Tanana Chiefs Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 51 • No. 11 November 2026



Training the Best for the Worst

By Felisha Cooper, TCC Health & Safety Officer

In September, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) sent an interdisciplinary team to the 11th Annual Tribal Nations Week at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. This weeklong training offers multiple learning tracks that strengthen emergency preparedness capabilities, while connecting staff with colleagues from other Indian Health Service facilities and Tribal Nations across the country.

Courses included Cyber Security, Public Safety, Continuity Planning, Critical Infrastructure, and more. Shaunessy Burton, Joyce Coty, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Trinity Marrapodi were able to participate in the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents, Megan Quinn participated in the Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents, and Felisha Cooper attended the Emergency Management and Engagement Training.

To say this week was physically and mentally exhausting would be an understatement. The goal of many of these courses was to help staff understand the roles they may need to take on during an emergency and the stress that comes with the responsibilities. Staff participated in a variety of intense, hands-on exercises. Some practiced running and hiding during active shooter drills, while others donned hazmat suits in the 90-degree humid weather to practice patient decontamination. Meanwhile, other participants faced multiple simulated emergencies in a hospital setting. These exercises weren't designed around just one

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

IT'S TIME TO VOTE!

The General Election is November 3rd

Make a plan to participate, learn about the candidates and issues on your ballot, and make sure you know your polling location and hours.

Your voice matters. Make a plan to vote.



IN THIS ISSUE...

PAGE 3: What to Expect at TCC's Fall Summit

PAGE 6: Lower Yukon Subregional Meeting

PAGE 8: Vote NO on 2

PAGE 10: Hunting & Fishing Advocacy Calendar

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

Sharon Hildebrand, Nulato
Chief/Chairman

Rhonda Pitka, Beaver
Vice-President

Charlie Wright, Rampart
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit, Tanacross
Upper Tanana

Claude 'Joe' Petruska, Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James, Gwichyaa Zhee
Yukon Flats

Ivan Demientieff, Grayling
Lower Yukon

Lori Baker, Minto
Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green, Galena
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski, Nulato
Elder Advisor

Mackenzie Englishoe, Gwichyaa Zhee
Youth Advisor

Letter from the Chief







Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Members,

With the importance of our upcoming election, you will notice this newsletter is a bit early. We felt it was important to get you this election information sooner than later. November 3 is the General Election. Every election is important, but we have heard you and there are issues in this election that are impacting you daily. This is your chance to ensure your voice is heard at the highest levels. You have the opportunity to elect leaders that listen to your priorities that directly affect our Tribes, our salmon, our access to healthcare, and our ways of life. Alaska Native voters have the power to shape election outcomes and ensure our priorities are heard- this will not happen if we do not show up to the polls. Please make a plan to vote and tell your cousins, sisters, brothers, aunties, uncles, and friends to do the same.

In August, our Executive Board passed a resolution encouraging Alaskans to vote NO on Ballot Measure 2, which seeks to repeal Alaska's ranked choice voting system for the third consecutive year. Since ranked choice voting was adopted in 2020, more women and people from minority communities have been elected to office. This system gives Alaskans greater freedom to choose leaders who understand our priorities and reflect our values, regardless of political party. That is why TCC continues to support Alaska's open primary and ranked choice voting system. Together, these systems give voters the flexibility to support candidates across party lines and rank them according to who they believe will best represent our people. Voting NO on Ballot Measure 2 also preserves campaign finance disclosure requirements that promote transparency by requiring candidates to disclose their funding sources. By voting NO, we can help protect voter choice, strengthen representation, and support a more transparent electoral process for all Alaskans.

Last month, we hosted an Elders Roundtable in partnership with Denakkanaaga and our sister organizations to discuss the importance of Elder housing and care. This gave us an opportunity to listen directly to our Elders about their needs, the challenges they face, and what safe, comfortable housing means to them. Their experiences must guide our work as we explore innovative solutions that support our Elders in securing safe housing that keeps them connected to their culture, community, and family.

This November, we are also excited to host a Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Fall Summit. This is being done in response to our Tribal needs. The Tribes are guiding the discussions and topics. This will be done through panels and breakout sessions focused on issues important to our Tribes. There will be opportunities to learn, share ideas, and identify ways to move our priorities forward. We have an outstanding lineup of speakers and panelists joining us, and my team and I look forward to the conversations and connections this gathering will bring.

