



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

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- TRIBAL UPDATE -  
*October 29, 2014*

President's Message:

I am pleased to provide another *Tribal Update* as we continue to strengthen our communications with tribal citizens on the activities and progress of the Tlingit Haida Central Council. We are working diligently to build lasting relationships that bring value back to our Tribe and opportunities to better serve our tribal citizens. I will continue to work towards building effective ways to collaborate and am looking forward to strengthening our relationships with ANCSA corporations, village tribes, municipalities, and the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

Lastly, as elections loom closer and closer, Tlingit Haida Central Council has made endorsements of the Walker/Mallott Alaska First Unity ticket and Senator Mark Begich. These endorsements were made based on who will best represent and respects our values as Alaska Native people.

Please exercise your right to vote and encourage your family and friends to do so as well! When you cast your ballot, imagine who will best pursue the vision you have for your children, grandchildren, and generations to come – they are our future who will inherit and care for our lands.

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa,

**Richard J. Peterson**  
*Chá Yaa Éesh*

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## Tribe Seeks Membership on the Intertribal Agriculture Council



Tlingit Haida Central Council has secured delegate membership on the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC). The Executive Council adopted a resolution appointing President Richard Peterson as delegate and 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Jolene Edenshaw as alternate.

The Tribe has not participated on the IAC since 1988, but has identified the need to gain membership in order to provide greater Alaska representation to advocate for more Alaska-based programs that will support economic growth in rural Alaska.

USDA is the second largest agency budget in the United States. In the past five years, it has made significant improvements to its infrastructure and broadened its efforts to support American Indian/Alaska Native tribes. Last year alone, the USDA invested more than \$625 million in Indian Country through its Rural Development program.

The IAC was founded in 1987 to pursue and promote the conservation, development and use of American Indian/Alaska Native agricultural resources. The 28th Annual IAC Membership Meeting will be held December 8-11, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## Tribe Awarded Department of Justice Grant

Tlingit Haida Central Council has received a grant award of \$724,764 from the United States Department of Justice under their Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS). The three-year grant will fund the Second Chance program administered by the Tribe's Public Safety Department which also oversees the state-funded Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program.

The Second Chance program will provide individuals, while still incarcerated and/or released on probation, with distance training and employment assistance in an effort to reduce the high rate of prison reentry in Southeast Alaska.

During the first year of the grant, Public Safety Manager Jason Wilson will work with the Juneau Reentry Coalition to develop a strategic plan. The Second Chance program will staff two part-time tutors, a full-time training and employment coordinator, and a full-time caseworker. The grant will also cover tuition, fees, and books for 75 students over the three year period. Students participating in the program will be provided a structured environment to complete a vocational and/or accredited certification program that will lead to an apprenticeship, internship and/or employment.

"I'm extremely excited for this opportunity for our tribal citizens," said Public Safety Manager Wilson. "This new program will provide a crucial safety net of services and support to ensure these individuals have the tools necessary to successfully reenter their communities."

## Tlingit Haida Central Council Endorses Senator Mark Begich

Tlingit Haida Central Council has endorsed Alaska Senator Mark Begich for re-election to the United States Senate. The Tribe's Executive Council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing Begich based on his record of commitment and accomplishments in advancing Alaska Native interests which include:

- **Alaska Territorial Guard** – Secured reinstatement of pension payments for members of the WWII-era Alaska Territorial Guard.
- **Essential Air Service** – Protected vital transportation routes and services by protecting the Essential Air Service program.
- **Indian Health Service (IHS)** – Secured permanent reauthorization of the IHS and historic full funding for contract support costs.
- **Postal Service Reform** – Fought efforts to end Bypass Mail and pushed the United States Postal Service to reverse rate increases in rural Alaska.
- **Rural Broadband** – Helped deliver over \$140 million in improvements to rural broadband.
- **Safe Families & Villages Act** – Introduced the act to give Alaska tribes resources and local control to empower communities to combat domestic violence.
- **Subsistence Bill** – Developed and secured passage of bill that overruled federal prohibitions against serving donated traditional foods in schools, hospitals, and elder care facilities.

“Senator Begich has been an effective member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and Appropriations Committee, understands the unique challenges of rural Alaska and the importance of resource development in order to build sustainable communities,” said President Richard Peterson. “We need Senator Begich to continue to fight on our behalf for tribal sovereignty, protection of our customary and traditional hunting and gathering practices, repeal of the ‘Alaska exception’ to the Violence Against Women Act, and removal of the “Alaska exemption” to allow Alaska tribes to take land into trust.”

