



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
EDWARD K. THOMAS BUILDING  
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- TRIBAL UPDATE -  
*August 29, 2014*

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#### **Tribe and State of Alaska Sign Memorandum of Agreement**

On August 25, 2014, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) signed a three-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State of Alaska. As noted during the MOA signing ceremony, it's already been a historic year for Alaska Natives with the passage of two bills recognizing indigenous languages as official State languages and making November 14th Dr. Walter Soboleff Day. The MOA is the first of its kind between the State and a tribe and serves as a commitment between the two governments to work closer on our existing partnerships while also developing new partnerships with an initial focus on education, public safety, workforce training, and jobs.

"This is an important document because it's really the beginning of recognizing the roles we have for not only our indigenous people, but for our indigenous people's place in the State of Alaska and how we can better serve our people by working with the State of Alaska...I'm excited that it will open the door for continued dialogue and for understanding and collaboration for many more years to come," said President Richard Peterson.

Central Council currently works with the State to deliver a number of services relating to public safety, financial assistance, foster care, adoptions, and child support. As an example of current successful collaborations, the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program was highlighted during the MOA signing ceremony as an example of what our partnership can achieve. The VPSO program is funded by the State and administered by the Tribe to provide public safety to rural communities in Southeast Alaska. Congratulations to VPSO Zack West who received Central Council's first VPSO of the Year Award.

"We have shown that much can be accomplished through cooperation and communication, and today we resolve to continue growing our work together to share information, better understand the complex issues we face together, and work on education, workforce training and jobs," Governor Parnell said. The State and Central Council have already begun jointly exploring training opportunities through Microsoft as a possible opportunity to improve job readiness in rural Alaska.

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Central Council extends its greatest appreciation to Governor Parnell's Legal Counsel and Policy Director Randy Ruaro for working with the Tribe and fostering the development of the MOA.

### **T&H Services, LLC Acquires Executive Green Clean**

On August 15, 2014, Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation (THTBC) subsidiary T&H Services, LLC officially acquired Executive Green Clean, a janitorial and maintenance division of Sage Environmental Services, Inc. (Sage). Acquisition of the janitorial and maintenance service included approximately 100 cleaning contracts and all employees in Washington.

"We received four aggressive offers, but price was not a decisive criteria for selection," said Sage President Julie Pond. "Most individuals and companies did not pass our first integrity test, but THTBC passed all four integrity tests without knowledge by whom or how they were being tested."

Green cleaning and building top notch business teams are a key part of THTBC's strategic plan.

"Executive Green Clean is a perfect fit for our company," said THTBC Chief Executive Officer Richard Rinehart. "They have established themselves as a leader in the market of green cleaning and take good care of their people, which is important to us."

T&H Services' goal is to provide high quality services to professional offices, industry and government facilities, and create award winning workspaces for every business and institution served with high standards for reliable quality yet affordable solutions. With Executive Green Clean's experience in the green cleaning business market and qualified staff, T&H Services saw a solid foundation to establish and expand its business services in Seattle and Juneau. T&H Services General Manager Robert Hamilton said, "Our due diligence found solid monthly revenue in line with our strategic plan and I look forward to integrating Executive Green Clean's management team."

Central Council President and THTBC Chairman Richard Peterson said, "Executive Green Clean's established clients and contracts will ensure T&H Services meets its revenue targets as presented to the Tribe's governing body in April. This acquisition is a huge accomplishment as we continue to pursue economic independence, stability, and growth for the Tribe."

T&H Services is wholly owned by Central Council's business enterprise THTBC whose mission is to engage in, carry on and conduct business to improve the economic condition of the Tribe.

### **NAGPRA Grant Awarded**

Central Council's Native Lands and Resources (NLR) Department is pleased to announce it was awarded a fiscal year 2014 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) grant in the amount of \$83,180 from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

The NLR department's NAGPRA program provides assistance to tribes and individuals in identifying cultural objects, submitting repatriation claims, identifying clans, researching family trees, and maintaining a memorial party calendar. The NAGPRA funding will be used to conduct research and documentation for the repatriation of sacred, cultural patrimony, and unassociated funerary objects located at the Yale Peabody Museum and Springfield Science Museum. Funding will also be used to monitor completion of current pending claims on more than 200 objects that have been located in museums throughout the United States.