As the holidays approach, I am grateful for each of our Tribal members across our region who work hard for their families and communities every day. Your love and leadership always inspire me and follow our past leaders in a good way. I would like to thank each of you for the many ways you uplift our people in coming together.

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

What to Expect at TCC's Fall Summit

November 12-13, 2026 • 8:30AM - 5:00PM • 8 Star Events Center • Fairbanks, AK

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) invites Tribal leaders and community members to join us for two days of meaningful discussions, shared knowledge, and collaboration on issues impacting our Tribes and communities.

This year's Fall Summit will feature main panel discussions and smaller breakout sessions, giving participants opportunities to learn from subject matter experts, ask questions, exchange ideas, and explore topics relevant to their communities.

Each day will begin with larger panel discussions, followed by two rounds of afternoon breakout sessions. **Lunch will be provided both days, and shuttles will be available.**

University Credit Opportunity

Participants may also have the opportunity to earn 1 university credit through UAF in connection with the Fall Summit. Advance registration and participation in an additional one-hour Zoom session at a later date will be required.

2026 Fall Summit Agenda At-A-Glance

This agenda is tentative and represents the planned schedule as of October 21, 2026.

Thursday

November 12, 2026

8:30AM - 8:40AM
Opening Prayer

8:40AM - 8:45AM
Moment of Silence for MMIP & Loved Ones Lost

8:45AM - 8:50AM
Presentation of Colors

8:50AM - 9:20AM
Welcome Address

9:20AM - 10:00AM
Keynote Address

10:00AM - 11:00AM
Supporting Sovereignty, including Q&A

11:00AM - 11:10AM
Morning Break

11:10AM - 12:10PM
Advancing Co-Stewardship on Traditional Territories to Protect Our Ways of Life, including Q&A

12:10PM - 1:10PM
Working Lunch

12:15PM - 1:15PM
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) 105 Leasing and Community Highlights Panel, including Q&A

1:15PM - 1:45PM
Success Story with Devin Agnes

1:45PM - 2:00PM
Break

2:00PM - 3:20PM
Afternoon Breakout Track 1
Housing Solutions for Rural Communities • Tips and Tricks for Grant Writing • Economic Development & Tribal Enterprises

3:20PM - 3:40PM
Break

3:40PM - 5:00PM
Afternoon Breakout Track 2
Emergency Response Plan • Best Practice for Grant Writing • Reentry and the Path Home: Reentry, Recovery, and Community Support

Friday

November 13, 2026

8:30AM - 9:50AM
Morning Breakout Track 1
Creating a Tribal Stewardship & Land Use Plan Workshop • Indigenous Medicine & Traditional Healing • Tribal Successes

9:50AM - 10:00AM
Break

10:00AM - 11:20AM
Morning Breakout Track 2
Education Today, Workforce Tomorrow: A Tribal Dialogue • Engaging Youth & Leadership Roles • 2027 Political Roadmap & Advocacy Toolkit

