.

TCC and U.S. Attorney Michael Heyman Discuss Shared Commitment to Public Safety

Last month, leadership from Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) met with United States Attorney Michael Heyman to discuss ways to strengthen public safety efforts across Interior Alaska and support safer, healthier communities.

The meeting focused on issues that continue to impact families and communities throughout the region, including drug trafficking and substance abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP).

During the discussion, TCC leadership shared the challenges many rural communities face when it comes to emergency response, law enforcement coverage, and access to resources. Leaders emphasized that for Tribes, public safety is about more

than enforcement — it is also about protecting youth, supporting victims and survivors, caring for Elders, and strengthening communities.

“Public safety is directly connected to the health and wellbeing of our communities,” said Chief/Chairman Sharon Hildebrand of Tanana Chiefs Conference. “We appreciated the opportunity to sit down with U.S. Attorney Heyman to discuss the realities our communities face and the importance of working together to improve response, communication, and support for our Tribes and families.”

The conversation also included op-

portunities to strengthen coordination between Tribal, state, and federal partners and improve resources and communication for communities across the region.

The meeting reinforced a shared commitment to collaboration and culturally informed approaches to public safety and justice throughout Interior Alaska.



You Don't Have to Wait: Reporting a Missing Person Right Away

By David Atteberry, TCC Public Safety Manager

A common belief is that you must wait 24 hours before reporting someone missing. This is a myth. It can delay help when it matters most.

There Is No Waiting Period

Law enforcement agencies do not require any waiting period to report a missing person. If something feels wrong, you can and should call right away.



Why Acting Quickly Matters

The first hours after someone goes missing are often critical. Reporting concerns early allows responders to:

- Begin searching right away.
- Speak with witnesses while memories are fresh.
- Check known locations, travel routes, or recent activity.
- Use alerts and other tools if needed. Even a short delay can make it hard-

er to locate someone safely.

What This Means for Our Communities

Across our region, whether in town, a village, or the surrounding areas, people may have routines that include travel, work, or time out of contact. However, when something is out of character, it is important to take it seriously.

Missed plans, unusual behavior, dangerous conditions, or a lack of communication when it is unexpected are all good reasons to act. You know your family, friends, and community members best. Trust your instincts.

When to Call

Contact local law enforcement, a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), or the Alaska State Troopers immediately if:

- A child or Elder is missing.

- The person has medical or mental health needs.
- The situation is unusual or out of character.
- Weather, travel, or safety conditions raise concern.
- You have any reason to believe the person may be at risk.

It's Okay to Speak Up

Some people hesitate because they worry about overreacting or wasting time. In reality, it is always better to check. Reporting a concern will not get you in trouble. It could make a critical difference.

The Bottom Line

You never have to wait 24 hours to report someone missing. If something does not feel right, do not wait. Reach out for help right away.

If you need assistance: Contact your local law enforcement agency, VPSO, or the Alaska State Troopers.

Leadership for Results Cohort 3 Celebrates Graduation in Fairbanks

On April 30, 2026, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) proudly celebrated the graduation of Leadership for Results Cohort 3 in Fairbanks. The ceremony marked the completion of an intensive, multi-month leadership development journey for participants representing TCC programs and Tribes from across the region.

Leadership for Results is designed to strengthen both individual and community leadership by building skills in communication, collaboration, and strategic thinking. Throughout the program, participants focused on social-emotional well-being, capacity-building, and developing practical tools to address real challenges facing their communities.

A cornerstone of the program is the Action Learning Project, where participants work in teams to apply what they've learned to real-world issues. Each team engaged with community members—including Elders, adults, and youth—to ensure their projects reflected local priorities and voices. This year's projects included making cards for Elders, hosting wellness events for men, and surveying youth

to learn more about their needs. These projects were presented during the graduation ceremony, highlighting thoughtful, community-driven solutions and a strong commitment to positive change.

