



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

EDWARD K. THOMAS BUILDING
9097 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801

- TRIBAL UPDATE -
January 2015

News in this Edition...

Governmental Activities

- [2015 Native Issues Forums](#)
- [Executive Council Meeting](#)
- [Legislation of Tribal Interest](#)

Administrative Activities

- [Client Services Relocate from Mendenhall Valley to Downtown Juneau](#)
- [New Website for the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall](#)

Program/Service News

- [Central Council Partners to Provide Tax Assistance Services](#)
- [Native Owned Business Directory](#)
- [Craig Head Start Classroom Closes for the Year](#)

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

2015 Native Issues Forums



L-R: President Richard Peterson, Grace Singh, Barbara Blake, and Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott

The first Native Issues Forum of 2015 opened on January 29th with special guest speaker Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott. The forum was a tremendous success with nearly 200 people in attendance.

Lt. Governor Mallott discussed tribal issues and shared Governor Bill Walker will announce the name of the new cabinet-level tribal relations advisor next week. This new position will provide tribes a direct contact within the Office of the Governor.

“We’re going to imbed relationships with tribal governance into everything we do” said Lt. Governor Mallott during the forum.

“We’ve had our frustrations with the state of Alaska, I’m sure we’ll continue to have some of those frustrations,” said President Peterson. But working on the committees with the governor and lieutenant governor “was the first time... that tribal sovereignty was the first word not out of my mouth but theirs.”

“There are going to be things we just don’t agree on, but at this time it’s a level of openness and reaching out, trying to build (relationships),” President Peterson said. “Right now the state is in a pretty severe economic crisis, and it’s going to take outside thinking and collaborations. I think we’re going to come out a stronger state.”

Many thanks to Lt. Gov. Mallott and his staff Barbara Blake, our co-sponsor Sealaska, and Abby's Kitchen for helping to make this special event possible.

The Native Issues Forums provide a great opportunity to hear presentations on political topics from our elected officials as well as updates on issues of interest to the Native community. Doors open at 11:30 am and lunch is free of charge. Please join us on the following dates:

- February 10: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins and Rep. Chris Tuck
- February 26: Juneau’s Legislative Delegation (Sen. Egan, Rep. Munoz, Rep. Kito III)
- March 12: TBA
- March 26: TBA

Native Issues Forum Media:

Flickr gallery: www.flickr.com/photos/ccthita/

Gavel Alaska: www.360north.org/gavel-archives/?event_id=2147483647_2015011089

Legislation of Tribal Interest

Federal:

- Senate:
 - S. 286 Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015. This legislation represents the most successful Indian policy in United States history, and has been a tribal priority for the last 15 years. The proposed legislation would promote tribal self-governance and eliminates excessive agency oversight. It is supported by the Chair Senator Barrasso (R-WY), Co-Chair Senator Tester (D-ND), and our own Senator Murkowski (R-AK)
 - This bill will be up in committee on February 4th, and it is urgent for tribal leaders to urge the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to mark up S.286 and send it to the Senate Floor: www.indian.senate.gov/about/committee-members.

State of Alaska:

- House:
 - HCR1 Tribal Sovereignty Proclamation: This bill urges the Governor to officially acknowledge the sovereignty of Alaska tribal governments. The bill calls for a complete review of the State’s litigation against Alaska Native Tribes. The bill also urges the Governor to cooperate with tribal efforts to transfer Native land into trust, and acknowledge the inherent criminal jurisdiction of Alaska tribal governments over tribal members.
 - Please contact members of the Community and Regional Affairs Committee and your local house members to urge them to vote in favor of HCR1: www.akleg.gov/basis/Committee/Details/29?code=HCRA.

Executive Council Meeting: January 14-15, 2015

The Executive Council met January 14-15, 2015 in Juneau, Alaska. Reports were provided by President Richard Peterson, Chief Operating Officer Corrine Garza, Chief Financial Officer Theresa Belton, and department / program managers. Public comment was also received by tribal citizens and Central Council delegates.

