



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 51 No. 3 • March 2026

TCC's 2026 Keynote Speakers Second Traditional Chief Andy Jimmie & Dr. Jessica Black



Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is honored to welcome Second Traditional Chief Andy Jimmie and Dr. Jessica Black as keynote speakers for the 2026 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting. Together, they bring decades of leadership and deep cultural grounding to a shared keynote address.

Second Traditional Chief Andy Jimmie: A Lifetime of Leadership

Raised in the village of Minto, Andy Jimmie has long been recognized as one of the TCC region's most re-

spected leaders. A Tribal citizen, former Chief of Minto, and the Second Traditional Chief of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Andy has dedicated his life to advancing services, infrastructure, and opportunities for Alaska Native people across our region and the state.

Andy's leadership spans decades and includes critical roles that have shaped the Alaska Tribal Health System. He has served on the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and the TCC Executive Health Board. He has also represented TCC on the Alaska Native Tribal Health Con-

sortium (ANTHC) Board of Directors. Beyond healthcare, Andy has served his people through positions on the Doyon, Limited Board and the Minto Village Council.

Beginning in 1991, Andy served as Chairman of the TCC Regional Health Board, where he played a key role in advancing Tribal Self-Determination in healthcare. His work helped create the Alaska Tribal Health Compact and supported the transition of health programs from federal to Tribal management—an effort that strengthened community control and improved the delivery of services throughout Alaska.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.



**2026 TCC ANNUAL CONVENTION &
FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**MARCH 9-12, 2026 • 8:00AM - 5:00PM
8 STAR CONVENTION CENTER**

TANACHIEFS.ORG/CONVENTION2026



IN THIS ISSUE...

- PAGE 3:** Federal Subsistence Comment Period Extended
- PAGE 4:** Federal Land Revocation - A Risk to Tribes
- PAGE 6:** Economic Impact Study
- PAGE 8:** Driving Change in Fisheries Management
- PAGE 10:** 2026 Convention Agenda



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
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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



Letter from the Chief

Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Members,

March is here, and with it comes one of my favorite times of the year — our Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone in Fairbanks and spending time visiting with our communities.

This year is also personal for me, as my position is up for re-election. I want to sincerely thank you for allowing me to serve our Tribes over these past years. It has truly been one of the greatest honors of my life. I never take that responsibility lightly, and I remain committed to continuing this work together on behalf of our people.

Convention is always a time to come together, learn from one another, and talk about where we are headed as a region. I am especially excited to share that Second Traditional Chief Andy Jimmie and Dr. Jessica Black will be our keynote speakers this year. Both bring incredible knowledge and experience, particularly in healthcare and community wellness. I am grateful they agreed to join us, and I know our attendees will really value what they have to share.

In February, I spent much of my time in Anchorage attending meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I stood alongside many Tribal leaders, fishermen, Elders, and advocates from across the state as we continued speaking up for Yukon River salmon. Our families have gone through years of closures and empty smokehouses, so it was important that our voices were heard.

I am happy to share that both meetings resulted in positive steps forward. The Council adopted new federal measures to reduce Western Alaska chum salmon bycatch and improve reporting to Tribes. The Board of Fisheries also placed new limits on the Area M commercial fishery and returned management responsibility to the Department of Fish and Game.

These actions will not fix everything overnight, but they are steps toward better conservation and more balanced management of our salmon. I want to thank everyone who traveled, testified, wrote comments, and stood with us throughout this process. Your voices mattered and helped move this work forward.

I look forward to gathering together at Convention to continue these conversations, share updates, and set our priorities for the coming year. Our strength has always come from working together — across communities and across generations — to protect our people, our culture, and our way of life.

Mahsi' Choo,
Chief Brian Ridley
Tanana Chiefs Conference



MISSING



Lorraine
Ginnis



Willis
Derendoff



Doren
Sanford



Debbie
Nictune



Frank
Minano



Craig
Albert

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Text AKTIPS followed by your tip to
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<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.

Federal Subsistence Review Comment Period Extended to March 30, 2026

The federal government has extended the public comment period for the review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program (FSMP) to **March 30, 2026**. This review will help determine how subsistence hunting and fishing are managed on federal public lands in Alaska and may affect long-standing protections for rural subsistence users.



