



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
EDWARD K. THOMAS BUILDING
9097 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801

- TRIBAL UPDATE -
December 18, 2014

News in this Edition...

- [VAWA Section 910 Repealed and Reaffirms Tribal Court Authority](#)
- [New Guidelines to Take Effect for Federal Award Administration](#)
- [Dissolution of Tribe's Self-Governance Department](#)
- [Native Community Holds Reception for Governor Walker and Lieutenant Governor Mallott](#)
- [William Ware Elected Chairman of the Inter-Tribal Transportation Association](#)
- [Alaska Tribes Provide Recommendations to Intertribal Agriculture Council](#)
- [Village Public Safety Officers Program Implements New Training Requirements](#)
- [Save the Date: 2015 Native Issues Forum](#)
- [Save the Date: 2015 Elder Caregivers Workshop](#)

VAWA Section 910 Repealed and Reaffirms Tribal Court Authority

Last week Alaska tribes celebrated a great victory when the United States Senate and House repealed Section 910 of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The repeal of the "Alaska exception" makes clear that Congress intends to preserve Alaska tribes' inherent right to protect Alaska families against domestic violence. Central Council's Tribal Court Judge David Voluck said, "With thanks and praises to the Most High, I learned today Section 910 of VAWA was repealed and signed into law by the President. Let us welcome equal protection for Alaska Native families and equal recognition of Alaska tribal courts under VAWA."

In 2013, the re-authorization of VAWA granted new powers to tribes across the country to prosecute non-members who commit crimes on tribal land, but Section 910 of the re-authorization exempted Alaska tribes and cast into doubt the authority for Alaska tribal courts to issue civil protective orders and adjudicate domestic violence issues. This was devastating for Alaska tribes and tribal courts, especially for the rural villages that lack law enforcement resources due to the geographical remoteness, extreme weather and transportation infrastructure. Alaska Natives comprise only 15.2% of the state's population, 47% of victims of domestic violence and 61% of victims of sexual assault are Alaska Native.

"The repeal of Section 910 of VAWA will require greater cooperation between the State of Alaska and Alaska tribes. Our tribal court looks forward to working with the State to define our tribal jurisdiction and ensure the protection of our Alaska Native women and children," said President Richard Peterson.

In 2012, Tribal Assembly delegates gave direction to the Executive Council and president to oppose any language in VAWA that excludes Alaska tribes and work with Congressional delegation and Native advocacy organizations to ensure Alaska's tribal courts retain their authority to issue civil protective orders.

Gunalchéesh - Háw'aa to Senator Mark Begich for sponsoring the bill and marshaling Democratic support, Senator Lisa Murkowski for marshaling Republican support, and Congressman Don Young for holding the Senate passed bill for immediate vote in the House. We also would like to thank Philip Baker-Shenk for his advocacy and work to gain broad support from congressional members.

New Guidelines to Take Effect for Federal Award Administration

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has consolidated eight of its existing circulars into one document titled 2 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). The Uniform Guidance was first published in a Federal Register on December 26, 2013 (www.gpo.gov/fdsys) and streamlines as well as supersedes previous guidance on the administration of federal funds and contracts, several of which apply to tribes:

- OMB Circular A-87: Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments
- OMB Circular A-102: Grants and Cooperative Agreements with State and Local Governments;
- OMB Circular A-133: Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations

Central Council hosted a training November 24-26, 2014 to ensure all management receive a comprehensive overview of the requirements and cost principles in the revised guidelines. Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority staff also attended the training. Central Council will host another training for Southeast tribes in Saxman, Alaska the week of January 5th.

For more information on the Uniform Guidance that will take effect December 26, 2014, please visit www.ecfr.gov.

Dissolution of Tribe's Self Governance Department

As a result of reductions to Compact funding for fiscal year (FY) 2015 from the Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Self-Governance, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Central Council will dissolve the Self-Governance Department effective January 1, 2015. The department was comprised of one manager and one administrative assistant position that provided technical assistance to Compact communities and oversight of the Compact budget. In order to continue to provide support to the compact tribes, Central Council has re-distributed the following Self-Governance responsibilities:

Tribal Operations Department: *Manage the BIA Compact budget.*

Business & Economic Development Department: *Manage tribal relations and communications with Compact and non-Compact Southeast Alaska tribes as well as compile and submit data reports for the DOI Office of Self-Governance.*

Finance Department: *Manage the intertribal distribution worksheet and distribute funds accordingly to Compact tribes and Central Council programs.*

Central Council's Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) for FY 2015 includes the following communities:

- Craig
- Juneau
- Saxman
- Douglas
- Kasaan
- Wrangell
- Haines
- Klawock

Central Council extends a heartfelt thank you to Self-Governance Manager Loretta Wallin and Self-Governance Administrative Assistant Rebecca Duncan for their dedication and service to the Tribe. We wish them the best in their future endeavors!

Native Community Holds Reception for Governor Walker and Lt. Governor Mallott

On December 1, 2014, the Native community celebrated the inauguration of Governor Bill Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott at a public reception held at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau. The event featured performances by the Mount St. Elias Dancers of Yakutat and refreshments and appetizers provided by the Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp 70.