11:20AM - 11:30AM
Break

11:30AM - 11:40AM
Opening Prayer

11:40AM - 12:00PM
Welcome Address

12:00PM - 12:20PM
Lunch

12:20PM - 1:20PM
Heating Assistance, including Q&A

1:20PM - 2:20PM
Infrastructure, including Q&A

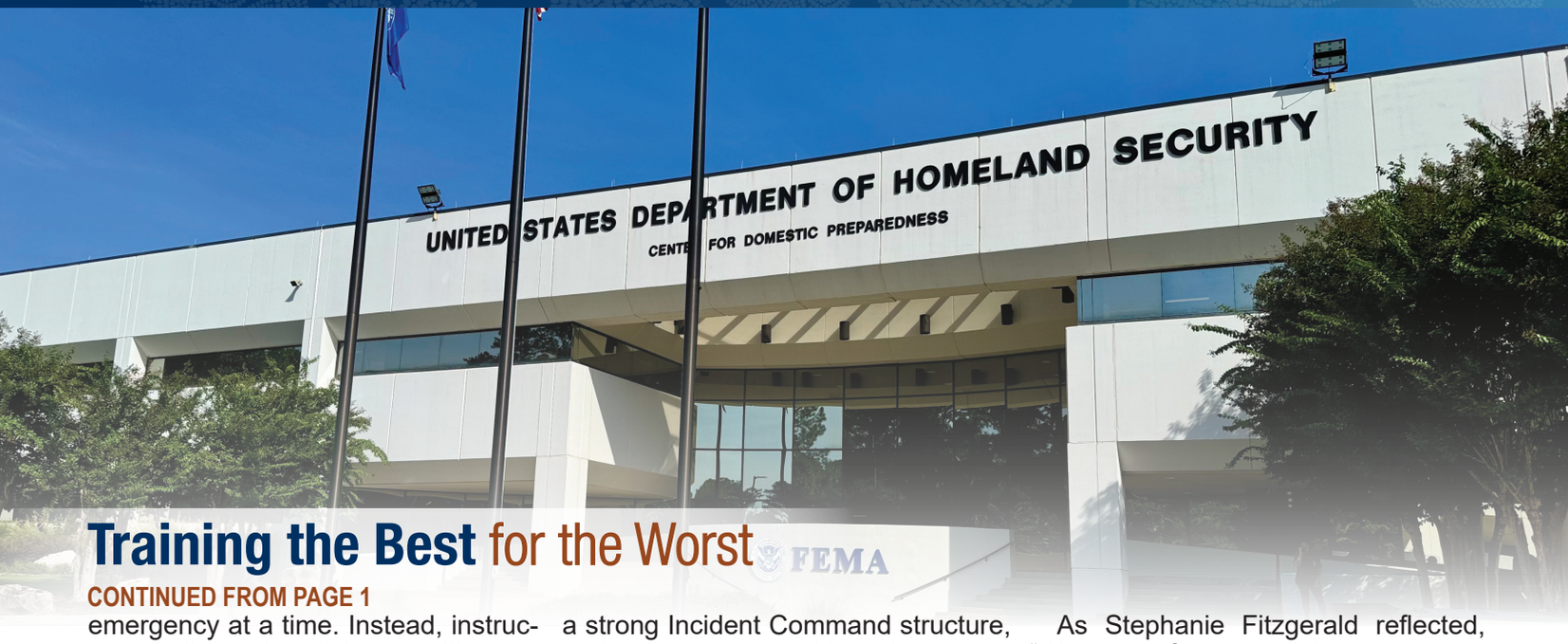
2:20PM - 2:30PM
Break

2:30PM - 3:30PM
Tribal Stewardship & Land Use Plans, including Q&A

3:30PM - 4:30PM
Tea Time with Federal Partnerships

4:30PM - 4:45PM
Alaska Gateway School District & Upper Tanana Memorandum of Agreement Signing

4:45PM - 5:00PM
Final Comments & Closing Remarks



Training the Best for the Worst

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

emergency at a time. Instead, instructors challenged participants with complex, overlapping scenarios, including a disease outbreak, a nuclear plant leak, chemical plant explosions, bus rollovers, and more. Each scenario pushed participants to think critically, adapt, and make difficult decisions under pressure, providing valuable insight into the challenges of responding to real-life emergencies.

As challenging as this week was, the experience was very valuable. If the COVID-19 pandemic taught us anything, it is that we need to prepare staff for a variety of emergencies, including not just how to prepare for them but also how to recover from them and build resiliency. TCC has sent staff to this training for years, and every individual or group has consistently returned with great feedback and new ideas, and most cannot wait to go back and learn more. Not only does this build staff confidence, but it also allows staff to get to know one another and understand how they can support each other during emergencies, or just a crazy day at work.

Megan Quinn shared, “One of the biggest things I took away from the training was the importance of having a strong Incident Command structure, and everyone speaking the same language during an emergency. Using systems like the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) gives everyone a common structure for understanding their role, communicating information, and knowing who is responsible for making decisions. When an emergency brings together people who may not normally work side-by-side, having that shared structure makes a huge difference.”

> "We are so fortunate to have so many resources at our disposal and talented people within our organization."
> -Stephanie Fitzgerald

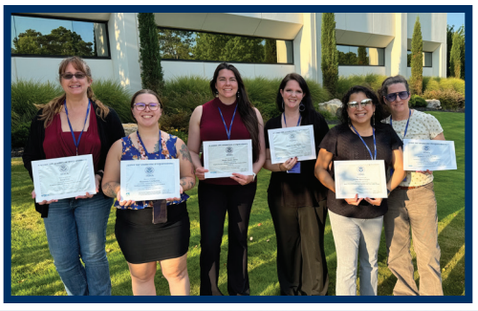
A key benefit of the week is learning from other organizations and Tribal Nations. Many face similar obstacles and challenges that our region faces but in slightly different ways. Not only are we all preparing for emergencies or disasters, but our planning and recovery efforts can be quite different from one another. By sharing experiences across reservations, healthcare facilities, Tribes, and other settings, we have an opportunity to learn from one another, which strengthens everyone’s preparedness.