Senator Begich was adopted into the *Tsaagweidi* (Killer Whale) clan and given the Tlingit name *Kaawusteen* in recognition of his dedication to Alaska Natives. To view a copy of Tlingit Haida Central Council's resolution endorsing Senator Begich, please visit:  
[www.ccthita.org/government/council/resolutions](http://www.ccthita.org/government/council/resolutions).

## Tribe Signs Cooperative Agreement with State of Alaska and Microsoft

Tlingit Haida Central Council, the State of Alaska, and Microsoft Corporation have formalized their collaboration to coordinate specialized training and workforce development in the area of Information Technology (IT) to promote economic development in Alaska. The cooperative agreement was signed October 15, 2014 during the National Indian Education Association's convention in Anchorage and is an annex to a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the State of Alaska and Tlingit Haida Central Council in August.

The annex identifies four areas of collaboration: cooperate and discuss education and job opportunities related to IT; facilitate an exchange of information regarding current and anticipated developments in IT and work cooperatively toward coordinating training programs; facilitate cooperation and improvement in training for IT careers using all available vocational – technical institutions, including Alaska tribal institutions; and host a “Technical Education” conference each year for at least the next two years to share data and views regarding IT training and employment opportunities.

In total, Alaska will receive 25 Microsoft IT Academy licenses and 10 free assessments for certificates per site from Microsoft Corporation. Tlingit Haida Central Council will receive one of five licenses to be issued to tribal vocational institutions. Licenses will also be issued to public schools, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development job centers, Division of Juvenile Justice, Alaska Military Academy, and the Office of Children's Services' Independent Living Program.

Microsoft IT Academy was developed to bridge the gap between education and the real world by empowering students to gain the IT skills needed for college and a career in today's technology-driven job market. The program also provides educators with the professional development resources needed to be successful in the classroom.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our communities and tribal citizens," said President Richard Peterson. "Providing this training to our young tribal citizens gives them a relevant set of skills to be competitive in the job market."

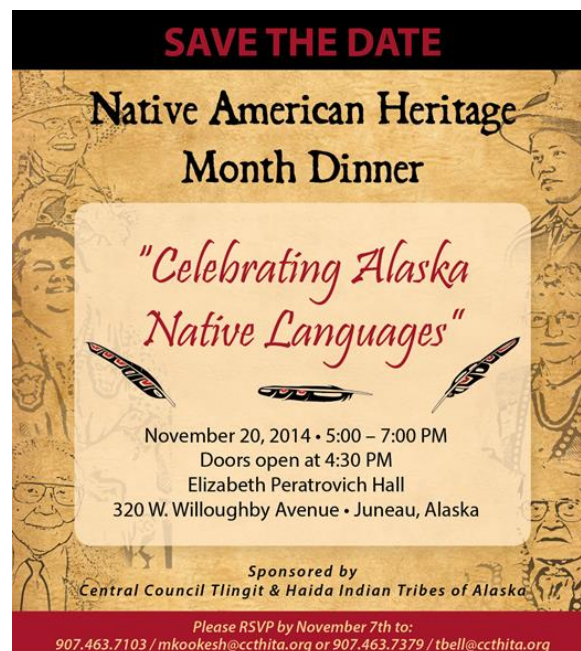
Governor Sean Parnell's Special Counsel and Policy Director Randy Ruaro, Department of Education Commissioner Mike Hanley, and Department of Labor Dianne Blumer represented the State of Alaska and Western Region General Manager Kristin Rhodes and Director of Strategic Initiatives Adrian Wilson represented Microsoft at the signing ceremony.

### Save the Date: Native American Heritage Month Dinner

Please join us in celebrating our Alaska Native languages and the recent passage and signing of House Bill 216 recognizing 20 Alaska Native languages as official languages of the State of Alaska. Please RSVP by November 7<sup>th</sup> through our Facebook event page ([www.facebook.com/events/674108402703891/](http://www.facebook.com/events/674108402703891/)) or by contacting Melissa Kookesh ([mkookesh@ccthita.org](mailto:mkookesh@ccthita.org)) or Tana Bell ([tbell@ccthita.org](mailto:tbell@ccthita.org)).