Important topics discussed during the two day meeting included:



Executive Council Meet with THRHA Board

- **Tribal Assembly Planning:**
 - Discussed proposed changes to Tribal Assembly agenda, resolution process, committee scheduling, etc.
- **Proposed Amendments to Statutes & Constitution:**
 - A standing committee will be created to prepare statutes and amendment to the Constitution. Proposed changes will provide for the development of a indigenous language emersion school.
- **Strategic Plan:**
 - Include outreach to Tlingit and Haida Community Councils for input in the Tribe's strategic planning process.
- **Criteria for Selecting Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) Board of Commissioners:**
 - Executive Council met with THRHA Board of Commissioner on January 15, 2015.
 - Executive Council developed criteria for selecting THRHA board members and has issued a notice of two vacancies on the THRHA board. Candidates are sought from all T&H communities that designates THRHA as its Tribally Designated Housing Entity under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act. If you wish to be considered, please submit a letter of interest, biography, and current résumé by Friday, February 6, 2015. Submissions may be emailed to Renee Royal at rroyal@ccthita.org.
- **2015 Draft Executive Council Priorities:**
 - Defend budgets for programs, services, functions, and activities.
 - Earn enterprise revenues to supplement federal/state funding and the expansion of benefits to all communities.
 - Acquire trust lands from restored authority for fee-to-trust applications for Alaska tribes.
 - Continue to improve the delivery of programs, services, functions, and activities to all communities.
 - Continue to improve reports to and communications with all communities.

- Assist in the prevention of violence against women and children following successful efforts to repeal Section 910 of VAWA.
 - Advocate for co-management and compacting/contracting initiatives that promote traditional hunting, fishing and gathering (subsistence).
 - Develop education programs, including a tribal community college and vocational training.
 - Collaborate with the State of Alaska to achieve formal recognition of tribes, withdrawal of State litigation, and co-management.
 - Continue to advocate for participation in international issues through permanent and regular status for indigenous governments at the United Nations (UN) and collaboration with the US State Department, and implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Continue to implement traditional native values in all Central Council activities.
- **2015 Executive Council Meeting Schedule:**
 - February 18 - Teleconference
 - March 18 - Teleconference
 - April 13-14 - Juneau, AK
 - May 18 - Teleconference
 - June 23-24 - Juneau, AK
 - July 17 - Teleconference
 - August 19 - Teleconference
 - September 18 - Teleconference
 - October 13 - Anchorage, AK
 - November 20 - Teleconference
 - December 10-11 - Juneau, AK
- **Letter of Support on Request for Emergency Action to Reduce Halibut Bycatch:**
 - Tribe issued a letter in support of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island's request to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for emergency action to reduce the 2015 Bering Sea halibut prohibited species catch by 33%.
- **Alaska Regional Coalition Memorandum of Agreement:**
 - A MOA with Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Kawerak, Inc., and Tanana Chiefs Conference was signed creating the Alaska Regional Coalition to develop unified voice to provide advocacy on State legislative issues and work to shift State policy toward greater recognition of Tribes.
 - The coalition unites tribes to achieve favorable political policy in Juneau and Washington DC. The tribal legislative working group meets regularly to discuss State and Federal issues pertaining to Indian policy in Alaska. Unity between regions will provide all tribes a greater influence.
- **Adopted Resolution:**
 - EC 15-02, Refinancing Loan for the Hope Building

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Client Services Relocate from Mendenhall Valley to Downtown Juneau

OFFICE RELOCATION

Tlingit Haida Central Council's Child Care, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) and 477 Tribal Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) offices will be relocating from the Mendenhall Mall location. Please note office closure dates, new location, and reopen dates listed below.

Child Care	TVR	477 TANF
Closed: January 12, 2015	Closed: January 22, 2015	Closed: January 26, 2015
New Location: Open: January 26, 2015 Andrew Hope Building 320 W. Willoughby Avenue 1 st Floor	New Location: Open: February 2, 2015 Andrew Hope Building 320 W. Willoughby Avenue 1 st Floor	New Location: Open: February 4, 2015 Federal Building 709 W. 9 th St. Mezzanine Level Computer Lab 2 nd Floor

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

For more information, please contact the 477 TANF Office Receptionist:
1.800.344.1432 x 7158 | 907.463.7158 | lduncan@ccthita.org

The Child Care, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR), Employment & Training (E&T), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) departments have relocated their offices from the Mendenhall Valley (Mendenhall Mall) to downtown Juneau (Andrew Hope and Federal buildings).

The decision to relocate client service offices was based on providing added security for staff and clients, improving the use of office space, providing easier access for clients between our locations, and reducing operating costs.