As Stephanie Fitzgerald reflected, “We are so fortunate to have so many resources at our disposal and talented people within our organization. I think sometimes we can become so accustomed to what we have that we forget to appreciate the tools available to us—and, perhaps even more importantly, the people beside us who make our work possible. Very few of us have experienced what a truly difficult day in medicine can look like, and for that, we are blessed. I think this experience was a good reminder not to take that for granted, but instead to recognize the importance of supporting one another and working together when those difficult days do come.”

TCC’s goal is to continue sending staff from a wide range of positions across the organization. Tribal Nations Week and similar trainings ensure we have trained staff that are capable, confident, and prepared to handle an emergency, whether in Fairbanks or one of our rural clinics or villages. Trained staff can better support their department, facility, and community when disaster strikes.







EPA Officials Visit Rampart

Rampart recently welcomed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials from Washington, D.C., and Region 10, including Thomas Croci, Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management.

During the visit, Rampart leadership shared the community's strengths, history, and challenges, including fuel storage in remote communities and aging water and sanitation infrastructure. The delegation also toured Rampart's new waste heat and biomass plant, which impressed the visitors.

EPA officials demonstrated a genuine interest in listening and learning about the community's needs and Tribal history. The visit also featured local hospitality, with community members serving moose soup, moose chili, and frybread.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen understanding between federal officials and rural Interior Alaska communities.























Lower Yukon Tribal Leaders
Gather in Holy Cross



The Lower Yukon Subregional Advisory Board met in Holy Cross in September to discuss regional priorities, community needs, and updates from Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and its partners.

Chief/Chairman Sharon Hildebrand, Vice President Rhonda Pitka, and other TCC representatives provided updates on organizational priorities and services. Discussions covered infrastructure and energy, wildland fire response, Tribal courts, public safety, victim services, hunting and fishing, and land management. Representatives from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Healing Native Hearts Coalition, Doyon, and regional air carriers also shared updates.

The gathering provided an opportunity for Tribal leaders and regional partners to share information and discuss issues affecting Lower Yukon communities.















TCC Participates in Out of the Darkness Community Walk

In September, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) participated in the Out of the Darkness Community Walk to raise awareness about suicide prevention and support mental wellness. The event brought community members together to remember loved ones lost to suicide, support those who are struggling, and remind one another that help and hope are available.

TCC is grateful to everyone who participated and showed their support. If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Support Your Tribe's Goals!

Community Planning Specialists Needed

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

Job Description:

- Community Planning Specialist will be a Tribal office employee
- Work closely with the Tribal Council, Community, and TCC to develop a community plan
- Have written and verbal communication skills
- Have basic computer skills, plus experience with Microsoft Office programs
- Assist with organizing and facilitating public meetings
- Administer, collect, and compile community planning survey
- Able to conduct research and utilize internet search engines

Qualifications:

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

Wage:

- $22.50/hour, up to 400 hours

When:

- February 1 - May 31, 2027

Application:

- DUE - December 18, 2026
- Available at your Tribal Office

Questions? Contact:

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

Support Your Tribe's Goals!

Grant Development Specialists Needed

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

Job Description:

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

Qualifications:

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

Wage:

- $22.50/hour, up to 400 hours

When:

- February 1 - May 31, 2027

Application:

- DUE - December 18, 2026
- Available at your Tribal Office

Questions? Contact:

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

Vote NO on Ballot Measure 2

Protect Your Voice. Protect Voter Participation.



The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Executive Board is urging Alaskans to vote NO on Ballot Measure 2 in the November 3, 2026 election.

Ballot Measure 2 would repeal Alaska's open primary system, repeal ranked choice voting, and repeal campaign finance disclosure laws that require the true source of election spending to be disclosed. The TCC Executive Board believes these changes would reduce voter participation, limit voter choice, and decrease transparency in Alaska elections.

> "Every Alaskan deserves a voice in choosing the leaders who make decisions that affect our communities. That's why I encourage Alaskans to vote NO on Ballot Measure 2."
>
> **CHIEF SHARON HILDEBRAND**
> TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Why TCC Opposes Ballot Measure 2

The Executive Board believes it is important that all Alaskans have meaningful opportunities to participate in the electoral process. On August 19, 2026, the TCC Executive Board adopted E-Board Resolution 2026-07 Urging Alaskans to Vote No on Ballot Measure 2 (1), formally opposing Ballot Measure 2 and encouraging Alaskans to vote NO.

