



CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

320 W. Willoughby Ave., Suite 300 • Juneau, AK • 99801
907.586.1432 • Fax: 907.586.8970 www.ccthita.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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President Peterson Selected for “Native American 40 Under 40” Award

Tlingit Haida Central Council is proud to announce President Richard Peterson has been selected by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) to receive the prestigious “Native American 40 Under 40” award. Every year, NCAIED recognizes emerging Native American, Alaska Native and First Nation citizens between 18 and 39 years of age who demonstrate leadership, initiative and dedication to achieve significant contributions to Native communities throughout North American.



President Richard J. Peterson

The Executive Council unanimously voted to nominate President Peterson for the award in August. President Peterson was selected for the award for his visionary leadership in developing business and economic opportunities in rural Alaska, outstanding dedication to preserving culture and community, and promoting self-sufficiency in rural Alaska through collaborative and proactive partnerships with Federal, State, Tribal, and Municipal agencies/governments.

The letter of award cited, “...you are a true embodiment of what the NCAIED stands for, and shining example of the economic future and advancement of Indian Country.” The NCAIED “Native American 40 Under 40” awards will be presented at the 39th Annual Indian Progress in Business Awards Gala (INPRO) on October 8, 2014 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. INPRO is the longest standing and most prestigious Native American recognition event in the nation.

President Peterson (Ch’aa Yaa Eesh) is Tlingit and Haida from the Southeast Alaska village of Kasaan. He was elected by Tlingit Haida Central Council’s delegates during the annual Tribal Assembly in April. He had formerly served as CEO of Prince of Wales Tribal Enterprise Consortium, LLC (POWTEC) since 2008, president of the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) since 1998, mayor/city council member since 1996, and member of the Southeast Island School District Board of Education since 2003. He has been a delegate to the Tlingit Haida Central Council since 2000.

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Contact:

Office of the President
Raeanne Holmes, Communications Coordinator
Direct: 907.463.7368 | Email: rholmes@ccthita.org