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Recently, NLR's NAGPRA program repatriated three objects (hat, robe, and tunic) belonging to the *Koosk'edi* and *L'ooknaxh.adi* clans of Sitka and provided a presentation on cultural objects viewed during consultation with the Fenimore Art Museum and Buffalo Science Museum in New York that are pending repatriation.

NAGPRA was signed into law on November 16, 1990 and requires museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify human remains and cultural items in their collection. The repatriation process helps to ensure the return of Native American cultural items to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

### **Transboundary Mining Issues**

On August 6, 2014, President Richard Peterson, NLR's Environmental Specialist Jennifer Hanlon, Wrangell Cooperative Association's Elizabeth "Tis" Peterman, and several Wrangell elders participated in interviews with three journalists (Chris Santella—TROUT Magazine, Emmett Fitzgerald—National Public Radio's Living on Earth program, and Ryan Peterson—independent videographer) on the proposed mines located in the headwaters and tributaries of transboundary rivers that flow out of British Columbia (BC) and into Southeast Alaska. The journalists were seeking a tribal perspective on the proposed BC mines and how they might threaten our waters, fish, and way of life.

The proposed Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM) Mine, located in BC at the headwaters of the Unuk River that flows into the Misty Fjords National Monument near Ketchikan, is of particular concern to tribes in Southeast Alaska due to its size, magnitude, and that it is farthest along in the permitting process. The proposed KSM mine, which is just 19 miles from the Alaska border, would be one of the world's largest copper/gold mines with three open pit mines, an underground mine, and tailings facility located on tributaries of the Nass River (thus impacting a completely different watershed). The proposed mine would cover a total of 6,500 acres.

Fish are the foundation of our cultures and communities and we depend on the pristine waters of our rivers. The Unuk River is Southeast Alaska's fourth largest king salmon producer and also contains a vital eulachon run, thus making the Unuk important for our customary and traditional use fisheries. The KSM mine's high potential to create acid mine drainage is thus a serious concern to Southeast Alaska tribes. On August 4th, the Mount Polley copper/gold mine tailings dam breached discharging toxic waste in the waterways resulting in a substantial loss of fish and a water use ban. Alaskans are concerned that this will happen in our region, should one of the proposed mines experience an environmental disaster like Mt Polley.

The federal Canadian government completed its final public comment period on the KSM mine's environmental assessment report on August 20th and will likely approve the project, which already received approval from the BC provincial government. A request to delay final approval and to evaluate the Canadian federal analysis to a panel review (further independent studies) was submitted and we diligently utilized our Facebook page to advocate for our tribal citizens to also submit public comment.

Central Council's NLR department along with 2nd Vice President Rob Sanderson Jr. continue to work with the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group (a coalition of federally-recognized tribes), conservation groups, commercial fishermen and community leaders to educate citizens and leaders about the threat posed by KSM and the other proposed mines located in the transboundary watersheds we share with BC.

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## 477's Healthy Choices Conference

The Employment and Training Division's 102-477 Program was pleased to host its 2nd Annual Healthy Choices Conference August 13-15, 2014 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau. The conference focused on eliminating barriers to employment through healthy lifestyle choices and was attended by 88 tribal citizen clients served by Central Council's Temporary Assistance to Native Families (TANF) and Employability Assistance/General Assistance (EA/GA) programs.

Award winning inspirational speaker, trainer and facilitator, Paul Figueroa, provided the keynote address that focused on positive choices and engaged participants by providing tools to release negativity to move forward in life. Several agencies supported the conference and provided presentations:

