



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

TRIBAL UPDATE

September 2015

President's Message:

I am pleased to share with you our latest Tribal Update! Our youth are back in school and thanks to the coordination and generous support of our 477 departments and partners at Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council, Sealaska, SouthEast Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), and Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA), many are sporting new backpacks! I hope our youth are excited and ready to engage in new learning opportunities, and I wish them a successful school year!

Just recently, I was appointed to the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Juneau Campus Advisory Council by new Chancellor Richard Caulfield. Despite a \$2-3 million budget cut, UAS is seeking approval for an undergraduate program in fisheries and marine transportation along with the creation of a regional maritime center. I look forward to providing input on the development of new educational opportunities relevant to rural community sustainability.

As many of you have seen in the news, the Tribe has been busy. With an eye on sovereignty, we are working towards strengthening our Tribal Court. We performed our first marriage renewal ceremony and just received \$1 million in Department of Justice funding that will help us assist families in child welfare matters and provide early intervention to at-risk youth in a culturally appropriate way.

In closing, I am very pleased to share Central Council has recently received a 35-year land lease from the City and Borough of Juneau through a competitive proposal process. The land lease not only will promote cultural awareness, but also provide tribal citizens and clients with opportunities for work experience, on-the-job training, vocational education, language classes, and cultural education—all in a profit model.

I hope this Tribal Update finds you well and ready for the Fall season!

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa,

Richard J. Peterson
Chalyee Éesh

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GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Notice of 2016 Delegate Elections

Central Council would like to remind tribal citizens of the upcoming 2016 Delegate Elections. Last year, the Tribal Assembly revised the Rules of Election which effectively reduced the apportionment of Delegates to one (1) Delegate for every two hundred (200) enrolled tribal citizens per community or fraction thereof, which will approximately reduce the number of Delegates by 30. An official report on the apportionment of Delegates will be issued on December 22, 2015.

Elections will be held in each of Central Council's 21 registered communities in March 2016.

Central Council's registered communities are:

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| • Anchorage | • Juneau | • Metlakatla | • Seattle |
| • Angoon | • Kake | • Pelican | • Wrangell |
| • Craig | • Kasaan | • Petersburg | • Yakutat |
| • Haines | • Ketchikan | • San Francisco | |
| • Hoonah | • Klawock | • Saxman | |
| • Hydaburg | • Klukwan | • Sitka | |

Delegates will serve a two-year term and attend the annual Tribal Assembly (April 20-22, 2016) to conduct business including the election of the President, Vice Presidents, Youth Representatives, Tribal Court Chief Justice, and Judges.

Tribal citizens must be 18 or older to be nominated and/or vote in the Delegate Elections. Because the apportionment of Delegates is based on the number of enrolled tribal citizens in each community, Central Council encourages all tribal citizens to update their enrollment record contact information: www.ccthita.org/services/overview/forms/form-update-contact.

Contract Support Cost Settlement

The U.S. Justice Department last week announced the settlement of a large class-action lawsuit brought by 640 tribes and tribal groups against the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The case was first filed in 1990 and addressed the underpayment of contract support costs for numerous services the federal government contracted with tribes. The total payout amount of the settlement is expected to be \$940 million – legal and administrative costs are expected to lower the final settlement amount. Alaska’s tribes will see close to \$125 million of those dollars which is roughly 15 percent of the net settlement amount.

Additional News Coverage:

KTOO: [Southeast Tribes to Receive About \\$21 Million from BIA Settlement](#)

Alaska Dispatch News: [Feds Reach \\$940M Settlement with Tribes over Contract Underpayments](#)

Alaska Public Media: [BIA Settles with 640 Tribes for \\$940M](#)

Tribe Secures Land Lease with City & Borough of Juneau

Central Council was awarded a 35-year land lease from the City and Borough of Juneau’s (CBJ) Docks and Harbors Department for the 4400 Thane Road property—former location of the *Thane Ore House*. Central Council will utilize and manage the property to establish a cultural immersion park to educate tourists on the Tlingit and Haida cultures. To read the full release, please visit our website: www.ccthita.org/info/press.