The review was opened following a petition requesting significant changes to federal subsistence regulations. Among the proposed changes are removing public and Tribally-nominated seats on the Federal Subsistence Board and requiring federal management to defer to the State when setting harvest regulations. Under federal law, rural residents currently receive a subsistence priority on federal lands. The State of Alaska cannot legally guarantee this same rural preference. Because of this, potential changes could directly affect how regulations are developed

and how rural communities access fish, game, and traditional foods.

For decades, Tribal leaders and rural residents have worked to improve Tribal consultation and participation in federal subsistence decision-making. Those efforts resulted in greater Alaska Native representation and a stronger role for communities in shaping harvest regulations. This review could influence whether those processes remain in place.

For Interior Alaska communities, subsistence is more than a harvest activity. It supports food security, cultural identity, health, and intergenerational knowledge. Sharing personal experiences and perspectives during this public comment period helps ensure federal decision-makers understand how these policies affect daily life in our villages and communities.

Tanana Chiefs Conference encourages Tribal members, rural residents, and partners to submit comments and make their voices part of the official

record.

Submit a public comment:

If you have questions or would like assistance preparing your comment, please contact the Tribal Resource Stewardship Program at TRSP@tananachiefs.org. TCC has also developed a comment toolkit to help community members participate quickly and easily.

Every comment submitted helps demonstrate the importance of protecting subsistence for current and future generations.

Scan here to
make a comment



<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/12/15/2025-22837/program-review-subsistence-management-for-public-lands-in-alaska#open-comment>

Project Winter Connect Brought Community Resources Together in Fairbanks

On January 27, 2026, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) partnered with service providers from across Fairbanks for Project Winter Connect to support individuals and families needing extra assistance during the harsh winter months.

By bringing multiple organizations into one central, accessible location, Project Winter Connect reduced barriers and made it easier for residents to connect with the help they needed. Attendees were able to access a broad range of free services, including:

- Housing assistance

- Help obtaining identification
- SNAP enrollment support
- Clothing vouchers
- Disability, veteran, and senior services
- Wellness and public health resources

Participants also received health screenings, wound and foot care, and Narcan, along with haircuts and a warm lunch. This event created a welcoming environment that addressed both immediate needs and long-term well-being.

The event showcased the strength



of local partnerships, highlighting how agencies and organizations in Fairbanks work together to promote health, safety, and stability during the most challenging time of year. Project Winter Connect served as a reminder that community care is powerful—and that no one in Fairbanks has to face winter's challenges alone.





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During the 2000s, Andy's leadership contributed to the construction of essential infrastructure: water and sewer systems, improved road access, new health clinics, and critical public health programs. He was also instrumental in advancing the Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) Program, now nationally recognized as a model for expanding oral healthcare in rural communities.

Today, Andy continues to work tirelessly to expand services for substance use treatment, mental health care, elder supports, and water and sewer solutions for Alaska's most remote communities. His humility, resourcefulness, and ability to bring people together reflect values that continue to guide and inspire leaders across the region.

Dr. Jessica Black: Strengthening Well-Being Through Scholarship and Stewardship

Dr. Jessica Black is Gwich'in from the villages of Gwichyaa Zhee (Fort

Yukon) and Toghotthele (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 Yedha' 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.

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.

Federal Land Revocation is a Serious Risk to Tribal Communities

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) strongly opposes the decision by the U.S. Department of the Interior to revoke Public Land Orders 5150 and 5180, opening approximately 2.1 million acres of land north of the Yukon River in the Dalton Utility Corridor to state selection, mining, and industrial development.

For decades, these federal withdrawals protected lands relied upon by Tribal members for hunting, trapping, fishing, and the protection of cultural sites. As these lands move out of federal management, large portions will no longer be eligible for the federal rural subsistence priority under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

"This decision opens the door to development that puts our lands, animals, waters, and subsistence resources at real risk," said Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley. "For our communities, these are not remote acres on a map. These are the places where our families hunt, fish, and gather to

feed our people. Protecting these resources is critical to our food security, our culture, and our future."

The Bureau of Land Management has acknowledged the action has the potential to adversely affect historic and cultural properties. TCC is concerned the decision moves forward despite unresolved Tribal concerns regarding subsistence access, cultural sites, and traditional land use.