Ballot Measure 2 would allow political parties to exclude nonpartisan and undeclared voters from their primary elections. Alaska has the highest rate of nonpartisan and undeclared voter registration in the nation, and many Tribal members throughout the TCC region are registered as nonpartisan or undeclared voters.

The resolution places particular emphasis on ranked choice voting. Under Alaska's current system, voters in the General Election may rank candidates in order of preference. The TCC Executive Board states in its resolution that Alaskans routinely participate in a variety of election systems — including Tribal, municipal, borough, regional, and corporate elections — and that ranking candidates has proven straightforward for voters.

TCC believes every Alaskan should have the opportunity to participate in the election process and help choose the leaders who make decisions affecting communities across the state.

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Under Alaska's current election system, voters rank candidates in order of preference rather than selecting only one candidate.

Voters may rank candidates first, second, third, and fourth. If a voter's first-choice candidate is eliminated, their vote is counted for their next-ranked candidate. This process continues until one candidate receives a majority of active votes.

The current system was adopted by Alaska voters and has been used in statewide elections since 2022.

> "The decisions made by our elected leaders directly affect our salmon, our fishing rights, and our way of life. Our communities need leaders who understand the issues that matter to us, regardless of party affiliation. Ranked choice voting broadens our ability to choose a candidate who truly listens to our people."
>
> **CHARLIE WRIGHT, TREASURER**
> TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE



> "Rural Alaska needs leaders who will listen to our communities and advocate for our needs. Voters should have the freedom to choose the candidate they believe can do that best, regardless of political party."
>
> **CHIEF RHONDA PITKA**
> **VICE PRESIDENT**
> TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE



Read Resolution 2026-07, adopted by the TCC Full Board of Directors, formally opposing Ballot Measure 2.

Frequently Asked Questions About Ranked Choice Voting	
Q:	**If I rank four candidates, does that mean I voted four times?**
A:	No. Only one vote counts per race. Your second (or later) choice only matters if your first choice fails to get enough votes from the rest of the voting populous and is eliminated.
Q:	**What happens if there is a tie?**
A:	It's very unlikely that a Ranked Choice Vote election will end in a tie. However, if there is a tie at any step of the process, it will be decided the same as it has been in the past. Alaska law says the tie is resolved "by lot," which means the division's director will flip a coin or draw straws.
Q:	**What officers are elected using Ranked Choice Voting?**
A:	President/Vice President, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor/Lieutenant Governor, and all state representatives and state senators. The open, pick-one-candidate primary is used for U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor/Lieutenant Governor, and all state representatives and state senators, but not for President/Vice President.

Your vote should reflect what is best for Alaska, not what is best for a political party.

November 3rd is Election Day!

Your Vote. Your Voice. Our Future.

Indigenous voices play a vital role in shaping Alaska's future. As we approach the November 3, 2026 General Election, Tribal citizens have an opportunity to help shape decisions affecting our communities, from land rights and environmental protection to health care, education, and rural infrastructure.

This year, Alaskans will vote in important federal and state races, including Governor and Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and seats in the Alaska Legislature. Voters will also consider statewide ballot measures that could impact future elections and policies.

For rural Alaska, voting is an important way to ensure our communities are represented and our priorities are heard. Every ballot contributes to decisions that will affect our families, our Tribes, and future generations.

This voter guide provides information about candidates, ballot measures, voter registration, early voting, and Election Day polling locations. We encourage every eligible Tribal citizen to make an informed decision and participate in the electoral process.

Your vote is your voice. Make it count on November 3.

Learn More Here:
- Where to vote
- Candidate info
- Ballot measures
- How to vote absentee in-person



Rochelle Adams of Gwichyaa Zhee leading a song with other Tribal advocates and TCC staff at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting in February 2026.