Additional News Coverage:

Juneau Empire: [New Life for the Thane Ore House](#)

KTOO: [Tlingit-Haida to Open Cultural Immersion Park at Thank Ore House Site](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Client Service Benefit Fairs

Central Council conducted client service informational fairs in the following communities: Saxman, Wrangell, Craig, Hydaburg, Klawock, and Kasaan. Head Start, Native Lands and Resources, Enrollment, Public Safety, Tribal Court, Tribal Family and Youth Services, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, Higher Education, Employment and Training, Child Care, and Tribal Assistance for Needy Families all provided program and service information. The fairs provided opportunity for tribal citizens to ask questions, apply for services, and get a tribal ID card. Central Council also met with local tribal councils in each community. Central Council is committed to improving our services and addressing the based on feedback provided during the community visits.

Top Feedback Received:

- Expand Tribal Court services and provide tribal court mentorship to Southeast Alaska village tribes.
- Simplify the application for services process. Central Council is currently consolidating all applications for services into one complete application that will be made available online with the ability to save and submit electronically.
- Boost communications to rural areas through bulletin boards, Facebook, radio, etc.
- Increase training opportunities to rural communities via distance education and onsite.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

ICWA Workshop

The Tribal Family and Youth Services (TFYS) department hosted an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) workshop September 14-16, 2015 in Juneau. The event was a follow up to last year's ICWA Conference to review the new BIA guidelines, which are the first updates since the passage of ICWA in 1979, and how they will affect the work in child welfare.

The workshop was funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), TFYS, and Casey Family programs and was attended by 55 guests from the Alaska Office of Children's Services (OCS), attorneys from Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), Native American Rights Fund (NARF), Southeast tribes, and Southeast ICWA representatives.



ICWA Workshop participants

President Peterson provided an uplifting welcome that encouraged participants to approach the work of child welfare with an open mind and an open heart, especially as Central Council continues its partnership with Alaska OCS. President Peterson also stressed the importance of the work done by ICWA workers and creating partnerships with other community networks.

Workshop Highlights:

- Presentations by attorneys from ALSC, NARF, and state & tribal attorneys reviewed specific changes in the new BIA guidelines.
- Discussion on the role of a qualified expert witness and how to cross examine and question witnesses at court hearings. Tribal elders Paul Marks and David Katzeek shared information on what makes someone an expert to speak on a child's culture and child rearing practices for the purposes of a Qualified Expert Witness in Child in Need of Aid (CINA) proceedings.
- Tribal representative panel shared strategies on how to engage families in large communities where many resources are available and also in rural communities where access to services is not always an option.
- Judge panel (Juneau Superior Court Judge Phillip Pallenberg, Special Master James Curtain, Sitka Superior Court Judge Leonard Devaney, and Tribal Court judges Aurora Lehr and Debra O'Gara) provided informal conversation and advice to enhance courtroom skills of Southeast ICWA representatives.
- Volunteer attorneys from ALSC, NARF, Alaska Public Defender Agency and Central Council presented information regarding the life of a CINA case.

All participants appreciated the opportunity to come together to learn, share, and discuss the challenges and successes of practicing child welfare in Southeast Alaska.

Note: More information will be made available in our upcoming newsletter.

Southeast Environmental Conference



President Peterson providing welcome at conference.

Central Council, in partnership with the Douglas Indian Association, Prince of Wales Tribal Stewardship Consortium, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), hosted the Southeast Environmental Conference in Juneau from September 14-18, 2015. The annual conference aims to educate Southeast tribes on current environmental priorities, 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 conference. This year's conference focused on the State of Alaska's triennial review of water quality standards, fish consumption rates, ocean acidification, air quality, marine debris fishing gear clean-up, transboundary mining, and the State Tribal Response Program (Brownfields).

The conference had two main components—informational presentations and working group sessions. The first half of the conference was dedicated to informational presentations on potential impacts to Southeast Alaska and how tribes can stay engaged. During the second half of the week, participants picked two main topics and discussed how Southeast tribes can integrate what they learned into tribal environmental work plans. Work group sessions focused on fish consumption rate/water quality standards and ocean acidification. The last day of the conference focused on Brownfields which are contaminated sites proposed for redevelopment and reuse.

Nearly 40 participants attended the conference which included tribal council members and staff from Central Council, 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. There was also participation from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, United State Forest Service, 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.