The program continues to build on its success each year. Graduates from previous cohorts returned to support Cohort 3, offering mentorship and guidance that strengthened both the learning experience and the sense of connection across cohorts. Their involvement reflects the program's growing network of leaders dedicated to supporting one another and their communities.

Family members, leadership, and supporters gathered to recognize the graduates and celebrate their accomplishments. The event highlighted not only participants' hard work, but also the shared commitment to building strong, resilient, and unified communities across the TCC region.

TCC extends its congratulations to the graduates of Cohort 3. Their dedication, leadership, and vision will continue to make a lasting impact.



Check Out These Summer Youth Employment Opportunities!

We're excited to announce that applications are now open for the Summer Youth Employment Program, supporting teens and young adults across rural Alaska villages. This program gives youth ages 14–21 the chance to gain real-world work experience, build confidence, and earn summer income — all while contributing to their home communities.

Opportunities for Teens in Rural Communities

If you know a young person ready to learn, grow, and make a difference this summer, encourage them to apply. Opportunities fill quickly, so early applications are encouraged. The following villages are participating, and you can learn more by contacting your Tribal Administrator: Allakaket, Anvik, Arctic Village, Beaver Chalkyitsik, Dot Lake, Fort Yukon, Grayling, Holy Cross, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Loudon, Manley, McGrath, Minto, Nenana, Nikolai, Northway, Nulato, Ruby, Shageluk, Tok Native Associa-

tion, Tanacross, Tanana, Tetlin, and Venetie.

You can find the application here: <https://www.tananachiefs.org/services/youth/youth-jobs/>

Scan here for Rural Application



Opportunities for Teens in Fairbanks

The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center is hiring for the summer and we are looking for Alaska Native youth to join our team.

We invite youth, between 14 and 21 and enrolled to a TCC region tribe, to apply for one of the following positions:

- **2 Tour Guides** – If you enjoy talking with people, sharing stories, and representing your culture, this is a great fit.

- **1 Groundskeeper** – Perfect for someone who likes working outdoors and helping keep our grounds looking beautiful (must be 18-21 years of age).

These are paid summer positions that offer real job experience, supportive mentors, and a chance to work in a place that celebrates Alaska Native culture every day.

Please look on the TCC Job board for more information: <https://www.tananachiefs.org/careers/>

Scan here for Fairbanks Jobs





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!

TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL

EMPLOYMENT

Opportunities



JOIN OUR TEAM:

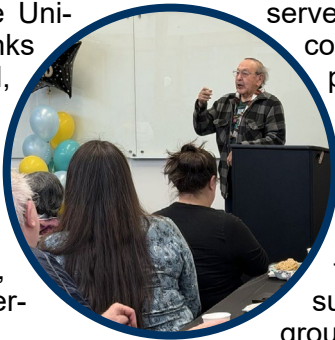
- Executive Director
- Executive Assistant

- Wellness Coordinator
- 2 Maintenance positions

CALL: (907)366-7160 FOR AN APPLICATION OR EMAIL receptionist@tananatribe.org

TCC Celebrates Maurice McGinty's Meritorious Service Award

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) proudly celebrates Maurice "Morris" McGinty for receiving the University of Alaska Fairbanks Meritorious Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have provided significant service to Alaska communities and to the university through public service, education, volunteerism, and leadership.



For decades, Morris has been a respected leader, educator, mentor, and advocate throughout the Interior. His lifelong commitment to education, Tribal leadership, and the well-being of future generations has made a lasting impact across our region.

Born in a winter camp near Kaiyuh and raised by his grandparents in Nulato, Morris has always remained deeply connected to his community, culture, and values. After serving in the Army, he used the GI Bill to continue his education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, earning degrees in elementary education and educational leadership.

Throughout his career with the Yukon-Koyukuk School District, Morris served as a teacher, guidance counselor, basketball coach, principal, and school board member. In every role, he emphasized the importance of cultural identity, community involvement, and creating opportunities for young people to succeed while remaining grounded in who they are.