Hunting & Fishing Advocacy Twelve-Month Meeting Outlook
November 2026 - October 2027

November - December 2026

Nov 3-4 | Yukon River Panel Joint Technical Committee (JTC) Virtual meeting

Scientific advisory committee to the Yukon River Panel discussing fishery management and research updates. *Tribal Resource Stewardship (TRS) staff will attend virtually.*

Nov 30-Dec 9 | North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Anchorage)

Council will be setting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits for 2027 fishing season. *TRS will send staff to gather information.*

January – October 2027

Jan 23-26 | Board of Game Meeting (Kotzebue)

Statewide proposals session. The Ambler Road corridor closure (Proposal 4), tabled at the July 2026 special meeting, is expected to be back on the agenda. *TRS will send staff and key advocates. In-person or virtual attendance is recommended for Tribal members.*

Feb 2-5 | Federal Subsistence Board Meeting (Fairbanks)

Fisheries Regulatory Meeting to review Proposals & Closures recommended at Fall Rural Advisory Coucil (RAC) Meetings. Deferred wildlife proposals from 2026 will be considered at this meeting as well. *TRS will send staff. Virtual attendance recommended for Tribal members.*

Feb 17 | Alaska Migratory Birds Co-Management Council (AMBCC) TCC Region (Fairbanks)

Regional meeting for Fairbanks & surrounding communities. Agenda will be announced 2 weeks prior to the meeting. *TRS will send staff and key advocates. In-person or virtual attendance is recommended for Tribal members.*

Feb 23-24 | Western Interior Regional Advisory Council (WIRAC) Spring Meeting (Fairbanks)

Proposals for the Alaska Board of Game will be discussed & reviewed. *TRS will send staff. Virtual attendance recommended for Tribal members.*

Feb 23-25 | Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (EIRAC) Spring Meeting (Fairbanks)

Proposals for the Alaska Board of Game will be discussed & reviewed. *TRS will send staff. Virtual attendance recommended for Tribal members.*



Advocates Needed At Every Stage

Decisions rarely get made in a single room. A win at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council can be weakened if it isn't reinforced by the Board of Fish.

Because these forums operate independently but shape one another, testimony given consistently is what builds the record regulators & legislators are required to consider.

Advocacy at each stage protects the ones that came before it and lays the groundwork for the ones still to come.

Mar 19-26 | Board of Game Meeting (Fairbanks)

Interior & Eastern Arctic Region Proposals will be considered for adoption. *TRS will send staff and key advocates. In-person or virtual attendance is recommended for Tribal members.*

April 5 | AMBCC Statewide

Statewide meeting to consider & take action on any proposed migratory bird regulatory proposals. *TRS will send staff and key advocates. In-person or virtual attendance is recommended for Tribal members.*

Oct 5-6 | WIRAC Fall Meeting (Holy Cross)

The Council will be developing recommendations for any Federal Subsistence Board proposals & closures. *TRS will send staff. Virtual attendance recommended for Tribal members.*

Oct 12-14 | EIRAC Fall Meeting (Tok)

The Council will be developing recommendations for any Federal Subsistence Board proposals & closures. *TRS will send staff. Virtual attendance recommended for Tribal members.*

Sign Up for the TRS Updates

Email trsp@tananachiefs.org to sign up for updates on regulatory matters and important advocacy opportunities.

TRS Staff will attend these meetings to support Tribal Advocacy & Gathering information for further research & advocacy efforts.



TRS and Yukon River Intertribal Fisheries Commission staff alongside Tribal advocates at Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference in June 2026



TRS staff planning for this year's advocacy opportunities. They will be tracking several major regulatory meetings during the next year.





TCC Leadership Visits
Stevens Village

On October 7, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) leadership traveled to Stevens Village to meet with Tribal leadership and discuss important issues and priorities impacting the community.

The visit provided an opportunity to discuss housing needs and funding opportunities, public safety and emergency response, employment and workforce development, and critical community infrastructure, including water and sewer systems. Additional topics included rising fuel costs, access to health care services, and resources available to support families and residents.

These discussions are an important part of TCC's ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships with Tribal communities, better understand local challenges, and identify opportunities to provide support and resources that address community needs.

TCC extends its appreciation to Stevens Village Tribal leadership for their warm welcome and for sharing their concerns, priorities, and vision for the community.











Celebrating the End
of the 2026 Summer Youth Employment Season

The 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program has officially come to a close. We would like to thank all participating Tribes, employers, supervisors, and youth for helping make this year's program a success. Through your partnership, youth gained valuable work experience, developed new skills, and contributed to their communities.

A special shout-out goes to **Northway** for their outstanding administrative support throughout the program. Northway submitted all required documentation on time and without any errors, helping ensure a smooth reimbursement and payroll process from start to finish. Thank you for your attention to detail, organization, and commitment to making the program successful.

We appreciate everyone's dedication and look forward to another successful summer next year.