E&T and TANF have signed a lease and moved in to the Federal Building. TVR and Child Care have been temporarily relocated to the 1st floor of the Andrew Hope Building. Once renovations and remodeling have been completed they will be moved up to the 3rd floor.

New Website for the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall

We are excited to share that a new website has been launched for the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall. The hall was renovated in 2014 and includes new floor coverings, wall finishes, suspended ceiling, state of the art audio and visual system, stage lighting, and dimmable LED lighting system. The facility, which is located in downtown Juneau, offers up to 6,000 square feet of event space, a capacity of hosting 1,186 people, and a commercial-grade kitchen.



The Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall is an excellent venue choice for any conference, meeting, reception, wedding, banquet, party, retreat, or concert! Check us out at: www.ephall.org.

PROGRAM/SERVICE NEWS

Central Council Partners to Provide Tax Assistance Services

Central Council, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, and United Way of Southeast Alaska have partnered to provide free tax assistance services for tribal citizens in the communities of Angoon, Juneau, Kake, Saxman, and Prince of Wales Island. Tax assistance services will run from February 3 – April 14, 2015. To find out when the tax assistance services will be in your community, visit: www.ccthita.org/info/events/documents/TaxAssistanceSessions.pdf.

If you have questions regarding the tax assistance services, please contact: Dawn Wesley at 907.780.3117 or dwesley@thrha.org.

Free Tax Assistance for Southeast Alaska

Through the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), in partnership with Central Council of the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, United Way of Southeast Alaska, and the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, assistance services for tribal citizens residing in the communities of Juneau, Kake, Saxman, Angoon, and Prince of Wales Island.

ANGOOK	PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND
Angoon Community Center 100 Railroad Street Juneau, AK 99801 February 11, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 12, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 13, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)	Prince of Wales Island Community Center 100 Railroad Street Juneau, AK 99801 February 11, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 12, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 13, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)
JUNEAU	SAXMAN
Juneau Community Center 100 Railroad Street Juneau, AK 99801 February 11, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 12, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 13, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)	Saxman Community Center 100 Railroad Street Juneau, AK 99801 February 11, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 12, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 13, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)
KAKE	DON'T FORGET TO BRING...
Kake Community Center 100 Railroad Street Juneau, AK 99801 February 11, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 12, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) February 13, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)	• A valid ID • Social Security Number • Recent pay stubs • Recent tax returns • Recent bank statements • Recent credit reports • Recent utility bills • Recent insurance policies • Recent medical records • Recent dental records • Recent vision records • Recent hearing records • Recent prescription records • Recent medical history • Recent family history • Recent travel records • Recent military records • Recent education records • Recent employment records • Recent criminal records • Recent court records • Recent probate records • Recent estate records • Recent will records • Recent trust records • Recent power of attorney records • Recent durable power of attorney records • Recent health care proxy records • Recent advance directives records • Recent organ donor records • Recent donoror records • Recent organ recipient records • Recent organ donor records • Recent organ recipient records • Recent organ donor records • Recent organ recipient records

Native-Owned Business Directory

Central Council's Business and Economic Development Department (BEDD) is compiling a directory of Southeast Alaska Native-owned businesses to provide support to Southeast Alaska Native entrepreneurs and businesses. The directory is funded through the United States Department of Economic Development Administration's Partnership Planning Program.

If you are Tlingit, Haida, and/or Tsimpshian, a licensed business owner, and would like to be included in the directory, please provide us with your contact information: www.surveymonkey.com/s/3FVS737.

To view a copy of the draft business directory, please visit: www.ccthita.org/services/community/biz.

Craig Head Start Classroom Closes for the Year

Due to unforeseeable circumstances, Tlingit Haida Head Start has made the very difficult decision to close its classroom in Craig, Alaska for the remainder of the school year. The closure is primarily related to Head Start's ability to provide quality services to the children and families served. One of the requirements from the Office of the Administration for Children & Families - Office of Head Start is that we maintain two staff in the classroom at all times when children are present.

Being able to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children is of utmost importance. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in recruiting a teacher aide to support the lead teacher after multiple job advertisements. We are fully committed to reopening Craig Head Start in the fall and will begin recruitment in the late spring or early summer to find the staff necessary to support our lead teacher. Because we value input from parents and community members, the Head Start administrative team held a community meeting on January 29, 2015 in Craig.