His leadership extends beyond education. Morris has served as Second Chief of the Nulato Tribal Council and has contributed to numerous efforts focused on Tribal self-determination, community wellness, and strengthening opportunities for Alaska Native people.

Morris's dedication to preserving culture and uplifting communities has influenced generations of students, families, and leaders throughout the region. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Morris on this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his many years of service to our communities.



Celebrating the End of the Head Start School Year



Another Head Start school year has come to an end. Four communities across our region hosted graduations for their 3–5-year-old students: Huslia had 10 graduates, Tok had 11, 3–5-year-olds, and Tetlin had 1. Congratulations to our littlest learners! We can't wait to see where your education takes you next.

Northway and Huslia staff worked with families to sew dresses and vests for the graduates. Tribal Social Services (TSS) partnered with Head Start to provide the materials for regalia making. Many people in both communities came together to help sew for the children. Mahsi' choo to everyone who contributed to this special effort!

Congratulating Our Staff

The program also has one staff member who earned her Associates of Applied Science (A.A.S) in Rural Human Services in May 2026: Tanya Yatlin. Tanya (Tonz) is a Huslia Tribal member that lives in Fairbanks and works as one of the Head Start Family Advocates.

Tanya has worked for the program since 2014, and for TCC in some capacity for 22 years. Through her time in the program, she has worked as a Family Visitor in Huslia, Data Entry Technician, and a Family Advocate since 2024. The program is proud of her and her dedication to her education.

Tanya is continuing her education and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Child Development & Family Studies.

Enrollment is Now Open!

The program is now accepting applications for the fall 2026 school year. You can contact your local Head Start educator or your Family Advocate to enroll.

- Bev Madros (Tanana, Nenana) 907-452-8251 x3175
- Tanya Yatlin (McGrath, Huslia, Nulato) 907-452-8251 x3469
- Tonya Omta (Tok, Tetlin, Northway) 907-388-7827

TCC Welcomes Karen Sitton as New Chief Financial Officer

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is pleased to announce the selection of Karen Sitton as the organization's new Chief Financial Officer.

Karen brings more than 30 years of leadership experience in accounting, finance, and organizational management. Throughout her career, she has served in key financial and administrative roles with organizations including Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, Doyon, Limited, Fairbanks Resource Agency, and Calista Corporation.

A Koyukon Athabascan Tribal member from Loudon, Karen brings a strong understanding of Alaska Native



organizations and the unique needs of the communities they serve.

Her experience, leadership, and commitment to service closely reflect TCC's mission, vision, and values.

As Chief Financial Officer, Karen will help guide the organization's financial operations and support TCC's ongoing work to strengthen programs and services for Tribal members and communities across the region.

TCC is honored to welcome Karen into this important leadership role as we continue working toward our shared vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.



Chief Hildebrand Testifies at YRITFC

Last month, Chief and Chairman Sharon Hildebrand provided testimony during the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission meeting, where she shared Tanana Chiefs Conference's role in ongoing efforts to protect Yukon River salmon and support the subsistence needs of Tribal communities across the region.

Seeking Volunteers and Elders for This Year's Elders Day of Caring

On Monday, July 13, community organizations across Fairbanks are coming together to support Alaska Native Elders through the annual Elders Day of Caring.

Hosted in partnership by Tanana Chiefs Conference, Denakkanaaga, Interior Regional Housing Authority, Doyon, Limited, Fairbanks Native Association, and other community partners, this special event brings volunteers together to help Elders with household projects, outdoor work, technology assistance, safety improvements, and more.

Together, we can honor the generations who came before us through hands-on acts of service that strengthen our communities.

How the Program Works

Selected Elders may receive assistance with up to two household projects or tasks. Volunteer teams from local businesses, organizations, and the community will be matched with Elders throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough for the day of service.

