

- TRIBAL UPDATE -
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Tribe Declares Endorsement of Alaska First Unity Ticket



L-R: Bill Walker, President Richard Peterson,
and Byron Mallott

President Richard Peterson announced the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's (Tribe) endorsement of Bill Walker for Governor and Byron Mallott for Lieutenant Governor last Friday during a meet and greet with tribal citizens. This is one of the very few times in the Tribe's history where it has unanimously endorsed a gubernatorial candidate.

The Tribe's Executive Council passed a resolution in April endorsing Mallott as candidate for Governor. However, they had not formalized their position after Mallott withdrew as Democratic Party candidate for Governor to form the Alaska First Unity ticket with independent candidate for Governor Bill Walker.

The bipartisan Unity ticket appeals to many Alaska Native voters with Walker and Mallott's established positions on important Alaska Native issues such as tribal sovereignty, subsistence, and voting rights. Walker and Mallott have also identified high cost of energy and education as priorities which are both issues extremely important to Alaska Native communities. "The Unity ticket's position is in line with our tribal values and will give Alaska tribes the best opportunity to advance ourselves for the benefit of our people and villages," said President Peterson.

"Everything in my life has been formed by who I am as an Alaska Native person," said running mate and Lieutenant Governor candidate Mallott.

Addressing President Peterson on his position with regard to the State of Alaska suing Tribes over issues relating to tribal sovereignty, Walker said, "This administration will work with tribes, not against tribes."

Walker is a lifelong Alaskan who was born in Fairbanks and lived in Valdez for 30 years where he served as mayor. He has practiced law for over 25 years for the law firm of Walker & Richards, LLC, in Anchorage. In 2010, he ran for Governor and came in second to Governor Parnell in a statewide primary with 33 percent of the vote.

Jodi Wise Hired as Human Resources Manager



Tlingit Haida Central Council is pleased to announce the hire of Jodi Wise as Human Resources (HR) Manager.

Jodi holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration with a major in HR management from the American Intercontinental University; Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with emphasis in management and minor in economics from Southern Oregon University; and Associate of Arts degree from the University of Alaska Southeast.

In her new position, Jodi will manage all aspects of the Tribe’s HR systems in compliance with all applicable laws. Her duties will include coordination of job classifications, recruitment and selection processes, employee performance evaluation systems, new employee orientation, and employee benefit training.

“I’m happy to have Jodi join our management team,” said President Richard Peterson. “I am confident her contributions will not only help the Tribe grow, but ensure our place as a sustainable, competitive, professional organization.”

Jodi’s strong background in HR management includes work with the State of Alaska, Raytheon Engineers & Constructors, Huna Heritage Foundation, and Huna Totem Corporation. “My goal is to help our President develop our employees and processes to function efficiently and effectively in our day-to-day operations,” said Jodi. “It is through our employees that Central Council will improve and maintain our competitive edge.”

Jodi (*Gee Shiex*) is *T’ak Dein Taan*, child of a *Wooshkeetaan*, and great grandchild of the *Chookaneidi*. She is the daughter of Marlene and Cliff Johnson and a graduate of Hoonah High School. She is married to Michael Wise, an officer with the Juneau Police Department, and together they have two awesome children - Trenton (17) and Kiele (15).

President Richard Peterson & 2nd Vice President Rob Sanderson Jr. Reappointed to USFS Committee



President Peterson seated,
2nd VP Rob Sanderson

President Richard Peterson and 2nd Vice President (VP) Rob Sanderson Jr. were recently reappointed to the United States Forest Service (USFS)’s Alaska Tribal Leaders Committee (ATLC). The ATLC expanded the committee’s tribal representation from two to three positions. Tribal representatives were elected by federally recognized tribes located in or near the region’s two national forests – Tongass and Chugach. In addition to the reappointment of President Peterson and 2nd VP Rob Sanderson Jr., Southeast Alaska tribes elected Patricia (Patti) Handy of Hoonah.

