



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

TRIBAL UPDATE

August 2015

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GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Meeting with State of Alaska on Transboundary Mining



Participants in the state-tribal meeting on transboundary mining.

On August 5, 2015, Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, along with key cabinet members and senior staff from the departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Game, and Environmental Conservation, met with Southeast Alaska tribal representatives in Juneau, Alaska to discuss the large-scale mining development effort taking place on transboundary rivers in northwest British Columbia which flow directly into our Southeast Alaska waters.

The meeting with tribal representatives was historic for many and established a new precedence for the State of Alaska that recognizes the sovereignty of Alaska tribes and need for tribal input on matters that impact the lands, waters, and communities of Southeast Alaska.

During the meeting, Central Council President Richard Peterson took the opportunity to express gratitude towards Lt. Governor Mallott and the State of Alaska for ensuring tribes are included in ongoing policy discussions related to the transboundary mining. He also stressed the need for the state to do more, citing the state's DNR report was lacking and expressed the importance of incorporating traditional and ecological knowledge in addressing transboundary mining.



President Peterson providing comments at transboundary mining meeting

In an interview held after the meeting, the Lt. Governor reaffirmed his commitment to working with tribes. To list to our interview with Lt. Governor Mallott, please visit our Media page on Central Council's website: www.ccthita.org/government/president/media.

President Peterson Issues Op-Ed on Land into Trust

President Richard Peterson recently wrote an opinion editorial (Op-Ed) to help demystify common misconceptions on land into trust in Alaska. The Op-Ed entitled, "Governor Walker Must Boot the Boogie Man" was picked up by several media outlets and received many positive reviews.

In the previous week, President Peterson had met with Governor Bill Walker where he provided key points on land into trust in Alaska:

- There is no property tax in most of Alaska; therefore, no economic impact on state or local government due to loss of tax base. Studies in other states demonstrate positive economic benefit for local communities due to Fee to Trust acquisitions even where parcel tax revenues are involved.
- Most tribal trust acquisitions are for housing, health care, sacred site preservation, tribal government operations, and non-gaming economic development.
- Tribal gaming in Alaska does not require tribal trust land acquisitions and would be permitted under current law even without Fee to Trust acquisitions; therefore, tribal Fee to Trust would have no significant effect on tribal gaming in Alaska.
- Tribal Fee to Trust acquisitions will provide a business revenue and tax base for tribes that will partially offset significant federal and state funding decreases over the last several years and expected to continue into the foreseeable future.
- Due to the lack of "Indian Country" or tribal trust lands in Alaska (except for Metlakatka), Alaska tribes are ineligible for many federally-funded programs and prevents the extension of federal law enforcement and tribal court protections to Alaska tribes and Alaska Natives.

- The Tribal List Act of 1994 requires that all tribes enjoy the same rights wherever located. The prohibition of Fee to Trust acquisitions in Alaska is a violation of federal law.
- Fee to Trust will not threaten Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporation lands. Fee to Trust acquisitions are only available to owners of fee land or restricted title lands and can never be involuntary or against the wishes of any entity with an ownership interest in such lands. This includes lands with ownership split between surface and sub-surface estates. Such split estate lands have a long history in Oklahoma and no serious issues have arisen due to Fee to Trust acquisitions.

Governor Walker recently made the decision to appeal a federal district court decision giving Alaska tribes the ability to request federal trust status for their land. Central Council continues to urge all Alaska Native tribes, organizations, corporations, and people to sign the petition opposing the State of Alaska's appeal.

[Sign the Petition Now!](#)

News Coverage:

Juneau Empire: [My Turn, Governor Walker Must Boot the Boogie Man](#)

Indian Country Today: [GOP Blogger is Truth-Challenged on Alaska Natives and Trust Land](#)

Alaska Dispatch News: [Tribal Trust Lands are No Threat to Alaska Sovereignty](#)

Juneau Empire: [Appeal Erodes Trust in 'Unity Ticket'](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Central Council Signs 5-Year Agreement with Casey Family Programs

Central Council is pleased to announce that it entered into an official five-year Child Welfare Initiative with the national operating foundation Casey Family Programs in July. This partnership is very critical in moving Central Council closer to transferring child welfare cases into tribal court.

This partnership will provide Central Council access to technical assistance in the development of their child welfare and tribal court infrastructures, as well as training, and peer-to-peer opportunities on how other tribes operate their child welfare programs.



President Peterson signing agreement

Headquartered in Seattle, Casey Family Programs is the nation's largest operating foundation focused solely on safely reducing the need for foster care and building *Communities of Hope* for vulnerable children and families across America. Founded in 1966, the foundation works to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety and well-being of children, families and the communities where they live. For more information visit: www.casey.org.

In April 2015, Central Council was selected as pilot program #2 under the State of Alaska's Tribal Title IV-E Maintenance Program. This pilot will give Central Council the opportunity to license its own tribal foster care homes and most importantly to transfer child welfare cases from state court to tribal court.

"The next five years will be an exciting time of change and development for our child welfare programs and Tribal Court with the goal of continuing to pursue ways to provide culturally relevant, quality services to our tribal children and families," said President Richard Peterson.

Federal Officials Visit Tribe



L-R: President Richard Peterson, federal officials, Tribal Family and Youth Services Director Francine Eddy Jones, and special guest Lynn Biggs

On July 23, 2015, Central Council's management team had the pleasure of hosting a site visit for federal officials with the United States Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and White House. Several of Central Council's departments receive funding through DHHS to provide a wide range of programs and services. The site visit with such high level federal officials was a valuable opportunity for Central Council's management team to highlight the Tribe's programs that provide services to our tribal children and families. Following the visit, several federal officials expressed great appreciation for the warm welcome, program overviews, and tour of our Tribal Court. The sentiment conveyed by federal officials was that our Tribe provided a great example of what is possible with creative program design and dedicated staff to address a wide range of challenges and opportunities.