Circle of Protection: The Public Safety Dispatch

Public Safety Is a Team Effort

By David Atteberry, TCC's Public Safety Manager

As we approach Thanksgiving and prepare for another Alaskan winter, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the people and partnerships that help keep our communities safe throughout the year. While Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) are often the most visible members of the public safety system in our villages, the reality is that public safety is a shared responsibility. It depends on the dedication, cooperation, and support of many individuals and organizations working together toward a common goal.

Every day, our VPSOs rely on strong partnerships with Tribal governments, city officials, health clinic staff, school personnel, emergency responders, and community members. These relationships are especially important in rural Alaska, where resources can be limited and emergencies often require a coordinated response. Whether responding to a medical emergency, assisting with a search effort, supporting a family in crisis, or helping during a natural disaster, successful outcomes are often the result of teamwork.

The support provided by Tribal councils across the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) region plays a critical role in public safety. Tribal leaders help identify community needs, support local initiatives, and work closely with VPSOs to address concerns before they become larger problems. Their commitment to building safe, healthy communities creates a strong foundation for the work our officers do every day.

We are also grateful for the partnerships we share with local schools. Teachers, administrators, and support staff help reinforce positive decision-making and provide opportunities for VPSOs to connect with youth. Through classroom visits, safety presentations, and mentoring opportunities, these interactions help build trust and foster positive relationships between young people and public safety professionals.

Health clinics and medical personnel are also vital partners in keeping our communities safe. Medical emergencies often require close coordination between clinic staff, VPSOs, medevac services, and other responders. Their professionalism and dedication ensure that residents receive the care they need, often under challenging circumstances and in remote locations.

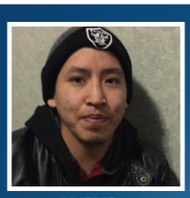
Our appreciation also extends to the Alaska State Troopers, search and rescue volunteers, firefighters, emergency dispatchers, and countless community members who step forward when help is needed. Whether assisting with a search, helping during severe weather, transporting someone in need, or simply checking on a neighbor, these acts of service make a meaningful difference. In many villages, it is not uncommon to see residents put aside their own plans to assist others during times of need. That spirit of helping one another is one of the greatest strengths of our region.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this November, we want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributes to public safety across the TCC region. The work of keeping communities safe cannot be accomplished by any single person or organization. It takes partnerships, communication, trust, and a shared commitment for looking out for one another.

On behalf of the TCC Public Safety Department, thank you to our VPSOs, community leaders, partner agencies, volunteers, and residents for the important role you play in making our communities stronger and safer. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for your continued support and dedication. Together, we are building safer communities for current and future generations.

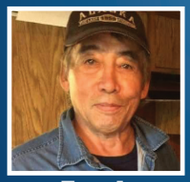
MISSING


Lorraine Ginnis


Willis Derendoff


Doren Sanford


Debbie Nictune


Frank Minano


Craig Albert

SUBMIT TIPS ANONYMOUSLY:

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

Call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100, Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 or TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251 ext.3269.

Visit www.tananachiefs.org/missing for more information.



Indigenous Healing Gathering
Brings Community Together for Connection and Wellness



Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) hosted an Indigenous Healing Gathering on Saturday, October 3, at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. The gathering brought community members together for an afternoon focused on healing, connection, and wellness.

The gathering began with a community lunch featuring a traditional-inspired, diabetes-friendly meal sponsored by TCC's Diabetes and Prevention Program and prepared by Dishii Food Truck. The meal provided an opportunity for participants to come together and connect before the afternoon's activities.





Throughout the afternoon, attendees were invited to explore different approaches to healing and wellness with support from local healers, TCC's Indigenous Healing Program, and Interior Wellness Healers. These methodologies included energy healing, massage, acupuncture, Earthgrounding, beadwork, and more. Offerings also included a full tea bar and Indigenous vendors selling everything from hides to soaps to jewelry.

The gathering emphasized the importance of community connection and creating spaces where individuals can explore healing practices that support their overall well-being.

As Interior Alaska transitions into the winter months, the event served as an opportunity to encourage connection, support, and continued wellness within the community.









TCC Donates $100,000 to Support Our Elders

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) provided a $100,000 donation to Denakkanaaga to support its work advocating for Elders throughout Interior Alaska.

Denakkanaaga serves as the "Elder voice for the people," working to uphold and share traditional ways, advocate for Elders on state and national issues, support Native artists, and address needs such as senior housing. TCC's contribution helps sustain these efforts and strengthen support for Elders across the region.