"Our people have stewarded these lands since time immemorial," Ridley said. "The federal government has a trust responsibility to Tribes. When decisions of this magnitude are made without fully addressing Tribal concerns, the risks are carried by our communities and by the next generation."

The revocation clears the way for approximately 2.1 acres to transfer toward State ownership and opens the area to entry under public land and mining laws. TCC believes this action could significantly impact wildlife habitat, migration patterns, water quality,

and long-standing subsistence harvest areas across Interior Alaska.

TCC supports responsible development, but it must occur in a way that protects subsistence resources and respects Tribal sovereignty and cultural survival. TCC will continue working with Tribes, agencies, and partners to closely monitor implementation of this decision and to advocate for protection of traditional use areas and cultural resources moving forward.

**Scan here for the official
release from the U.S.
Department of the Interior**



[https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/
department-interior-opens-21-
million-acres-alaskas-dalton-corridor](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/department-interior-opens-21-million-acres-alaskas-dalton-corridor)

Colon Cancer: Preventable, Treatable & Beatable

By Dr. Jenny Lessner, TCC Physician

Let's talk about something we all have in common... poop. Yep. Butts, bowels, bathroom habits—the whole glamorous package. If you're already cringing, stay with me, because this conversation can literally save lives.

Colon cancer is cancer of the large intestine (also called the colon). Your colon is about 6 feet long, and its job is to take the food you eat, absorb what your body needs, and turn the rest into—you guessed it—poop. The rectum is the last 8–10 inches of the colon, and it's the last stop before poop exits the body through the anus. Not exactly captivating, but very important.

Sometimes small growths called polyps form in the colon or rectum. Most polyps are harmless, but some can turn into cancer over time. The good news? During a colonoscopy, we find and remove polyps *before* they become cancer. That's prevention in action.

And here's the most important message of all: **Colon cancer is very preventable and very treatable when caught early.**

For all Alaska Native men and women, regular colon cancer screening should begin at age 40. You may have a higher risk of colon cancer if someone in your family has had colon can-

cer or polyps—so it's important to talk with your relatives, learn your family history, and then make sure your healthcare provider knows it.

Now, I get it. Talking about poop and butts can feel awkward.

We're taught from a young age that bathroom talk is... well, *private*. But I promise you, as doctors, we talk about poop every single day. It's truly no big deal for us—and I would much rather talk about poop all day long than miss or delay one single diagnosis of a cancer.

If it helps, bring this article to your next appointment—on your phone or in print—and use it as your reminder to ask, "Am I due for colon cancer screening?" Ask your family and friends if they've been screened. Let's make this a normal, everyday part of staying healthy—like brushing your teeth, drinking water, or going for a walk.

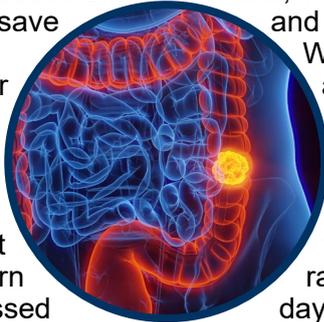
So yes, we're talking about butts. And yes, we're talking about poop. But what we're really talking about is prevention, early diagnosis, and saving lives.

Colon cancer is preventable.

Colon cancer is treatable.

Colon cancer is beatable.

Let's talk about it—and then let's prevent it.



Public Notice Regarding Filming, Photography, and Media Presence at Heeyo (Stickdance)

By The 2026 Heeyo Committee / Elders / Cultural Leaders

We respectfully inform the public that **no filming, photography, or recording of any kind is permitted during our sacred Heeyo (Stickdance).**

This Heeyo (Stickdance) holds deep cultural, spiritual, and ancestral significance. The power and sacredness surrounding it should be acknowledged and respected. Recording or documenting the ceremony disrupts its spiritual integrity and goes against the cultural protocols established by our people/ancestors.

We also wish to clearly state that **no film crews, media representatives, or outside recording parties have been invited or granted permission to attend this Heeyo (Stickdance).** Our Elders have never allowed filming or media presence at our sacred Heeyo (Stickdance), and we must continue to follow their guidance and teachings today.