Examples of assistance may include:

- Yard work and outdoor cleanup
- Painting and minor household projects
- Technology and IT help

- Organizing or cleaning assistance
- Installing or improving safety items
- Other small household support projects

Please note that volunteers are unable to provide:

- Medical care
- Financial management services
- Pet care services

Request Assistance for an Elder

To apply for assistance through the Elders Day of Caring program, individuals must:

- Be 65 years of age or older
- Be a TCC beneficiary and/or Doyon shareholder
- Reside within the Fairbanks North Star Borough

Applications will be accepted through a lottery-based selection process.

To allow us to serve as many Elders as possible, individuals selected for a project last year will not be eligible this year.

Application Deadline: Friday, June 12 at midnight.

Volunteer for this Program

Businesses, organizations, families, and community members are encour-

aged to volunteer and help give back to Alaska Native Elders in our community.

Volunteer teams may assist with projects such as:

- Yard work
- Painting
- Home cleaning
- Technology assistance
- Safety improvements
- General household support

Volunteers may sign up for:

- 2-hour projects
- 4-hour projects
- 6-hour projects

Volunteer Registration Deadline: Friday, June 12 at midnight.



Scan to learn more and sign up:



www.tananachiefs.org/elders-day-of-caring/

TCC Leadership Visits Tanacross, Tok, and Northway

In May, Chief Sharon Hildebrand and Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) staff traveled to Tanacross, Tok, and Northway to meet with Tribal leadership, community members, and local partners to learn more about the priorities and concerns impacting the Upper Tanana region.

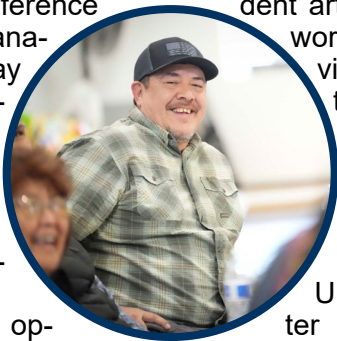
The visits provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, listen to community voices, and better understand the needs and goals of each community. Discussions throughout the trip covered a wide range of topics, including behavioral health and substance use treatment, Elder care and housing, patient travel, public safety, housing needs, cost of living challenges, and the importance of supporting cultural and community events in the villages.

During the visit, Chief Hildebrand also stopped at Walter Northway School, where she met with Head

Start students and supported the student art show by purchasing artwork created by students. The visit highlighted the creativity and talent of local youth while celebrating the importance of education and cultural expression within the community.

TCC staff also toured the Upper Tanana Health Center to meet with employees and learn more about the work being done to provide healthcare services to residents across the subregion.

TCC extends its gratitude to the communities of Tanacross, Tok, and Northway for their warm welcome and for sharing their experiences, ideas, and priorities. These visits continue to play an important role in helping TCC work alongside Tribes to support community-driven goals, strengthen services, and advance the well-being of communities across the region.



TCC Warns Federal Land Transfer Puts Interior Alaska Lands, Wildlife, and Subsistence at Risk

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is expressing concern following the U.S. Department of the Interior's announcement transferring significant acreage within the Dalton Utility Corridor to the State of Alaska after the revocation of Public Land Orders (PLO) 5150 and 5180. TCC warns the transfer places important subsistence lands, wildlife habitat, and culturally significant areas at increased risk and is calling for meaningful Tribal consultation as future decisions regarding these lands move forward.

The Department of the Interior has described the transfer as part of Alaska's Statehood Act land entitlement process and as an opportunity to expand energy and resource development across the region. TCC, however, cautions that the decision could have long-term consequences for Tribal communities throughout Interior Alaska.

"For our Tribes, these lands are not just acreage on a map," said Chief/Chairman Sharon Hildebrand. "These are our ancestral homelands. They are places where our people have hunted, fished, gathered, traveled, and passed down our ways of life for generations. When protections are removed and development pressures increase, it puts the lands, wildlife,

and subsistence resources our communities rely on at risk."