The ATLC was formed to provide consultation to the USFS on local and regional issues, potential partnerships, and cooperative efforts that affect or support federally recognized tribes. The committee consists of tribal delegates and alternates, the Regional

Forester's team, and a Pacific Northwest Research Station representative and alternate. The USFS and ATLC conduct informal monthly conferences and formally meet twice a year.

The ATLC has identified six focus areas to broaden understanding and strengthen shared stewardship:

- **Cultural Awareness Workshop/Training:** Develop training and/or materials that can be received by USFS and Tribal government staff to bring them along more quickly in their understanding of Alaska Native cultures and the USFS culture.
- **Forest Planning - Incorporating Traditional Knowledge:** Invite tribal elders to share traditional knowledge early in the forest planning process.
- **Wood and Other Special Forest Products:** Work to understand tribal interests in obtaining wood (e.g., for buildings, totems and canoes) and other special forest products, and communicate early with tribes when there are opportunities to provide these resources.
- **Communication & Consultation:** Communicate with tribes early, often and in multiple ways.
- **Youth:** In all ATLC efforts, continue to look for opportunities to involve and benefit youth.
- **Capacity Building:** Work to develop additional capacity within the Forest Service and tribes to support collaborative efforts.

Tribal Citizen Meet and Greet with Bill Walker & Byron Mallott

The Bill Walker for Governor Campaign hosted a successful meet and greet on Friday, September 12, 2014 at Tlingit Haida Central Council's Vocational Training and Resource Center in Juneau. More than 70



tribal citizens attended the event to hear gubernatorial candidate Bill Walker and running mate Byron Mallott discuss their decision to join campaigns and form the Alaska First Unity ticket.

President Richard Peterson provided the welcome and announced the

Tribe's endorsement of the Unity ticket noting, "This is one of the few times in our history the Tribe has endorsed a gubernatorial candidate. We stand 100% behind the Unity campaign." A question and answer period allowed the candidates to respond and share their positions on topics relating to climate change, transboundary mining, poll indicators for the campaign, education, bycatch fisheries, roll of the lieutenant governor, and Senate Bill 21 (Oil and Gas Production Tax). The evening closed with a performance from the Children of All Nations dance group.

To listen to an audio recording of the event, please visit:
www.ccthita.org/government/president/media/index.html.

President Peterson Participates on Tongass Advisory Committee

President Peterson along with other United States Forest Service (USFS) Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) members met September 10-12, 2014 in Juneau, Alaska to continue charting the path for developing recommendation on how to transition the Tongass National Forest to primarily young-growth forest management in the next 10-15 years. As a part of their work, the TAC will be reviewing the USFS' proposed amendments to the 2008 Tongass National Forest Plan.

During the first half of the three day meeting, the TAC discussed the fundamentals of young-growth management. Local resource experts from the USFS and Alaska Department of Natural Resources provided detailed presentations on the overall condition and location of young-growth in the Tongass, key components of the plan amendment process, and factors to consider with regards to operability and management of young-growth harvest.

Three working groups, or subcommittees, were established to help address key issues:

1. Consider where the future young-growth land base might be,
2. How it might be harvested, and
3. Overall purpose of a young-growth forest management strategy.



L-R: President Peterson, Woody Widmark, Jaeleen Araujo

TAC members plan to submit initial recommendations by January 2015. Once final recommendations are received, a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be released (August 2015), followed by a final EIS and draft Record of Decision (ROD) (May 2016), and final ROD (August 2016).

President Richard Peterson was selected by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack as one of 15 members and 5 alternates to serve on the TAC. "I sought to participate on the Tongass Advisory Committee to ensure there is tribal representation from the people of the Tongass," said President Peterson.

"There are many stakeholders participating on the committee – the difference is Alaska Natives are not stakeholders. These are our ancestral lands and we must have a voice to ensure the protection of our cultural and subsistence resources."

TAC members appointed to serve and represent the interest of Southeast Alaska tribes include:

- Richard J. Peterson – Kasaan, AK
- Jaeleen J. Araujo – Juneau, AK
- (Woody) Lawrence A. Widmark – Sitka, AK
- Robert D. Mills – Kake, AK (Alternate)

The next TAC meeting has been scheduled for October 8-10, 2014 in Klawock, Alaska. Interested members of the public are encourage to attend future meetings and provide public comment.