We ask all attendees and observers to honor these long-standing traditions by being fully present, listening, and witnessing with respect. Upholding these protocols helps protect the ceremony as a sacred space and ensures that it remains intact for future generations.

Thank you for respecting our Elders, our traditions, and the sacred nature of this ceremony.

FAFSA: More Than Just Student Loans

Many families believe that completing the **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** automatically means taking out student loans. This is a common misconception — and it's important to know that **FAFSA is not just for loans.**

While some students may not qualify for the **Federal Pell Grant** due to household income, submitting the FAFSA is still strongly encouraged. The FAFSA is often required to determine eligibility for **other types of financial support**, including:

- State and Tribal grants
- College or program-specific grants
- Scholarships that require a FAFSA on file
- Work-study opportunities
- Additional educational funding resources

Completing the FAFSA does **not** obligate students or families to accept loans. Any loan offers that appear after submission can always be declined.

By completing the FAFSA, students ensure they are considered for **all available funding opportunities**, not just need-based aid. Filing the FAFSA helps colleges and programs build a full financial picture and connect students with resources they may otherwise miss.

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Interior Native Organizations Economic Impact Study

Why Tribes Are Being Asked to Participate

The Interior Native Organizations Economic Impact Study is a collaborative effort led by multiple Interior partners, including Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon, Limited, Fairbanks Native Association, Interior Regional Housing Authority, and Denakkanaaga, in partnership with Information Insights.

This study focuses on the economic contributions of Interior Alaska Tribes, regional and village corporations, and Native organizations. Its purpose is to ensure that the economic role of Interior Native Organizations is accurately documented using information provided directly by Tribes and Native entities.

Interior Tribes and organizations have participated in economic impact studies in the past, including a previous Interior-focused study conducted in 2018. Since that time, significant shifts in funding, service delivery, and community priorities have changed

how Tribal governments and Native organizations operate. **Updated data is needed to reflect the current conditions across the Interior.**



Why This Matters

Economic impact data is often used to inform funding decisions, policy discussions, and planning efforts at the state and federal levels. When Interior Tribal data is outdated or incomplete, the full extent of Tribal contributions is not visible.

This study will help:

- Document jobs, payroll, and spending generated by Interior Native Organizations
- Show how Tribal governments and programs support local, regional, and state economies
- Ensure Interior Tribal activity is accurately represented in reports and discussions
- Provide data that Tribes and organizations can reference for planning and funding purposes

This work is not an evaluation of individual Tribes or programs. It is a

collective effort to ensure Interior Native Organizations are counted and represented based on real, current information.

What We Are Asking

The project team will be seeking data from Interior Tribes and Native organizations between now and May. Tribes will be contacted to share information on employment, spending, and operations. The process is designed to minimize burden and respect existing capacity.

Your Tribe's participation ensures this study reflects real conditions on the ground rather than assumptions or outdated data.

Questions

If you have questions about the study or your organization's participation, please contact [Information Insights](#) project lead(s):

Jamie Hansen and Charlene Ostbloom at econ@iialaska.com.

We appreciate the time and effort Interior Tribes and Native organizations contribute to this work and look forward to working together on this important study.

Smart Snacking & Meal Timing: A Guide to Better Energy and Better Health

By Katie Garrity, RD, TCC Diabetes & WIC Program Manager

In the rhythm of busy workdays, school schedules, and afterhours activities, nutrition often becomes an afterthought. Yet the way we snack—and when we snack—can make a meaningful difference in our energy levels, focus, and overall wellbeing. Smart snacking isn't about restriction; it's about choosing foods that nourish, satisfy, and support your body throughout the day.

This guide outlines the purpose of healthy snacks, how to evaluate hunger, practical timing recommendations, and easy snack ideas for both everyday life and exercise-heavy schedules.

Why Snacks Matter

Snacks play an important role between meals by helping to:

- Maintain energy levels throughout the day
- Improve focus at work or school

- Support performance during physical activity

- Prevent overeating at mealtimes
While a meal typically includes multiple food groups and is more substantial, a snack usually falls around 150–250 calories and serves as a small, purposeful refuel.