President Richard Peterson who is also serving on the Governor's transition team said, "Today is a historical day for our State and our State's first people. For the first time in our history, we have elected a Governor and Lieutenant Governor who were both born and raised in Alaska. When I saw Byron dressed in his traditional Tlingit regalia during the inauguration ceremony my Native pride soared and when I listened to Walker speak about his childhood in Valdez growing up like most Alaskans, my Alaska pride soared. We finally have Alaskans fighting for Alaskans! There are many challenges ahead, but I believe we can face it together and achieve success. Working together and building opportunities for collaboration are key to our success. Participating on the Governor's transition team of 250 diverse Alaskans, I have great confidence that we can successfully plot our State's future, but it will take bi-partisanship and tribal empowerment. I look forward to the new Administration engaging, working with, and utilizing tribes."

To view our Flickr gallery of the event, visit: www.flickr.com/photos/ccthita/sets/72157649625454695.

William Ware Elected as Chairman of the Inter-Tribal Transportation Association

Central Council congratulates Tribal Transportation Department Manager William Ware who was recently elected to a two-year term as chairman of the Inter-Tribal Transportation Association (ITA).

As Chairman of ITA, Will Ware's position is to facilitate annual and mid-year meetings, as well as to serve as the liaison between ITA and other agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Highways Lands Office, and National Congress of American Indians.

ITA was organized as a non-profit corporation in 2008 to assist federally-recognized tribes in the development and management of tribal transportation systems. ITA is the only tribal transportation organization with a national membership that focuses on assisting tribes and tribal communities in the evolution of their transportation systems and programs.

ITA currently relies on the volunteer services of its elected officers and representatives. Money raised by membership fees is used to support the annual and mid-year meeting costs with minor amounts used to support officer/representative travel. The Executive Committee is made up the following elected officers and representatives:

Elected Officers:

- William Ware, President

- Howard Brown, Vice President
- Paula Peterson, Treasurer
- Arlene Dilts Jackson, Secretary

Alaska Tribes Provide Recommendations to Intertribal Agriculture Council

Central Council's Governmental Affairs Liaison Barbara Blake recently attended the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) annual membership meeting held December 8-11, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Central Council has not participated on the IAC since 1988, but recently secured delegate membership to provide greater Alaska representation and advocate for more Alaska-based programs to support economic growth in rural Alaska.

Recommendations provided by Alaska tribes during the IAC annual meeting included:

- Reinstate aboriginal hunting and fishing rights to Alaska Natives by amending 43 U.S.C. § 1603, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), to read, "aboriginal land claims are extinguished except for aboriginal hunting and fishing rights." The amendment would advance Alaska Native food production, management and harvest.
- Support Ahtna, Inc.'s tribal wildlife management legislation.
- Inform Alaska of the regional USDA tribal working groups.
- Establish a format for Alaska tribes and organizations to be informed and supported to be full participants in the Keepseagle Settlement.
- Establish additional resources and research on the effects of climate change on Alaska tribes' food resources.
- Review USDA formula funds for Alaska and adapt where necessary. Current formula funds for construction in Alaska do not meet the needs of Alaska tribes.
- Find a permanent solution to incorporate Alaska tribes' unique agricultural practices (subsistence) into all current USDA programs for agriculture production.

The IAC was founded in 1987 to pursue and promote the conservation, development and use of American Indian/Alaska Native agricultural resources. It is the second largest agency budget in the United States and has made significant improvements to its infrastructure and broadened its efforts to support American Indian/Alaska Native tribes in the past five years. The Executive Council has appointed President Richard Peterson as delegate and 4th Vice President Jolene Edenshaw as alternate.

Village Public Safety Officers Program Implements New Training Requirements

On December 8-10, 2014, Central Council's Public Safety Manager Jason Wilson attended a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) coordinators meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. The coordinator's meeting discussed the State's implementation of a pilot project to arm VPSOs following the passage of House Bill 199 in April and review of the VPSO training requirements.

It has been determined, in order for VPSOs to physically fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the job, effective January 1, 2015, all VPSOs who elect to carry firearm will be required to pass a physical fitness test and place in the 35th percentile (Cooper Fitness requirement) before hired and prior to attending the spring (February) or fall (August) Alaska Law Enforcement Training (ALET) academy located in Sitka.

The physical fitness test, which is already required of Alaska State Troopers and many municipal police offers, consists of three portions: 1.5 mile run in 15:12 minutes, 25 sit-ups in a minute, and 27 push-ups. VPSOs currently employed will have until August 2015 to meet the minimum fitness requirement.

Save the Date: 2015 Native Issues Forums

Central Council is pleased to host the 2015 Native Issues Forums. These forums provide a great opportunity to hear presentations on political issues as well as updates on federal issues of interest to the Native community. The 2015 Native Issues Forums will be held at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska from Noon-1:00 PM. Lunch will be provided; however, donations will be welcomed.

Event: 2015 Native Issues Forum
Dates: January 29 / February 10 (Tentative) / February 26 / March 12 / March 26
Time: Noon – 1:00 PM
Location: Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall
320 W. Willoughby Avenue, Juneau AK

For more information, please contact Tana Bell at 907.463.7379 or tbell@ccthita.org.

Save the Date: 2015 Annual Caregivers Workshop

The Tribal Family & Youth Services Department is pleased to host the 2015 Annual Caregivers Workshop on January 15, 2015 at the Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council in Juneau, Alaska. The workshop will cover topics such as medicare/medicaid, available resources and services, and legal assistance. The workshop will provide valuable resources for elders, family members, and caregivers (i.e. spouse, sons, daughters, grandchildren, or friend).

Event: 2015 Annual Caregivers Workshop
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015
Time: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Location: Juneau T&H Community Council
3235 Hospital Drive, Juneau AK

For more information, please contact, Marilyn Doyle at 907.463.7168 / mduoyle@ccthita.org or Donna James at 463.7131 / djames@ccthita.org.