



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2014

Tribe Adjourns 79th Annual Tribal Assembly

Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit Haida) adjourned its 79th Annual Tribal Assembly April 12, 2014 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska. The theme selected for this year's Tribal Assembly was "For Our Future Generations" and was naturally woven throughout the Tribal Assembly with dance performances by All Nations Children and Harborview Elementary School's Tlingit Culture and Language Literacy (TCLL) Program.

The delegates of the Tribal Assembly elected Richard Peterson on Friday, April 11th, as the new Tribal President of Tlingit Haida in an overwhelming majority vote requiring only one ballot cast. Other candidates for Tribal President were Harold Houston, Sr. and William "Ozzie" Sheakley.



Executive Council (L-R): Youth Representative Brandon Mayer, 6th VP Jacqueline Pata, 5th VP Marvin Adams, 4th VP Jolene Edenshaw, President Richard Peterson (at podium), 3rd VP Lowell Halverson, 2nd VP Robert Sanderson Jr., and 1st VP Will Micklin.

Vice President) were all re-elected to serve on the Executive Council board. Newly elected are Jolene Edenshaw of Hydaburg (Fourth Vice President), Marvin Adams of Anchorage (Fifth Vice President), and Jacqueline Pata of Juneau (Sixth Vice President). Delegates reaffirmed the appointment of Edward K. Thomas to serve as President Emeritus to the Executive Council. The Executive Council will serve a two-year term and are the governing body outside of Tribal Assembly elected to oversee the governance of the Tribe.

Peterson replaces outgoing Tribal President Edward K. Thomas, who retired after leading Tlingit Haida 27 of the last 30 years. Peterson has served as Vice President on the Tlingit Haida's Executive Council for the last eight years and brings many years of tribal administrative experience serving as President of the Organized Village of Kasaan and Chief Executive Officer of Prince of Wales Tribal Enterprise Consortium (POWTEC).

Election of Vice Presidents to serve on the Executive Council board were also held. William Micklin of San Francisco (First Vice President), Robert Sanderson Jr. of Ketchikan (Second Vice President), and Lowell Halverson of Seattle (Third

Also elected were Tribal Court Judge Lance Twitchell of Juneau, Executive Council Youth Representative Brandon Mayer of Seattle, and Delegate/Citizen of the Year Bertha Karras of Sitka.

Forty-four resolutions were brought forth by delegates and community councils this year. Key resolutions adopted by the Tribal Assembly gave direction to Tlingit Haida to: recognize Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council as a political subdivision of the Tribe; develop a language department; integrate Southeast Alaska Tribal Values; support the repeal of Section 910 of the Violence Against Women Act; support the landless Southeast Alaska Native communities; request the United States government engage with the Canadian government on proposed transboundary mining that may compromise the health and productivity of Southeast Alaska's waters and lands, etc. Once adopted, resolutions are the policy of the Tribe for the next two years. A full listing of all adopted resolutions can be found on our website at:

<http://www.ccthita.org/government/assembly/resolutions/index.html>.

Other highlights of the Assembly included special messages from Senators Mark Begich and Lisa Murkowski, welcome introductions from Tribal Hostess Julie Coburn of Kasaan and Tribal Host Gerald "Jerry" Bennett; keynote address by Senator Albert Kookesh of Angoon; presentation of President's Lifetime Achievement Award to Senator Kookesh for a lifetime of dedication to the issues and concerns of the Tlingit and Haida people; farewell dinner for outgoing President Edward K. Thomas atop Mt. Roberts at Goldbelt's Timberline Restaurant; and outstanding grand entrance performance by the *Yaw Tei Yi* Tlingit dance group.

Many people were drawn to observe the historical change in leadership that occurred at this year's Tribal Assembly. Looking forward to his new leadership role, President Peterson gave a glimpse of the vision and path that he will pursue over the course of his term, "I'm excited and honored. I really look at the opportunity to serve and to try to work collaboratively with our communities and our other tribes and our Native corporations to really move our Native people's needs to the forefront and make sure that they're represented, that we're building a better future for our children and their children."

"I don't feel like I'm alone," President Peterson said. "I know that I have everybody holding me up. I know that I can accomplish what we need, because I won't be I. It'll be we."

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