Snack Ideas: Protein + Fiber for Lasting Satisfaction

Combining protein and fiber helps keep you full longer and provides steady energy. Here are some simple snack ideas:

Morning

- Yogurt with blueberries
- Apple slices with peanut butter
- Avocado on toast

Afternoon

- Carrots with hummus
- A handful of nuts with a mandarin orange

Post-Dinner

- Graham cracker with 1 tablespoon of nut butter and a sprinkle of chocolate chips
- “Nice cream” (½ frozen banana blended with yogurt or dairyfree milk and mango or strawberries; add nut butter or cocoa powder for variety)

Starting the day with food helps stabilize energy levels and supports better nutrient intake.

Scan to read the full article





Circle of Protection: The Public Safety Dispatch

Standing Strong Together: Preventing Bullying in Our Rural Communities

By David Atteberry, TCC Public Safety Manager

Bullying is not always loud. Sometimes it shows up quietly in a harsh comment, in someone being excluded, or in repeated teasing that goes too far. In our rural communities, where everyone knows one another and our connections run deep, bullying can have lasting impacts on a person's wellbeing, safety, and sense of belonging. But the strength of our communities has always come from unity, respect, and looking out for one another. That same strength can help us prevent bullying and support those who may be struggling.



In many of our communities, children grow up surrounded by extended family, Elders, and neighbors who help guide them. Yet even in close knit places, youth face challenges such as social media pressure, stress at home, cultural misunderstandings, or simply growing up in a world that is changing quickly. These pressures sometimes come out sideways. Teasing becomes hurtful, disagreements turn into exclusion, or conflicts escalate into physical or emotional intimidation.

Bullying is not just about kids being kids. It can affect anyone, including

youth, adults, new residents, or individuals who feel different or isolated. It harms confidence, increases anxiety, and in some cases contributes to depression or self harm. The good news is that our communities have the tools to stop bullying early. We have always valued respect, cooperation, and helping each other through hardships. By reinforcing these values, we can create safer and healthier spaces for everyone.

One of the most important steps is to speak up early. When someone is targeted, they often feel alone or unsure of how to respond. A simple check in from a friend, family member, or trusted adult can make a huge difference: "I saw what happened. Are you okay?" or "You don't deserve to be treated that way." This kind of support helps break the silence around bullying and reminds people that they are valued.

Adults such as parents, grandparents, teachers, Tribal leaders, and Public Safety Officers also play a key role. Modeling calm communication, showing young people how to resolve conflict without aggression, and reminding them that their words carry

weight are powerful teaching tools. When youth see adults managing stress, disagreements, and transitions respectfully, they learn to do the same.

In our communities, we also have the advantage of strong cultural traditions that teach kindness, responsibility, and humility. Talking with Elders about how conflicts were handled in the past can help youth see that cooperation and respect are long standing values. Storytelling, cultural activities, and time on the land can help young people reconnect with identity and build confidence, which are important protective factors against bullying.

If bullying does happen, it is important to respond firmly but compassionately. The goal is not just to punish, but to help everyone involved learn healthier ways of communicating. Public Safety and community leaders can work with families, schools, and Tribal Councils to address issues early and prevent escalation.

Every person in our community deserves to feel safe, respected, and supported. When we stand together, speak up for one another, and carry forward the values our Elders teach us, we build communities where bullying has no place and every person can thrive.

In Loving Memory of Nick Alexia Sr. of Nikolai

We at Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) are saddened to learn of the passing of Nick Alexia Sr. of Nikolai.

Nick previously served on the TCC Executive Board of directors for many years as the Upper Kuskokwim representative and had previously served as First Chief of Nikolai. We are grateful for his leadership, guidance, and dedication to our people and communities. His voice and commitment helped shape the work we continue today, and he will be greatly missed.

Many years ago, Nick sat down with us to share his life story as part of our Legacy of Our Elders series. If you have time today, we encourage you to take a moment to watch his video and learn about his incredible legacy.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and the community of Nikolai during this difficult time.



Scan to watch
Nick's Legacy of
Our Elders video



Interior Voices Drive Change in State and Federal Fisheries Management

February was an important month for the future of Yukon River salmon. Tribal leaders, Elders, fishermen, and advocates from across the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) region traveled and testified at both the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings, sharing a unified message: salmon must be protected and the responsibility for conservation must be shared.