The transfer follows the Department's revocation of PLO 5150 and 5180, which for decades limited development in portions of the corridor and helped safeguard important wildlife habitat, subsistence use areas, and cultural sites. With the transition from federal to state ownership, large portions of these lands will no longer be subject to the federal rural subsistence priority under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

"This decision changes how these lands may be managed in the future," said Chief Hildebrand. "Our Tribes must not be left out of those conversations. Tribal consultation cannot be treated as an afterthought when decisions have the potential to impact our lands, our waters, our wildlife, and our people. Contacting Tribal leadership the evening before a major federal announcement is not meaningful consultation. Our Tribes deserve to be engaged early, respectfully, and as true partners in decisions that impact our homelands and ways of life."

TCC also expressed concern over the Department's emphasis on oil, gas, mining, and infrastructure development as a primary justification for the transfer. Federal officials have

pointed to the corridor's development potential, including areas connected to major pipeline, mining, and road proposals. TCC warns that large-scale industrial activity, if not carefully constrained, could disrupt wildlife migration patterns, damage habitat, impact water quality, and threaten subsistence harvests relied upon by rural communities across the Interior.

"Our people have always understood the responsibility that comes with caring for the land," said Chief Hildebrand. "We know these ecosystems are connected. What impacts the land impacts the wildlife, and what impacts the wildlife impacts our communities. Development cannot move forward without recognizing that responsibility and without listening to the people who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial."

TCC is urging the State of Alaska and federal agencies to ensure Tribal governments are meaningfully involved in future decisions affecting the corridor and surrounding lands. The organization says it will continue working closely with its member Tribes to advocate for the protection of subsistence resources, cultural sites, and Tribal sovereignty.

"Our communities deserve a future where our voices are heard and our ways of life are protected," said Chief Hildebrand. "We will continue standing together to protect these lands for the generations who come after us."

Hunting & Fishing Advocacy Virtual Workshops

Yukon Flats Management Structure Overview

Friday, June 5, 2026

11:45am - 1:15pm

<https://tinyurl.com/bddv95j2>

Upper Tanana Management Structure Overview

Friday, June 19, 2026

2:00pm - 3:30pm

<https://tinyurl.com/2fsuwask>

State Disaster Assistance Available as TCC Coordinates Flood Relief Efforts Across the Interior

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is continuing to closely monitor the ongoing flooding impacts affecting communities across the Interior following spring breakup and ice jam flooding in the communities of Hughes and Chalkyitsik.

On May 11, Governor Mike Dunleavy issued a State Disaster Declaration in response to the flooding. The declaration activates the State of Alaska's Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Temporary Housing Recovery Programs to help support impacted families, communities, Tribal organizations, and local infrastructure recovery efforts. Registration for the State of Alaska Individual Assistance Program for the 2026 **Spring Flood Disaster is now open from May 11 through July 11, 2026.**

"TCC has been actively monitoring the flooding situation, working closely with state and local agencies, and coordinating directly with our Tribal leaders to help ensure our communities have the support they need during this difficult time," said Chief/Chairman Sharon Hildebrand of Tanana Chiefs Conference. "Our hearts are with the families and communities im-

acted by these floods. Spring breakup can bring so much uncertainty and fear for our villages, especially for those watching the water rise around their homes, schools, and community buildings. We continue to keep the people of Hughes, Chalkyitsik, and all communities across the Interior in our prayers as the ice continues to move. TCC stands ready to support our Tribal communities however we can."

TCC has been coordinating alongside local leadership, emergency response agencies, and community partners as flood response efforts continue. According to the State Emergency Operations Center, flooding in Hughes impacted homes, the school, and community infrastructure, while flooding in Chalkyitsik affected homes and low-lying areas after rapid water rises caused by ice jams.