In an October 7 letter to Chief/Chairman Sharon Hildebrand and the TCC Executive Board of Directors, Denakkanaaga Executive Director Sharon McConnell and Denakkanaaga First Chief Andy Jimmie expressed gratitude for the organization's continued support.

"One of our organization's core commitments is to create a strong, unified voice for positive action among our people. We are honored to be able to meet with TCC leadership and staff to work on this within our region," they wrote.

TCC is grateful for our continued partnership with Denakkanaaga and our shared commitment to supporting and advocating for Elders and for future generations.

Now Open!

Energy Assistance Application Window

Help us process your application faster by submitting all of the required documents when you apply!

Application Checklist:

- Copy of picture ID
- Copy of Tribal ID (if applying in Fairbanks area)
- Proof of Income (pay stub from the past 30 days or bank statement)
- Utility bill or wood delivery receipt
- Vendor account number

Need Help?

- 907-452-8251 ext. 5827
- energyassist@tananachiefs.org

Dr. Kelliher Named President of AAIP



Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is proud to recognize Dr. Allison Kelliher, Director of the Indigenous Healing Program at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, on her appointment as President of the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP). Dr. Kelliher, a Koyukon Athabascan physician, traditional healer, educator and researcher, assumed the role during AAIP's 54th Annual Meeting and Health Conference in September.

Dr. Kelliher has been involved with AAIP for nearly two decades, serving as a Director-at-Large and Chair of its Rites & Ceremonies Committee. Her work focuses on bringing Indigenous knowledge and traditional healing practices together with clinical medicine, medical education and research.

As president, Dr. Kelliher will help guide the national organization in its mission to improve health outcomes in American Indian and Alaska Native communities and support Native physicians and future health professionals.

TCC congratulates Dr. Kelliher on this achievement and celebrates her leadership in advancing Indigenous healing, strengthening Native representation in medicine and honoring the knowledge and traditions that have supported our people for generations.

Tanana Chiefs Conference

The Council Newsletter

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424
communications_dept@tananachiefs.org
www.tananachiefs.org

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

Sign-Up to receive our E-Newsletter! Get important updates straight to your inbox.

FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant I - Healthy Beginnings
Fairbanks	Lead RN
Fairbanks	Specialty Services Float APP - Nurse Practitioner
Fairbanks	Staff RN
Fairbanks	Urgent Care Team Lead Provider
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant I
Fairbanks	Office Manager - Behavioral Health
Fairbanks	Immunization Coordinator
Fairbanks	Communications Coordinator
Fairbanks	Business Success Support Coordinator
Fairbanks	Clinical Prevention Physician Lead
Fairbanks	Certified Nurse Aide - Palliative Care
Fairbanks	Clinical Prevention & Lifestyle Medicine Program Coordinator
Fairbanks	Lifestyle Medicine Program Lead
Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant I - Lifestyle Medicine and Prevention
Fairbanks	Lead Nurse - Palliative Care
Fairbanks	Addictions Certified Nurse Aide
Fairbanks	Executive Administration Receptionist
Fairbanks	Surgical Midlevel Provider
Fairbanks	Credentialing Technician I
Holy Cross	Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
Hughes	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Huslia	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Koyukuk	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Old Minto	OMFRC Camp Laborer
Region-Wide	Business Intelligence & Digital Solutions Analyst II
Stevens Village	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Tok	Security Officer I
Village Subregion	Home Care Provider

Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!
Visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see a full list of open positions and learn more about the benefits available through Tanana Chiefs Conference.

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF OCTOBER 19, 2026

Not Sure What Job is Right for You?

You Don't Have to Guess.



If you're Alaska Native or American Indian, apply through our 'General Posting for Alaska Native/ American Indian Applicants.' Submit your resume once, and our Human Resources team will match you with jobs that fit your skills and experience.

Apply today at www.tananachiefs.org/careers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 3 — **General Election**
www.elections.alaska.gov/

NOV 11 — **TCC Offices Closed**
Veteran's Day

NOV 12 — **Diabetes Awareness Month Event**
11:00am - 2:00pm • Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, Building A Lobby

NOV 12-13 — **TCC Fall Summit**
8:30am - 5:00pm • 8 Star Events Center
www.tananachiefs.org/events/tcc-fall-summit/

NOV 12-21 — **Alaska Waters 6-Pack Training**
Location TBD • www.tananachiefs.org/events/ak-waters-6-pack-training/

NOV 26-27 — **TCC Offices Closed**
Thanksgiving