



## TRIBAL UPDATE

### June 2016

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## Government Activities

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### Executive Council Meeting Overview

The Executive Council met June 13-14, 2016 in Juneau, Alaska following the 2016 Celebration. Many items were discussed including a Constitution Committee, joint board meeting with Sealaska, Native Youth Summit, and travel to Canada for a meeting on transboundary mining and rivers.

Next year’s Tribal Assembly has been declared a Constitutional Convention. President Richard Peterson has appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (VP) William Micklin to chair the newly formed Constitution Committee which will review the Tribe’s governing documents and propose amendments to Delegates during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tribal Assembly. Other members will be appointed to the Constitution Committee which will function like any other standing committee and meet regularly throughout the year.



L-R: Edward K. (Sam) Thomas, Marvin Adams, Jacqueline Pata, Ralph Wolfe, Richard Peterson, Rob Sanderson Jr., William Micklin, and Micians Hutcherson

The Executive Council will schedule a meeting with the Sealaska Board of Directors to discuss issues that both entities can advocate on at the local, state, and federal level. Alaska Native Veterans Allotment, Landless Communities, Marine Mammal Protection Act, transboundary mining and rivers, and land into trust are some of the priority issues the Executive Council hope to work with Sealaska on.

As directed by Tribal Assembly Resolution 16-21 entitled "Southeast Alaska Native Youth Summit," Central Council has begun the planning process to host a youth summit during the summer of 2017. Although the summit is still in the brainstorming stage in the coordination process, Central Council would like to provide advanced notice to tribal youth to maximize participation and encourage students and Tlingit & Haida Community Councils to raise funds for student travel expenses.

President Peterson, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Rob Sanderson Jr., and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Will Micklin will travel to Canada in August to meet with Lt. Governor Byron Mallott and representatives from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of State. The meeting will focus discussions on transboundary mining and rivers following the large scale Canadian mining boom in the transboundary region between Alaska and Canada which threatens our pristine waters and our way of life. It is important for tribal governments to be consulted with and represented in any policy discussion related to impacts to our waters and communities.

### **2017 Annual Funding Agreement Negotiations**

Central Council and tribal administrators from each Compact tribe will be meeting in Craig, Alaska on August 4, 2016 for the 2017 Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) Negotiations. An assigned negotiator from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will lead the negotiation meeting. Southeast Alaska tribes who compact their BIA funding with Central Council are invited to participate in the negotiation process. The following communities were under a Compact agreement in 2016: Craig, Haines, Juneau, Kasaan, Klawock, Saxman and Wrangell. For more information on the 2017 AFA Negotiations, please contact Tribal Operations Executive Assistant Helene Bennett at [hbennett@ccthita-nsn.gov](mailto:hbennett@ccthita-nsn.gov), 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7306, or 907.463.7306.

### **New ICWA Regulations Passed**



The Department of Interior issued a final rule last week that strengthens implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978. The final rule addresses requirements for State courts in ensuring implementation of ICWA in Indian child-welfare proceedings and requirements for States to maintain records under ICWA.

Under the rule, state courts in foster-care, termination-of-parental-rights, and adoption proceedings will be required to ask whether the child is an "Indian child" under ICWA, and therefore subject to the law's procedures. Determining this early in the proceeding maximizes the chances of placing the child with extended family and other preferred placements, thus promoting stability for the child and healthy connections with his or her family and tribe. The rule also ensures that, regardless of the state court forum, children and their parents receive the active efforts to maintain family and community.

"The new regulations provide greater protection for our tribal children and reduces potential litigation surrounding the placement of Native children in State custody," said President Peterson. "Our utmost goal is to ensure our children have safe and stable homes, but if that cannot happen, placing them with extended family members should be the next preferred placement to ensure they are not uprooted from their culture, family, and community."

The rule is set to go into effect in December to allow a grace period for state and local governments to come into compliance. A summary of the key provisions is available on Central Council's website: [www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/news](http://www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/news).

## Alaska Native Claims Settlement Improvement Act

On May 26, 2016 Senator Lisa Murkowski introduced S.3004 – Alaska Native Claims Settlement Improvement Act, which would make technical corrections to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and settle both new and old issues with implementation of the 45-year-old law and other federal statutes affecting Alaska Native communities. Senators Murkowski and Dan Sullivan co-sponsored the bill which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Most importantly to Southeast Alaska Natives, the bill will address both the Landless Communities and Native Veterans Allotments.

Under the ANCSA, more than 200 Native corporations were formed, but, Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell were unjustly left out of being represented by the terms of the original act. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Improvement Act would provide urban corporations to these five towns and award 23,040 acres of land to each Landless Community.

The bill will also improve the process for Alaska Natives who served between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 and are eligible to select land allotments under a 1998 commitment by the government to provide Alaska Native veterans 160 acres for serving the United States during wartimes. To date, only 432 Alaska Natives have received land, representing just 13 percent of those who served during the war.

**Track this Bill:** [www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/s3004](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/s3004).

## Administrative Activities

### Central Council Secures “ccthita-nsn.gov” Domain Name

Central Council has received notice from the Department of Interior (DOI) that its application for a Native Sovereign Nation (NSN) domain ([www.ccthita-nsn.gov](http://www.ccthita-nsn.gov)) was approved and activated by the General Services Administration (GSA). The NSN domain is available to federally-recognized tribes through a Memorandum of Understanding between GSA, DOI, and Indian Affairs. The “-nsn.gov” domain provides benefits to tribes including sovereign identification, official government website identification, and tribal websites will be added to [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov) – a search engine for government information and services. In the coming weeks, Central Council will transition its website over to [www.ccthita-nsn.gov](http://www.ccthita-nsn.gov) and staff email addresses (@ccthita-nsn.gov).