Federal Officials:

- *Joo Yeun Chang, Children's Bureau Associate Commissioner*
- *Maria Cancian, ACF Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy*
- *Nisha Patel, ACF Office of Family Assistance Director*
- *Paula Bentz, ACF Region 10 Child Welfare Specialist*
- *Molly Dillon, Policy Assistant for the White House Domestic Policy Council*

National Foundation Guest:

- *Lynn Biggs, Casey Family Programs Senior Director*

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Back to School Activities

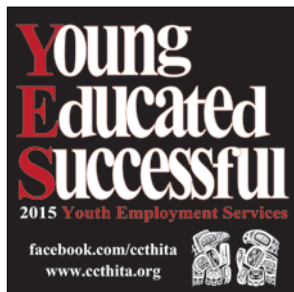


Central Council recently teamed up with Sealaska, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, and Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority to provide backpacks and general school supplies to 693 tribal children in our outlying Southeast Alaska communities. Central Council worked directly through village tribes to compile a list of eligible tribal children in need. Volunteer staff from our partner organizations teamed up with Central Council to stuff and distribute the backpacks.

A Back to School Fair was also held in Juneau on August 1st under a partnership between the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and the Juneau Tlingit and Haida Community Council. A total of 817 backpacks were distributed at the event and to eligible Alaska Native and American Indian families throughout Southeast Alaska.

Thank you to all our partners for working to ensure our children have a successful start to their school year!

Youth Employment Service Wraps Up



The Youth Employment Services (YES) program wrapped up its summer program July 31, 2015. The YES program partnered with host-employers in 13 Southeast Alaska communities to provide work experience to 54 participating tribal youth.

The YES program's goal is to provide tribal youth with the tools, support, and resources to help them develop career and educational pathways that lead to self-sufficient lifestyles. Participating tribal youth were exposed to the job application and interview process, developed jobs skills, learned reliability and accountability with employers, and best of all earned a PAYCHECK!

The success of the summer program would not have been possible without the tremendous support from host-employers, supervisors who trained and mentored, community coordinators who offered guidance and support, and parents/caregivers who created supportive environments for our participating youth.



Angoon YES Participants

*A very special Gunalchéesh, Háwaa to our partners and tribal youth!
Way to go and we hope to see you all next year!"*

Note: A full article on the Youth Employment Services program will be included in the July/August Tribal News newsletter.

Saxman Road Construction Project Complete

Central Council's Tribal Transportation department recently completed its road construction project in Saxman. The project included paving of Frog Street and construction of an enclosed bus shelter and sidewalks for pedestrians. Frog Street connects to Eagle and Killer Whale avenues which now allows for transit buses to service the senior center and neighborhood.

A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony was held on August 24, 2015 to celebrate the completion of the road construction project. President Richard Peterson, Organized Village of Saxman President Lee Wallace, Tribal Transportation Manager William Ware all provided opening comments on just how important the road construction project was to the community.



New Bus Shelter in Saxman



Ribbon cutting ceremony

"I am particularly proud of this project for several reasons," said Transportation Manager Will Ware. "We completed a good portion of this project almost entirely with tribal citizens - our truck driver, equipment operator, and laborers, were our own people from Saxman or Ketchikan. This project also now provides the opportunity for the borough to provide public transit service to our elders in Saxman right to their front door."

Central Council oversees Saxman's Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) with Lee Wallace providing local program management. The road construction project was primarily funded by the Federal Highway Administration's Tribal Transportation High Priority Project program (HPP) as well as Saxman's TTP funds.

SAVE THE DATES

Native PTAC Workshops



The Business & Economic Development department in partnership with the Native Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) will be hosting a series of business workshops October 27-28, 2015 in Juneau, Alaska. The training sessions will focus on how to grow your business through government contracting and marketing to agencies and prime contractors. To register, please visit www.NativePTAC.org.

For more information, please contact Edie Maass
800.344.1432 ext. 7139 | 907.463.7139 | emaass@cchita.org.

Client Service Benefit Fairs

Central Council is pleased to host Client Service Benefit Fairs in Southeast Alaska in August and September. The fairs will provide information on services available for each community. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided, and door prize drawings will be held.

Community Visit Schedule:

Saxman

August 24, 2015 • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Shaan Hidi (Senior Center) Dining Room

Hydaburg

September 2, 2015 • 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall

Wrangell

August 25, 2015 • 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Wrangell Cooperative Association

Kasaan

September 3, 2015 • 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Totem Trail Café

Craig/Klawock

September 1, 2015 • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Craig Tribal Association Hall

Haines

Date: TBD • Time: TBD
Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Helene Bennett:
800.344.1432 ext. 7306, 907.463.7306, or hbennett@ccthita.org.

Southeast Environmental Conference



Central Council's Native Lands and Resources department is pleased to announce it will host the annual Southeast Environmental Conference September 14-18, 2015 in Juneau, Alaska.

The Southeast Environmental Conference brings together Southeast tribes, natural resource professionals, and others to learn about and address regional environmental priorities. This year's conference is held in partnership with Douglas Indian Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, Prince of Wales Tribal Stewardship Consortium, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and Wrangell Cooperative Association.

Topics Covered:

- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Emergency Response
- Mining
- Tribal Conservation Districts
- State Tribal Response Program (STRP) Brownfield

For more information, please visit www.ccthita.org/info/events or contact Raymond Paddock:
800.344.1432 ext. 7184 | rpaddock@ccthita.org.