



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

EDWARD K. THOMAS BUILDING
9097 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801

- TRIBAL UPDATE -
February 2015

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GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Tribe Hosts Legislative Reception



L-R: Natasha Singh, PJ Simon, President Richard Peterson

Central Council held a legislative reception on February 13, 2015 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau. The event was co-hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbank's Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development along with the Alaska Regional Coalition, a newly formed tribal alliance that includes Tanana Chief's Conference, Kawarek, Inc., and Bristol Bay Native Association. The event featured traditional Alaska Native foods - salmon, crab, herring eggs, and even muktuk.

The reception provided tribal leaders, Alaska Native students, and Central Council's management staff with the opportunity to meet with Alaska State legislators and commissioners to discuss issues surrounding State budget cuts and how it might impact Alaska Natives communities and tribally-administered programs funded by the State. We look forward to hosting future legislative receptions in partnership with other tribal entities to amplify our voice on Alaska Native issues.

A special thank you to All Nations Children dance group for their wonderful performance!

Department of Interior Holds Tribal Consultation on Land into Trust

A tribal consultation with the United States Department of Interior's (DOI) Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (ASIA) Kevin Washburn was held in Juneau, Alaska on December 11, 2015. ASIA Washburn visited Alaska following DOI's recent administrative decision to acknowledge Alaska tribe's authority to put land into trust. The decision reversed the 'Alaska Exception' for taking land into trust in Alaska, which consequently excluded Alaska tribes from many federal opportunities such as funding under the Department of Justice.

The DOI decision is the first step in achieving true self-determination and sovereignty for Alaska tribes, but concerns remain following the State of Alaska's decision to ask for a six month stay on its appeal in the Akiachak case from 2012 (www.narf.org/cases/akiachak-v-doi/). There is no certainty the State of Alaska will acknowledge tribal sovereignty enough to allow Alaska tribes to put land into trust. We urge all tribal citizens to contact the Office of the Governor, Attorney General's office, and local elected officials to ask for the State to drop the Akiachak case to allow tribal land into federal trust.



Process for Tribes to Submit Land into Trust Applications

If a federally recognized tribe wishes to put land into trust, the application must be in writing and request the Secretary of the Interior to take the land into trust specifically for the benefit of the tribe and its tribal members. Applications can be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the land must qualify under federal Indian laws, be in compliance with NEPA, 602 Hazardous Substances Determinations, National Historical Preservations Act, and US Department of Justice. A Fee-to-Trust Handbook can be found accessed at <http://bia.gov/cs/groups/xraca/documents/text/idc1-024504>.

Alaska Federation of Native Board of Directors Retreat

The Alaska Federation of Native's (AFN) board of directors held its annual winter retreat in Kotzebue, Alaska on February 17. Through invitation from AFN, this year's meeting brought a historic number of elected officials to the table. The AFN board was joined by Governor Bill Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott, State administrative staff Paulette Schuerch and Craig Fleener, the Alaska Congressional delegation (Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Dan Sullivan, and Rep. Don Young), and many legislators including House Speaker Mike Chenault and Alaska Senate President Kevin Meyer.

The retreat normally does not draw so much attention, however many political leaders attended to express their objection to Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel following the Obama

administration's announcement that it would pursue increased protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and by limiting oil and gas development off Alaska's coast in the US Arctic Ocean.

Governor Walker's special appearance included the announcement of Gerad Godfrey as the State's new Senior Advisor on Rural Business and Intergovernmental Affairs. Lt. Governor Byron Mallott also provided a phenomenal speech about his history with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and how he hopes to address many of the longstanding Alaska Native issues in his current position as Lt. Governor.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Manager Highlight: Corrine Garza, Chief Operating Officer



Corrine Garza is Haida Eagle/Frog/Sculpin (*Suxani*) and Tlingit Raven/Coho (*Dáanaa Sháawát*). She enjoys weaving spruce root and cedar, sewing, and spending time with her three grandchildren (Aaliyah Kato, Gabriella and Marcus Medina) and three children, Jeffrey David III, Dolores Medina, and Roberto Medina.