The most significant outcome came from the Alaska Board of Fisheries, which approved major management changes to the Area M commercial fishery intended to reduce interception of Western Alaska chum salmon before they reach the Yukon River. The Board reduced fishing opportunity in Area M by approximately 30 percent, including a reduction of 136 hours for the drift fleet and 94 hours for the seine fleet during periods when vulnerable chum salmon stocks are present.

For Yukon River communities, the decision carries real meaning. For several years, families have faced historic fishing closures as chum salmon runs declined to critical levels. Smokehouses have stood empty, Elders have lost access to traditional foods, and many households have struggled with food insecurity while working to

conserve the fish.

Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley said the decision reflects the voices of Tribal communities finally being heard.

“For several years our people have lived with empty smokehouses and uncertainty about how they will feed their families,” Ridley said. “Today’s action shows that those voices were heard, and we appreciate the Board taking meaningful steps toward protecting our salmon.”

The Board’s action moves management toward precautionary conservation measures intended to protect salmon before they ever reach the river and recognizes that Yukon River communities have already carried the burden of conservation.

“Our fishermen stopped fishing, our Elders went without, and our communities made real sacrifices to protect these salmon,” Ridley said. “This decision recognizes that conservation must be shared across all users if we want salmon to return to the river.”

Earlier in the month, Tribal leaders also participated in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Anchorage addressing chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The Council adopted new federal measures establishing a 45,000-

fish Western Alaska chum salmon bycatch limit in key migration areas and a partial corridor closure if that limit is exceeded, along with weekly bycatch reporting to Alaska Native Tribes.

This is the first in-season accountability measure tied specifically to Western Alaska chum salmon and represents a step toward placing some conservation responsibility on the offshore pollock fishery — responsibility that Interior communities have largely carried for years. Nearly 200 people testified at the meeting, including representatives from 137 federally recognized Tribes, describing the cultural, nutritional, and economic impacts of the salmon decline.

Ridley emphasized that the work is not finished. “We need more salmon reaching our rivers. We are not asking the pollock fishery to shut down — we are asking that conservation no longer fall only on Tribes.”

Together, these meetings show that sustained Tribal advocacy is making a difference. The Board of Fisheries decision marks a meaningful conservation action, and the Council’s decision signals growing recognition that Western Alaska salmon must be protected before they are intercepted at sea. While neither action alone will rebuild the runs overnight, both move Alaska closer to balanced management that protects subsistence uses and future generations.





Honoring Our Elders, Strengthening Our Communities

By Aleisha Singh, TCC Learning & Development Coordinator

The Make a Card for an Elder activity, created by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Leadership for Results Program, is a simple way to support wellness through connection. When families gather to make cards for Elders, they are doing more than art. They are sharing time, stories, and respect across generations.

We encourage community members and families to take time to create a heartfelt card for an Elder in their community. Community wellness grows when people feel seen, respected, and connected. Small acts of kindness can help heal relationships, strengthen cultural values, and remind us that we all have a role in caring for one another.

Young people learn the importance of honoring Elders. Adults show leadership through kindness. Elders feel valued and appreciated for their wis-

dom and life experience. These moments help everyone grow. When generations connect in positive ways, it builds trust, understanding, and a stronger sense of belonging.

Every card carries more than kind words. It carries respect, culture, and care.

We invite you to share a photo of your completed card with TCC, along with your contact information, to be entered into a door prize drawing. This is a small way to celebrate your participation and the love you are sharing in your community.

All entries must be entered by the 14th or April at eldercards.2026@gmail.com with the hashtag:

- #eldercards2026

Participants may give their handmade cards to a family member, a respected Elder they are close to, or an

Elder they would simply like to honor and uplift. Getting to know one another better is part of the fun. If you live in a community with Elder housing, such as Loudon or Tanana, you may also choose to share your card with an Elder there.

To make this a true community event, there will need to be a designated Point of Contact (POC) in each participating community to help coordinate the activity, manage materials, and support local involvement. We will provide community flyers to hang up, a letter to the Tribe and a check list of to-dos as well as the materials ASAP to contend with weather delays.

We will announce the winners of the drawing April 15 on TCC's main Facebook page, and winner will be contacted directly.