- Central Council
  - Amalia Monreal, Tribal Child Welfare Supervisor, Tribal Family & Youth Services Women's Group, Structured Decision Making Services
  - Ashley Hunt, Preserving Native Families Caseworker
  - Patricia Graham, Volunteer Speaker
  - Ian Petershoare, TCSU Specialist, Fatherhood Initiative Program
  - Adam Arca, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Caseworker
- SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)
  - Dr. Tom Borenstein, Director of Dental Service: Dental Assistant Training Program.
  - Andrea Thomas, Outreach and Enrollment Manager: Affordable Care Act
  - Susan Hennon, Clinical Nutritionist: 5 Healthy Choices
- Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA)
  - Dawn Wesley, Financial Skills Specialist: Financial Cents Program
  - Norton Gregory, Housing Services Manager: Landlord Tenant Act and Rental Leases
- State of Alaska
  - Corey Isabell, Alaska Housing and Finance: Housing Choices Program
  - Jim Swanson, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): DVR Services
  - Toni Webber, Program Coordinator, Department of Corrections
  - Michael Hutcherson, Workforce Development Specialist, Work Ethics
  - Rae Baggen, Workforce Development Supervisor, Prisoner Re-Entry
- Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE)
  - Ati Nasiah, Prevention Manager, AWARE Services and Girls on the Run Program
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)
  - Laura Lucas, Independent Living Advocate and Aging and Disability Resource Coordinator - SAIL Services and How to Use Bus Tokens for Taxi Rides
  - Ric Iannolino, Private Contractor for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Alaska Club
  - Talia Eames, Personal Trainer, Alaska Club
- Juneau Police Department
  - Officer Blaine Hatch, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Juneau Police Department
- State of Alaska, Department of Corrections
  - Toni Webber, Addictions

Special thanks to coordinators Barbara Taug, Training Caseworker; Teresa Sarabia TVR Manager; Alice Bagoyo, Acting E&T Manager/Child Care Coordinator; and Grace Hawkins, Acting TANF Manager; and

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staff who worked effortlessly to make this conference a success: Lexy Brown, TANF Caseworker; Richard Siverly Jr., TANF Caseworker; Cecelia Bagoyo, Eligibility Technician; Lee Bagoyo, Administrative Clerk; Carrie Walker, Eligibility Technician; Julie Chapman, Administrative Clerk III; Dawn Houston, Administrative Clerk; Kayley Nauska, Administrative Clerk; and Irene Duncan, Receptionist.

Central Council extends its greatest appreciation to all presenters who participated in the conference. The coordination and partnerships to serve our tribal citizens was a success and truly evident.

### **Head Start – Back to School**

Tlingit & Haida Head Start is busy getting ready for its first day of school on September 2, 2014, with this year's theme being "Learning Together."

Head Start is beginning its 35th year of providing quality early childhood education to children ages three to five to help them prepare for school and be successful learners throughout their lives. Tlingit Haida Central Council operates Head Start programs in most Southeast Alaska communities and is funded for a maximum enrollment of 262 children.

To be eligible for Head Start, children must turn three prior to September 1st and we must have a completed application, a copy of the child's birth certificate and income verification. Preference is given to families with children who meet the federal poverty guidelines. The following list is the number of applications accepted-to-date by location:

- Angoon – 6, plus 5 in process
- Craig – 12, plus 3 in process
- Klawock – 6, plus 6 in process
- Hoonah – 9
- Petersburg – 10
- Saxman – 19
- Sitka – 20
- Wrangell – 20
- Yakutat – 9, plus 3 in process
- Juneau Gastineau – 8
- Juneau Glacier Valley – 20
- Juneau Salmon Creek – 40
- Juneau Taashuka – 36

Juneau Pre-Kindergarten News—our partnership with the Juneau School District will see the return of the Glacier Valley Pre-Kindergarten classroom at Glacier Valley. We will be working with the Juneau School District to enroll a total of 32 children at Glacier Valley and 32 children at Gastineau who will be going into kindergarten next year. There will be 3.5 hour a.m. sessions and 3.5 hour p.m. sessions at each school. We are proud to say that this is our 6th year of the partnership and while a lot of learning goes on, it remains highly focused on making sure that the learning is fun for the children, and parent and families are always thought of as the primary teachers of their children.

Everyone including local school districts, the State of Alaska, the Office of Head Start, Tlingit & Haida Central Council and parents are all "Working Together" to help all children have a wonderful experience in Head Start and to help them grow positively in mind and spirit!

If you'd like to enroll your child, or would like more information on Tlingit & Haida Head Start, please visit: [www.ccthita.org/services/family/headstart/index.html](http://www.ccthita.org/services/family/headstart/index.html).

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