Corrine Garza has been employed with Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska since 1998. As Chief Operating Officer, Corrine oversees the Tribal Operations Department and is responsible for managing and protecting tribal assets. She also provides administrative support and recommendations to the President in all areas of tribal executive management including policy development. Corrine also provides direct oversight of the following departments: Business & Economic Development, Finance, Head Start, Information Technology, Native Lands & Resources, Property Management, Public Safety, Tribal Transportation, and the Vocational Training & Resource Center.

Past Accomplishments:

- Reduced shortfalls from \$633,841 in 2010 to \$137,906 in 2013.
- Developed and submitted contract support cost shortfall claims in the amount of \$4.5 million to the DOI for unpaid contract support costs incurred from 2005-2011.
- Submitted a Section 17 Corporate Charter that was approved by the Secretary of Interior for the Tribe's Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation.
- Secured property tax exemption from the City and Borough of Juneau which saves the Tribe \$100,000 per year.
- Secured sales tax exemption from the City and Borough of Juneau which was a cooperative effort with former President William Martin.

Future Initiatives:

- Convert Tribe's applications to electronic format and make available online.
- Complete Andrew Hope Building 3rd floor renovations.
- Complete Andrew Hope Building exterior remodel.
- Secure tax exempt financing for the Tribe.

Andrew Hope Building to Receive Exterior Renovation



The Andrew Hope Building located in downtown Juneau on West Willoughby Avenue will receive a sleek new upgrade to its exterior starting in July. The existing wood siding is original (1984) and has surpassed its useful life. Although replacing the siding is necessary to extend the life of the building, it also presented the opportunity to infuse tribal elements into the design that reflect our heritage and remind the public of our roots in the Juneau Indian Village.

Exterior upgrades will take place on the front and sides of the building. A majority of the siding will be painted, 20 gauge steel, interlocking panels and require very little maintenance. Wood-tone panels made of a phenolic core product will be printed with abstract portions of Central Council's logo and face the Willoughby Avenue street front.

"We expect this renovation project will be an attraction for the Juneau community and tourists. The Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall will benefit from the exposure and once we have the first floor available, we could consider a possible storefront venture," said Central Council Property Manager Elias Duran.

If the Juneau Economic Development Council hosts another competition for building owner improvements for downtown Juneau, we have no doubt our building will be one of the finalists with its new curb appeal! To view a copy of the conceptual plans for the exterior renovations, please visit our website: www.ccthita.org/info/news.



PROGRAM/SERVICE NEWS

Updated Program Profiles Booklet Published

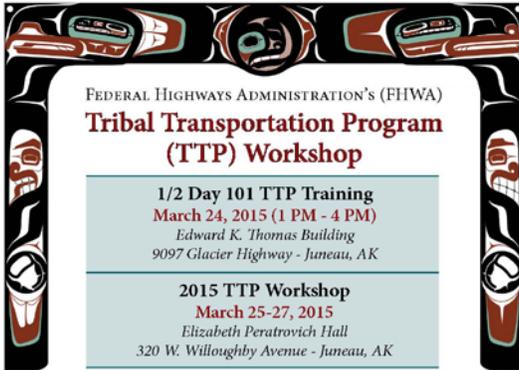


Central Council is pleased to announce it has released an updated Program Profiles booklet. The publication was created to provide our tribal citizens with important information on the wide range of individual and community services offered through Central Council's programs.

In the spirit of our mission, Central Council's administrative team and staff are proud of the services we provide and are honored to serve our tribal citizens!

To access the latest edition of our Program Profiles booklet, please visit our website: www.ccthita.org/services/overview/documents.

Save the Date: Federal Highway Administration Tribal Transportation Workshop



Central Council's Tribal Transportation Department will be hosting the 2015 Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) workshop March 25-27, 2015 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska.

The workshop will provide a roundtable discussion for Alaska tribes to share successes, obstacles, and educational information on the TTP. An introductory half-day TTP training will also be held on March 24, 2015.

If you manage a Tribal Transportation Program, are a tribal administrator or a council member and are interested in attending the workshop, please contact the Tribal Transportation Department at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7763 or vpatterson@ccthita.org.