



CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tribe Hires Business & Economic Development Manager



Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is pleased to announce the hire of Myrna Gardner as Business & Economic Development Department (BEDD) Manager. Gardner is an energetic problem solver and recognized team leader with proven negotiating skills.

She is a George Washington University Certified Contract Manager and holds an Industry Certification in Contract Management Federal Level I from the National Contract Management Association. Gardner brings over 15 years of management experience in business development, logistics, customer service, and operations.

"I'm excited to be a part of our Tribe's future," said Gardner. "Tlingit and Haida people have been trading for centuries, business is in our DNA. I look forward to addressing poverty and creating opportunities at every level through business and economic development."

As BEDD Manager, Gardner will work with local, state, and federal governments to foster and improve the Southeast Alaska economy. She is responsible for creating partnerships with Native organizations and businesses, as well as leading and supporting the Tribe's enterprise development. She will also focus on providing business development and marketing support services.

"Our Tribe's sovereignty is directly tied to our economic viability," said President Richard Peterson. "It is my goal to see our Tribe economically sustainable and flourishing, and Myrna will be an integral part of expanding our economic development, so we can provide our citizens with the tools they need to attain financial independence and self-sufficiency."

Gardner is Tlingit and Haida. Her Tlingit name is *Xieishxí*, she is *Yéil naax xat sitee, Duk'tool, Wéix' naax xat sitee, Taakwaaneidi Hi't* (Raven/Skulpin house) from the village of *Sxwaan* of the *Heinyaa Kwaan* (Klawock) people and is *Chankweidi Yadi* (a child of the Haida people on her father's side). She has three children and is an avid fisher.

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