For more information, reach out to eldercards.2026@gmail.com

2026 Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting Agenda At-A-Glance

This agenda is tentative and represents the planned schedule as of February 25, 2026

Monday

March 9, 2026

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Annual Convention Meeting

8:40 AM

Invocation

8:45 AM

Presentation of Colors, TCC Welcome Addresses, In Memoriam, Committee Assignments

Community Welcome Addresses

Doyon, Limited, Fairbanks Native Association, Interior Regional Housing Authority, Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole

10:00 AM

Break

10:15 AM

Elder Addresses

10:45 AM

Emerging Leaders Report

11:15 AM

Get Out the Native Vote

12:00 PM

Honoring Lunch

Employee of the Year - Fairbanks, Employee of the Year - Rural, VPSO of the Year, TA of the Year, Foster Parent of the Year

1:00 PM

Introduction of Theme & Keynote

2:30 PM

Health Report

3:30 PM

Break

3:45 PM

Changing Our Culture Panel

5:00 PM

Recess

Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Welcome Reception

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall Starting at 5:00 pm



Tuesday

March 10, 2026

8:30 AM

Reconvene

Invocation

8:40 AM

Emerging Leaders Panel

10:10 AM

Convention Sponsorship Check Presentation

10:30 AM

Break

10:45 AM

Congressional Delegation Addresses

12:00 PM

Honoring Lunch

Patty Hyslop Award

1:00 PM

Cancer Care and Prevention Panel

2:15 PM

Nenh Ya Ghe Che Tal'No "From the Land" Panel

3:30 PM

Break

3:45 PM

Tribal Innovations Panel

5:00 PM

Adjourn

Wednesday

March 11, 2026

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Invocation

8:40 AM

Credentials Committee Report

8:45 AM

Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes

9:15 AM

Chief's Report

10:45 AM

Break

11:00 AM

Financial Report

12:00 PM

Working Lunch

1:00 PM

Interior Regional Housing Authority Candidate Speeches and

Question & Answer

Chief/Chairman Officer Candidate Speeches and Question & Answer

2:00 PM

Resolutions Committee Report

2:15 PM

Break

2:30 PM

Consideration of Resolutions

5:00 PM

Recess

Thursday

March 12, 2026

8:30 AM

Reconvene

Invocation

8:35 AM

Consideration of Resolutions, Continued

10:00 AM

Break

10:15 AM

Consideration of Resolutions, Continued

12:00 PM

Working Lunch

Performance by Dancing with the Spirit

1:00 PM

Election Committee Report

Elections

2:45 PM

Break

3:00 PM

Recognitions & Oath of Office

3:15 PM

Recognition of Outgoing Leaders

5:00 PM

Adjourn



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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LLP

ANC Accounting

TCC Services Fair

March 9 - 10, 2026

8:00am - 4:00pm

8 Star Events Center



Arts & Crafts Fair

March 11 - 12, 2026

8:00am - 5:00pm

8 Star Events Center



2026 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting Elections

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

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 Athabaskan Tribal College Board of Trustees