## Program Activities

### Alumni Scholarship Application Period



Mark your calendars! The Alumni Scholarship Assistance program will be accepting applications starting **July 1, 2016**. The scholarship program provides annual financial awards to tribally enrolled citizens who are attending an accredited college or university regardless of service area, community affiliation, origination, residence, tribal compact, or signatory status. Award amounts are based on funds raised through the annual Spring

King Salmon Derby and donations received during Tribal Assembly, from private donors, and through vendor/associate solicitations. **Apply Now:** [www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/education/higher](http://www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/education/higher).

## Upcoming Events

### Summer Walking Challenge

The Elderly Services program is pleased to announce its Summer Walking Challenge will be **June 30 - August 3, 2016**. The five-week walking event will focus on Juneau tribal citizens 18 years of age or older who want to improve their general health and wellbeing. Registered participants who submit their pedometer log at the end of each week will be entered in a random prize drawing. Don't miss this great opportunity to challenge and empower yourself to take positive steps towards improving your health! Get outdoors and have some fun!

### Registration Kickoff

The event will kick off on **June 30, 2016** from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Vocational Training & Resource Center (3239 Hospital Drive). Registered participants will receive a water bottle, pedometer, and t-shirt.

For more information, please contact Central Council's Elderly Services program at [lcooper@ccthita-nnsn.gov](mailto:lcooper@ccthita-nnsn.gov), 800.344.1432 ext. 7131, or 907.463.7131.

### Strengthening Tribal Stewardship Conference

CURRENT TOPICS IN TRIBAL MANAGEMENT:  
STRENGTHENING TRIBAL STEWARDSHIP  
August 23-26, 2016 • Juneau, Alaska

Guided by elders, the session will include panels & dialogue, providing enhanced knowledge & skills for strengthened tribal stewardship of traditional territories.

2 UAF Tribal Management Credits  
\$412 UAF Tuition & Fees  
Website: [tribalmgmt.uaf.edu](http://tribalmgmt.uaf.edu)  
Email: [arutman@uaf.edu](mailto:arutman@uaf.edu)

UAF  
TRIBAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Tlingit and Haida  
Tribes of Alaska

Photograph courtesy of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Digital Archives. Postcard view of two canoes on beach. Tall Tlingit man [Long Jim] and two other men attend a canoe in which are sitting five Tlingit women. Mayflower Island visible behind on Douglas Island and Juneau, Alaska in background.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks' Tribal Management Program in partnership with Central Council will be hosting a four-day conference on "Strengthening Tribal Stewardship" in Juneau from August 23-26, 2016. Tuition and fees for attending the class is \$412 and all participants will receive two (2) college credits.

The focus of the forum is to build understanding, relationships, and knowledge for advancing the co-management of Alaskan fish and wildlife resources. Alaska Natives have served as stewards of their traditional lands and resources for thousands

of years maintaining healthy and productive ecosystems. This event will bring together University of Alaska researchers and staff, Alaska Native leaders and staff, State and Federal fish and game employees, and those with the vested interest in seeing successful co-management in Alaska. Building on a historical perspective of fish and wildlife management in Alaska, speakers will focus on the contemporary challenges and opportunities for co-management in Alaska today. Successful examples of co-management in action will be highlighted, one-to-one sharing and dialogue will be incorporated, and collaborative solutions will be identified.

For more information on how to register, please contact Angela Rutman at [arrutman@alaska.edu](mailto:arrutman@alaska.edu) or visit [www.tribalmgmt.uaf.edu](http://www.tribalmgmt.uaf.edu).

SAVE THE DATE

**Kux dei yaan tootéen haa kusteeyi**  
(Bringing Back the Strength of Our People)  
**SUMMER WALKING CHALLENGE**  
June 30th - August 4th

Central Council's Elderly Services program is pleased to host this year's Summer Walking Challenge "Kux dei yaan tootéen haa kusteeyi" (Bringing Back the Strength of Our People). The event will be held June 30th through August 4th. This 5-week event will focus on Juneau tribal citizens 18 years of age or older who want to improve their general health and wellbeing.

Registered participants will receive a pedometer, water bottle, and t-shirt!

**Registration Kickoff**  
When: June 30, 2016 • 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Location: VTRC • 3239 Hospital Drive (First Floor)

The event will kickoff at the VTRC on Thursday, June 30th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Don't miss out, registered participants will receive a pedometer, water bottle, and t-shirt, while supplies last! To register after June 30th, please contact Laura (907-463-7131) or Le (907-463-7131). The last day to register for this event is July 7th.

Don't miss this great opportunity to challenge and empower yourself to take positive steps towards improving your health! Get outdoors and have some fun!

For more information, please contact:  
Le Florencia, Elderly Services Coordinator, Elderly Services Program, 907-463-7131 • [lcooper@ccthita.org](mailto:lcooper@ccthita.org)  
Laura Cooper, Family Service Worker, Elderly Services Program, 907-463-7131 • [lcooper@ccthita.org](mailto:lcooper@ccthita.org)

Sponsored by Central Council's Tribal Family & Youth Services • Elderly Services Program