**Keynote:** Liz (Laa.guen.gei, Kaa Tsáas) Medicine Crow

**Master of Ceremonies:** Lance (Xh'unei) Twitchell

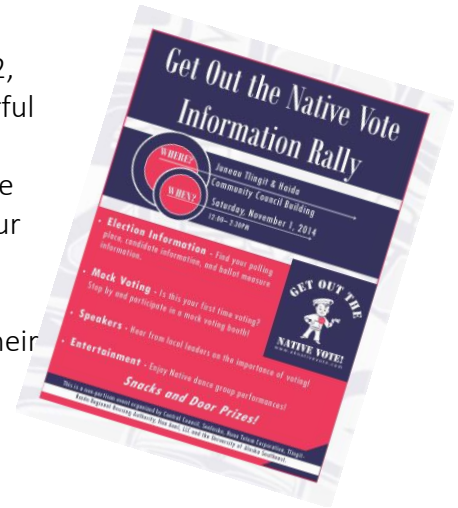


## Get Out the Native Vote (GOTNV) Voter Information Rally – November 1, 2014

Tlingit Haida Central Council invites all tribal citizens to attend a voter information rally on November 1, 2014 (Saturday) at the Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council. The event will feature presentations from local leaders on the importance of voting and provide participants with an opportunity to review key election information such as polling locations, candidates, and ballot measures. The GOTNV rally is a non-partisan event organized by Tlingit Haida Central Council, Sealaska, Huna Totem Corporation, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, Haa Aani, LLC and the University of Alaska Southeast.

Tlingit Haida Central Council continues to encourage tribal citizens to exercise their right to vote for the upcoming General Election. In 2012, 57% of Alaska Natives turned out to vote and showed just how powerful the Native vote is. Alaska Natives make up 20% of Alaska's population and it's vital we make our voices heard in this year's election to ensure that our Alaska Native issues are a priority with the State of Alaska. Our Alaska Native vote counts!

We are also asking tribal citizens to show us how they demonstrate their right to vote by sharing photos with us for our Facebook album "Our Native Vote Counts."



**Event:** GOTNV Information Rally

**Date:** Saturday - November 1, 2014

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**Location:** Juneau T&H Community Council (3235 Hospital Dr. - Juneau, AK)

### Important Voter Dates:

- Oct.20-Nov.3 Early Voting
- Nov. 1 Get Out the Native Vote Information Rally
- Nov. 4 General Elections

## 2nd Vice President Rob Sanderson Jr. Re-elected as AFN Southeast Village Representative



2nd Vice President Rob Sanderson Jr.  
Photo courtesy of Alaska Federation  
of Natives

Tlingit Haida Central Council congratulates 2nd Vice President Rob Sanderson Jr. on his re-election as Southeast Alaska Village Representative on the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Board of Directors. AFN is governed by a 37-member board, which is elected by its membership at the annual convention held each October. The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska native community.

Robert A. Sanderson, Jr. (*Gu'usuwaa*) is Haida of the Eagle moiety, *Stuts* Clan. He was born in Ketchikan, Alaska to Romay D. (Edenshaw) Sanderson and Robert A. Sanderson, Sr. and was raised in Hydaburg, Alaska. His maternal grandparents are the late James and Bertha (Lee) Edenshaw; paternal grandparents are the late Edward and Helen B. Sanderson; and biological paternal grandfather is the late Robert A. Cogo, Sr.

Rob is 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President on the Tlingit Haida Central Council's Executive Council and currently serving his fourth term. He has been a tribal delegate since 2000 and is also the President of the Ketchikan Tlingit & Haida Community Council. Rob has been a strong leader on important Alaska Native issues such as suicide prevention, fisheries, subsistence (our way of life), and transboundary mining. He represents the Tribe on the GOAC3 (Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition), IPCoMM (Indigenous People's Council for Marine Mammals), USFS (United States Forest Service) Alaska Tribal Leaders Committee, United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group as co-chair, Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission, and Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit Committee. He also participates on Southeast Conference as alternate, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, represents Southeast Alaska village tribes and corporations on the AFN Board of Directors, and is a member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp #14.

Rob has also served on the Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) Tribal Council, KIC Enrollment Chair, KIC Housing Authority Board of Directors, Tongass Futures Roundtable, Southeast Alaska Chinook Mitigation Program Stakeholder Panel, and the AITC (Alaska Inter-Tribal Council).

Rob worked as a longshoreman for 17 years, is a lifelong fisherman, and enjoys playing basketball, fishing, and working with children and elders. In addition to serving our people, he strives to be the best parent possible for his son Keenan (age 17) and Luke (age 7)."

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve my people and I will continue to work to protect our way of life and promote health and wellness for our communities and tribal citizens."