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

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

Full Board of Directors Elections

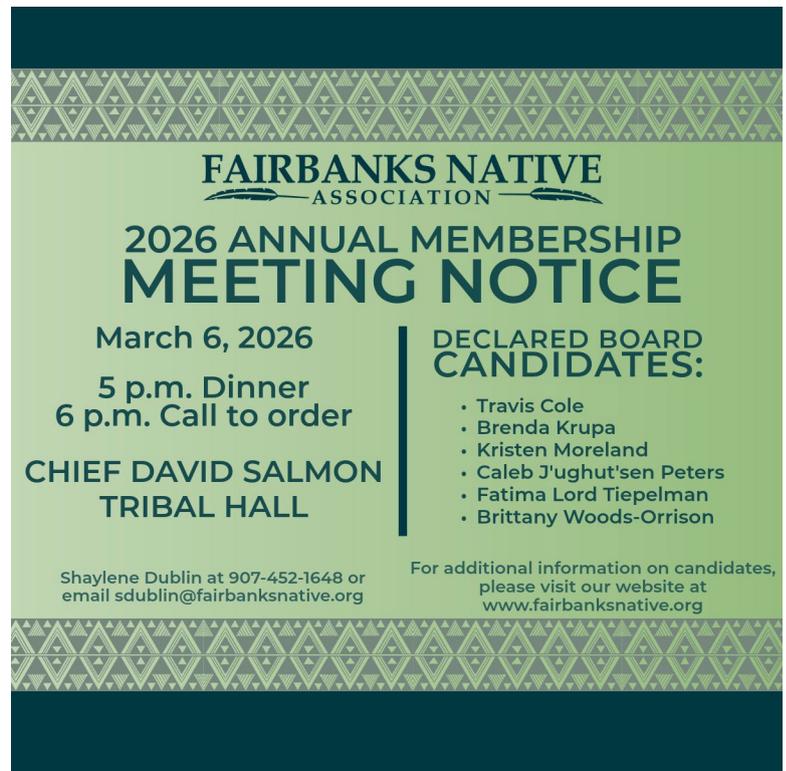
Officer Positions

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

IRHA Board of Commissioners

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

Visit www.tananachiefs.org/convention2026
to stay up to date about this year's elections!



FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

2026 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

March 6, 2026
5 p.m. Dinner
6 p.m. Call to order

**CHIEF DAVID SALMON
TRIBAL HALL**

DECLARED BOARD CANDIDATES:

- Travis Cole
- Brenda Krupa
- Kristen Moreland
- Caleb J'ughut'sen Peters
- Fatima Lord Tiepelman
- Brittany Woods-Orrison

Shaylene Dublin at 907-452-1648 or email sdublin@fairbanksnative.org

For additional information on candidates, please visit our website at www.fairbanksnative.org



Your board, YOUR VOICE

Vote Today!



2026

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



DEADLINES

PRIZES **FEB. 13**
ePROXY AND EARLY BIRD

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

Need A Ride To Convention?

Catch the Shuttle!

Monday March 9th - Thursday, March 12th | 8:00am - 8:00pm

The shuttle will run between the Westmark and 8 Star Events Center on the following schedule:

- 8:00am - 10:00am: Every 15 minutes
- 10:00am - 8:00pm: Every 30 minutes

The evening event shuttle will run between the Westmark and Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall on the following schedule:

- 5:30pm - 8:30pm: Every 30 minutes (Mon & Thurs Only)





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



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FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Evansville	Community Health Aide / Practitioner
Fairbanks	Housing First Program Manager
Fairbanks	Registered Nurse III - Telephonic Triage
Fairbanks	RN - Regional Float
Fairbanks	Patient Transport Specialist
Fairbanks	Physician - Dermatologist
Fairbanks	Digital Solutions Developer
Fairbanks	Perioperative Nurse II - ASC
Fairbanks	Service Desk Technician
Fairbanks	Fund Accountant I
Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant II - Village Clinical Support Coordinator
Fairbanks	Apprentice Optician I
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Assessment Clinician
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Technician I - Graf
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Crisis Clinician I
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Crisis Clinician II
Fairbanks	Clinical Training Manager
Fairbanks	Surgical Technologist II - ASC
Fairbanks	Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member
Fairbanks	RN Case Manager
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	CHAP - Clinical Support Specialist
Region-Wide	Nursery Technician
Region-Wide	Forestry Technician
Tok	Dental Assistant Intern
Tok	Dental Assistant I - Rural
Tok	Wildland Fire Crewboss



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 FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Indigenous Healing
Spring Gathering
A Day of Cultural Healing & Connection

Saturday, March 7, 2026 • 11am - 4pm • CAIHC

Questions? Contact: Leah Thompson
leah.thompson@tananachiefs.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 3-5	Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Meeting 9:00am - 5:00pm Pike's Waterfront Lodge Fairbanks, AK www.tananachiefs.org/events/eastern-interior-alaska-subsistence-regional-advisory-council-meeting/
MAR 5-7	Spring Subregional Meetings 8:30am - 5:00pm 8 Star Events Center Fairbanks, AK
MAR 7	Indigenous Healing Gathering 11:00am - 4:00pm Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Fairbanks, AK
MAR 9-12	2026 TCC Annual Convention 8:30am - 5:00pm 8 Star Events Center Fairbanks, AK www.tananachiefs.org/convention2026/
MAR 13	TCC Offices Closed Traditional Chief's Day
MAR 17-21	Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting - Statewide Finfish Egan Center Anchorage, AK www.tananachiefs.org/events/alaska-board-of-fisheries-meeting-2/