As breakup conditions continue across the Interior, TCC is also monitoring flood conditions and watches in several additional communities. Recent reports include flooding concerns in Stevens Village, flood watches for Galena and Fort Yukon, flood advisories for Ruby, and continued monitoring in Hughes as water levels begin

to recede following reports that the ice jam has released. Communities along the Yukon River and surrounding waterways are continuing to closely watch river conditions as breakup progresses.

Community members looking for additional flood preparedness, safety, recovery information, or disaster assistance registration can visit:

- State of Alaska Individual Assistance Registration: <https://ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA>
- TCC Flood Preparedness Information: <https://www.tananachiefs.org/flood-preparedness/>
- Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management: <https://ready.alaska.gov/>
- National Weather Service Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center: <https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/>

As additional communities across Alaska experience flooding during spring breakup, those wishing to support disaster relief efforts across the state can donate through the American Red Cross of Alaska at: www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html

TCC Achieves Highest Bond Rating in Organization's History

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is proud to announce that Fitch Ratings has upgraded Tanana Chiefs Conference's bond rating to AA-, an increase from the A+ rating TCC has maintained over the past several years. Fitch also assigned TCC a Stable Outlook, reflecting confidence in the organization's long-term financial strength and sustainability.

An AA- rating is considered a high-grade investment rating and reflects a very strong capacity to meet financial commitments with low credit risk. This means that TCC is in a strong financial position to continue investing in healthcare, programs, infrastructure, and services across the region for years to come. The upgraded rating also helps TCC secure funding and financing at more favorable rates, helping stretch resources further for the Tribes and communities we serve.

"This rating demonstrates TCC's commitment to fiscal excellence and our responsibility to make thoughtful, sustainable decisions for the future of our organization and our people," said Chief/Chairman Sharon Hildebrand. "It reflects the hard work of our leadership, staff, and Executive Board in ensuring TCC remains strong and stable for generations to come."

The upgraded rating positions TCC among financially resilient and well-managed organizations and supports the organization's ability to continue long-term investments that benefit the health and wellbeing of Interior Alaska communities.

Chief Pitka Visits Juneau with Alaska Regional Coalition

Last month, TCC Vice President Rhonda Pitka traveled to Juneau as part of the Alaska Regional Coalition (ARC) to meet with state lawmakers and advocate for issues impacting rural Alaska communities.

Chief Pitka shared the importance of supporting rural schools, protecting the Power Cost Equalization program, strengthening behavioral health services, and ensuring rural communities have access to essential services and infrastructure. The group also advocated for full funding of the Village Public Safety Officer program and continued support for Tribal involvement in education through the State-Tribal Education Compact process.

The visit highlighted the importance of ensuring rural and Alaska Native voices are represented in state policy discussions and budget decisions.



Building Stronger Partnerships Through the Alaska Native Roundtable

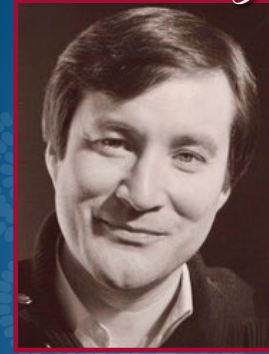
Chief Sharon Hildebrand continues to participate in the Alaska Native Roundtable meetings alongside partner organizations including the Fairbanks Native Association, Doyon, Limited, Denakkanaaga, and Interior Regional Housing Authority, as well as representatives from the City of Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and Fairbanks Police Department.

The Alaska Native Roundtable meetings provide an important opportunity to share information, strengthen partnerships, coordinate efforts, and foster collaboration between local governments and the Native community.

In May, Tanana Chiefs Conference hosted the Roundtable meeting, with hosting responsibilities rotating among participating organizations throughout the year. In June, Denakkanaaga will host the meeting.



