



CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2009

President Martin Elected NCAI Alaska Area Vice President



William Martin

Tlingit Haida Central Council's President William Martin was elected to Alaska Area Vice President for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), October 14, 2009, during NCAI's 66th Annual Convention. With thirty six registered Alaska tribes in attendance, President Martin successfully gained the support needed from Alaska tribal leaders and members to prevail in the election.

As the Alaska Area representative, President Martin will serve on the NCAI Executive Committee which makes political and policy decisions on behalf of NCAI, and be the liaison between the Alaska tribes to address issues of concern.

President Martin stated, "I am honored to have been elected Alaska Area Vice President and look forward to representing all of Alaska's federally recognized tribes at the NCAI Executive Committee table on important issues facing our Native people."

Mary Ann Mills, Vice-Chair of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe also ran for the Alaska Area Vice President seat and was elected as the alternate to President Martin.

For the last two years, President Martin has served in the capacity of Alaska Area Vice President Alternate to Mike Williams of Akiak, AK. Williams has maintained the position of Alaska Area Vice President since 2005 and has served two consecutive terms as Area Vice President, which is the term limit for this seat.

With evidence that President Obama is following through on his commitment to creating a better working relationship with American Indians and Alaska Natives, President Martin plans to utilize this seat to resolve issues regarding land in trust for Alaska tribes, suicide prevention, tribal sovereignty, and subsistence rights.

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