Tribe Receives \$1 Million from Department of Justice

The Department of Justice (DOJ) gave notice to Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) that it has been awarded \$1 million dollars in grant funding under DOJ's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) for two projects—Children's Justice Act and Tribal Youth Prevention and Delinquency Diversion.

*The **Children's Justice Act** project received \$450,000 and is a three-year project that will focus on the Tribal Family & Youth Service department's ability to respond and support*

the investigation, prosecution and treatment of cases of serious child abuse, neglect, and child sexual abuse within the service area of Juneau.

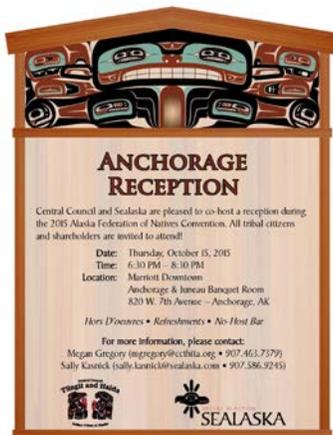
*The **Tribal Youth Prevention and Delinquency Diversion** project received \$550,002 and is a three-year project that will provide early intervention to at-risk Alaska Native youth between the ages of 12-18 who are at risk for delinquency, academic failure, substance abuse, and involved with the juvenile justice system and will provide advocacy services to court-involved youth, work to enhance the Tribal Court to provide for family-related issues in the context of the Tribe's cultural values, and offer mentoring, tutoring, and work study project options to youth and families.*

To read the full news release, please visit our website: www.ccthita.org/info/press.

Additional News Coverage:

KTOO: [Grants Boost Southeast Tribal Justice Programs](#)

SAVE THE DATES



Anchorage Reception for Tribal Citizens and Shareholders

Central Council is pleased to announce it will be co-hosting a reception for tribal citizens and shareholders in Anchorage the week of the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in partnership with Sealaska Corporation. Please join us October 15, 2015 for hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, and a dance performance!

For more information on the reception, please contact:
Megan Gregory (mgregory@ccthita.org • 907.463.7379) or
Sally Kasnick (sally.kasnick@sealaska.com • 907.586.9245)

Office Closure for All Staff Strategic Planning Session

The offices of Central Council will be closed on September 28, 2015 for an all-staff strategic planning session, *Setting a Path to Empowered Tribal Citizens and Vibrant Communities*. The session will bring tribal employees together to set a vision and strategic direction to guide our governance, programs, and service delivery that will shape the future for our next generation of tribal citizens and enable vibrant tribal communities. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause and will reopen for normal business hours on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.

Brotherhood Bridge Rededication Ceremony

If you're in Juneau on Saturday, October 24th, don't miss the opportunity to attend the Brotherhood Bridge Rededication Ceremony that's being held from 10am – Noon. Our very own Roy Peratrovich Jr. designed the historic Brotherhood Bridge that was dedicated on Alaska Day in 1965 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB). The new Brotherhood Bridge will accommodate four lanes of traffic, a multi-use path on one side and a sidewalk on the other.



Bridges Out of Poverty Training Opportunity

Central Council will be hosting a Bridges Out of Poverty training November 9-10, 2015 in Juneau, Alaska. At the core of tribes is our social services that nurture and protect our families and children, provide assistance to our neediest, and encourage our tribal citizens to seek better opportunities. The training will provide tribal employees with a comprehensive approach to understanding the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty from the individual to the systemic level. Participants will review poverty research, examine a theory of change, and analyze poverty through the prism of the hidden rules of class, resources, family structure, and language. Throughout the workshop, participants will receive specific strategies for improving outcomes for people living in poverty.

If you work for an Alaska tribe and provide client services, please contact the Employment & Training department to find out how you can register to participate in this training:

1.800.344.1432 ext. 7176 | 907.463. 7176 | vhoyle@ccthita.org or echurch@ccthita.org

Native Artist Market



The Business & Economic Development department, in association with Juneau's Public Market, is pleased to host a Native Artist Market at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall during Thanksgiving weekend. The market will feature a variety of handmade Alaska Native products such as sea otter apparel, jewelry, textile weaving, woodwork, Devil's Club salve and other Native made goods.

If you are a Native artist and would like to secure a vendor table at the market, please contact:

1.800.344.1432 ext. 7139 | 907.463.7121 | aulmer@ccthita.org