*John C. Sackett
Bedok'edneyh*



Memorial Potlatch

June 25-27, 2026

Huslia, Alaska

For information, contact:

Mabel Vent: 907-322-4274

Agnes Sweetsir: 907-656-7449

Cynthia Erickson: 907-750-9123

Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation

Disability Employment Services

Services for enrolled Tribal members aged 18 to 64 years in all subregions who have trouble getting or keeping a job or being productive in subsistence activities.

Serving People Who Experience Permanent Disabilities, Including:

- Recently graduated students in special education • Veterans
- Learning disabilities • Amputation • Diabetes • Head injuries • Hearing impairments • Mental Illness • Orthopedic problems • Seizure disorders • Speech problems • Spinal problems • Visual impairments
- Intellectual development disabilities • Alcohol & Substance Use Recovery

Services Provided for Employment Outcomes:

- Intake/initial assessment • Individual employment counseling & guidance/case management • Assistance for subsistence, self-employment, competitive jobs • On-the-job training, tutoring, mentoring • Licenses, equipment, supplies & tools
- REFERRALS for independent living services, recreational opportunities, suitable job placement, assistive devices such as artificial limbs, hearing aids, wheelchairs, medical & psychiatric services, etc. as funds are available.

**For more information,
please contact:**



Amanda Race, MA, CRC
TVR Coordinator/Counselor



Samantha Hoskins, BA
Counselor/Case Manager

PHONE: 907-452-8251, ext. 5891

FAX: 907-459-3883

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Tanana
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The Council Newsletter

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



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FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Fairbanks | Director of Tribal Priority Advancement |
| Fairbanks | Youth Chaperone |
| Fairbanks | Physician - Women's Health |
| Fairbanks | Youth Tour Guide |
| Fairbanks | Pharmacy Technician III |
| Fairbanks | Diabetes & WIC Program Manager |
| Fairbanks | Administrative Assistant I - Learning & Development OJT |
| Fairbanks | Addictions RN |
| Fairbanks | Residential Support Technician |
| Fairbanks | Addictions Counselor I |
| Fairbanks | Infrastructure Division Grant and Office Manager |
| Fairbanks | Program Manager - Graf Rheeneerhaanjii |
| Fairbanks | Lead Addictions Counselor |
| Fairbanks | Fund Accountant I |
| Fairbanks | Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator |
| Fairbanks | Release of Information (ROI) Specialist I |
| Fairbanks | Perioperative Nurse II - ASC |
| Fairbanks | Perioperative Nurse I - ASC |
| Fairbanks | Lead Certified Medical Assistant |
| Fairbanks | Village Bookkeeper I |
| Fairbanks | Facilities Program Support Coordinator |
| Fairbanks | Senior Compliance Specialist |
| Fairbanks | Emplanelment Specialist |
| Galena | ENHC Operations Technician I |
| Manley | Community Health Aide/Practitioner |
| McGrath | Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor |
| Region-Wide | CHAP - Clinical Support Specialist |
| Rural Villages | Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant |
| Tok | Security Officer 1 |
| Tok | Behavior Health Aide Trainee |
| Tok | Facilities Technician |



Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

Visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see a full list of open positions and learn more about the benefits available through Tanana Chiefs Conference.

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF MAY 14, 2026

**NEED TO
TALK?**

Help is just three
digits away.

988

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



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUN
2-4**

Denakkanaaga Annual Meeting
Fort Yukon, AK

**JUN
14-17**

NCAI Mid-Year
Memphis, TN | Renasant Convention Center
www.ncai.org/event/2026-mid-year-convention-and-marketplace

**JUN
19**

TCC Offices Closed
Juneteenth

**JUN
19-21**

Emerging Leaders Youth Summit
Fairbanks, AK | Registration required.
www.tananachiefs.org/events/emerging-leaders-youth-summit/

**JUN
22-24**

TCC Partner's Trip
Taktotna • McGrath • Nikolai

**JUN
26**

TCC Staff Event
Limited Services Available 10:00am - 5:00pm