For more information on the TAC, please visit: www.merid.org/tongassadvisorycommittee.

2014 Southeast Environmental Conference Report

Central Council in partnership with the Chilkat Indian Village, Craig Tribal Association, Douglas Indian Association, Organized Village of Kasaan, Petersburg Indian Association, and Sitka Tribe of Alaska successfully hosted the 2014 Southeast Environmental Conference in Juneau. This annual event aims to educate the Southeast Tribes on current environmental priorities and to promote capacity building among the southeast tribal environmental programs and expand on networking opportunities. The conference topics were identified by the Southeast Tribes as environmental priorities based on a needs assessment that was sent out prior to the planning of the Conference. This year's conference focused on climate change, harmful algal blooms, transboundary mining, herring, and brownfields.

The conference was broken down into two main components – informational presentations and working group sessions. The first half of the conference was dedicated to informational presentations that covered harmful algal blooms (HABs) and the Southeast Alaska Tribal Toxins (SEATT) network; how to conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment and a community needs assessment; how to create the EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) which will be required for all Tribes participating in the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP); an overview of herring fisheries management; an overview of transboundary mining, the potential impacts to Southeast Alaska, and how Tribes can stay engaged; an overview of the Prince of Wales Tribal Sea Otter Commission; and information on creating a Southeast Alaska Tribal Conservation District. During the second half of the week, participants engaged in working group sessions to discuss the main conference topics and came up with ways that Tribes can take what they learned at this year’s conference and integrate these ideas into their work plans. These work group sessions included harmful algal blooms, transboundary mining, and climate change. The last day of the conference focused on the State & Tribal Response program, or brownfields which are contaminated sites that are proposed to reuse or redevelopment.

This year’s conference had over 35 daily participants. Fourteen tribes had staff and tribal council members in attendance, which included Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Chilkat Indian Village, Chilkoot Indian Association, Craig Tribal Association, Douglas Indian Association, Hoonah Indian Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, Klawock Cooperative Association, Organized Village of Kake, Organized Village of Kasaan, Petersburg Indian Association, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Wrangell Cooperative Association, and the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

In addition, we had participation from state and federal agencies including the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as other non-tribal organizations including the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership, Southeast Soil & Water Conservation District, Rivers Without Borders, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Trout Unlimited, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and University of Alaska Southeast.

President Peterson Selected for “Native American 40 Under 40” Award

Tlingit Haida Central Council is proud to announce President Richard Peterson as been selected by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) to receive the prestigious “Native American 40 Under 40” award. Every year NCAIED recognizes emerging Native American, Alaska Native and First Nation citizens between 18 and 39 years of age who demonstrate leadership, initiative and dedication to achieve significant contributions to Native communities throughout North America.



The Executive Council unanimously voted to nominate President Peterson for the award in August. President Peterson was selected for the award for his visionary leadership in developing business and economic opportunities in rural Alaska, outstanding dedication to preserving culture and community, and promoting self-sufficiency in rural Alaska through collaborative and proactive partnerships with Federal, State, Tribal, and Municipal agencies/governments.

The letter of award cited, “...you are a true embodiment of what the NCAIED stands for, and shining example of the economic future and advancement of Indian Country.” The NCAIED “Native American 40 Under 40” awards will be presented at the 39th Annual Indian Progress in Business Awards Gala (INPRO)

on October 8, 2014 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. INPRO is the longest standing and most prestigious Native American recognition event in the nation.

President Peterson (*Ch'aa Yaa Eesh*) is Tlingit and Haida from the Southeast Alaska village of Kasaan. He was elected by Tlingit Haida Central Council's delegates during the annual Tribal Assembly in April. He had formerly served as CEO of Prince of Wales Tribal Enterprise Consortium, LLC (POWTEC) since 2008, president of the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) since 1998, mayor/city council member since 1996, and member of the Southeast Island School District Board of Education since 2003. He has been a delegate to the Tlingit Haida Central Council since 2000.