



# President's Report

## President's Report on the Implementation of AFN's 2010 Convention Resolutions

October 22, 2011

In keeping with our ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability at AFN, we have prepared a report summarizing our execution of our membership's priorities, as articulated in the resolutions passed at the 2010 AFN Convention in Fairbanks on October 23, 2010.

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Every year, AFN develops a Federal Priorities document, based in large part on the resolutions passed by the delegates at the previous year's Convention. AFN staff and board members distribute this Federal Priorities document broadly and use the document as we lobby Congress on legislation that impacts and will impact Alaska Natives. AFN's Federal Priorities document illustrates our needs and priorities to representatives of federal agencies who have jurisdiction over issues that impact Alaska Native communities across the State of Alaska. I welcome you to download your own copy of AFN's 2011 Federal Priorities document from the AFN website – it's a nice summary of the year's top issues.

The resolutions that are submitted by our membership and passed by AFN delegates each year at Convention represent the heartbeat of the Alaska Native Community. These priorities are all our priorities. These actions are our collective actions.

In an effort to provide the appropriate level of detail while still keeping this easy to follow, I will briefly summarize each issue area, list related resolution numbers and titles, list AFN recommendations that were delivered to appropriate federal and state officials and representatives, and then summarize specific additional actions taken by the AFN staff and board to achieve the intent of the resolutions. I will weave in AFN Board resolutions, and a report on the staff's implementation of such resolutions, following related Convention resolutions.



# President's Report

I'd like to begin by calling attention to a few 2010 resolutions that deserve SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

The delegates of the 2010 AFN Convention passed the following resolutions unanimously:

10-01: RECOGNITION OF FLORE LEKANOF, SR.

Mary Lekanof, surviving spouse of the late Flore Lekanof, Sr., and another family member of the first Chairman of the Board of the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1966, participated on the floor of the 2010 AFN Convention in the remembrance of Mr. Lekanof. On behalf of the 2010 AFN Convention, the co-chairs of AFN, the delegates of the 2010 AFN Convention, and the Board of Directors of AFN, we thank his family for making time to help the AFN Convention with the implementation of this resolution honoring our first president. Thank you.

10-02: RESOLUTION ENDORSING LISA MURKOWSKI AS CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR

The delegates of the 2010 AFN convention expressed their appreciation for Senator Lisa Murkowski's decision to run as a write-in candidate for United States Senator; and endorsed her as a candidate for the office of United States Senator. We would like to acknowledge the Alaska Native Community for turning out in large numbers to keep Lisa Murkowski in her seat in the US Senate. The Alaska Native Community played a major role in Senator Lisa Murkowski's historic write-in win – a first in the State of Alaska!

AFN was a member of the "Super PAC" Alaskans Standing Together and actively participated in supporting Lisa Murkowski as a write-in candidate for US Senate, as directed by our membership. As the saying goes, the rest is history!



# President's Report

## Subsistence

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### **CONGRESS MUST CONSIDER AND ENACT LEGISLATION FULFILLING THE PROMISE MADE TO THE ALASKA NATIVES UPON ENACTING THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT OF DECEMBER 18, 1971 ON SUBSISTENCE**

Forty years after the passage of the *Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act* (ANCSA), the promises made by the United States Congress to the Alaska Native Community regarding subsistence hunting and fishing rights remain unfulfilled. Section 4(b) of ANCSA extinguished the hunting and fishing rights of Alaska Natives; but in passing and enacting ANCSA, the Conference Committee stated that: "The Conference Committee expects both the Secretary and the State to take any action necessary to protect the subsistence needs of the Natives." (S. Conf. Rep. No. 481, 92d Cong., 1st Sess. (1971); H. R. Conf. Rep. No. 746, 92d Cong., 1st Sess. (1971)). While the legislative history does not have the affect of a statute enacted by Congress, it is looked upon as a guiding principle when a federal statute is being implemented.

During the consideration of HR 39 by the United States Congress in the late 1970s, the Alaska Native Community lobbied Congress for Alaska Native preference in the conservation systems that would be created if HR 39 were enacted into law. In the end, nine years after the enactment of ANCSA, the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* (ANILCA) was enacted into law – but it did not include Alaska Native preference. Title VIII of ANILCA's priority for rural subsistence users on federal lands and reserved navigable waters, was in part Congress' response to the Alaska Native Community's request for an Alaska Native preference. Title VIII also said that the State could continue to regulate subsistence harvests on all lands and waters, if it would enact its own statute giving the same rural priority on state lands.

Since the passages of ANCSA and ANILCA, the Alaska Native Community has tried, with mixed results, to restore the hunting and fishing rights of Alaska Natives through litigation. The protection of these rights remains one AFN's highest priorities.

The following resolutions were considered, amended and adopted on the floor of the 2010 convention. Shortly thereafter, all of these subsistence related resolutions were submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board at the request of the newly appointed Federal Subsistence Board Chair, Mr. Tim Towarak, former Co-chair of AFN Board of directors. He in turn, as we understand it, shared the resolutions with the rest of the Federal Subsistence Board.

During the year since the 2010 Convention, AFN has held a series of meetings with the Secretary of Interior, the Honorable Kenneth Salazar, and other top officials of the Department of the



# President's Report

Interior. These meetings were intended to implement this and other subsistence related resolutions.

The board of directors of AFN established the **Federal Indian Policy Committee (FIPC)** in 2011 to:

Protect and to enhance the legal rights that Alaska Natives have under the special trust relationship with the United States.

The goals of the FIPC are:

1. To evaluate any proposed changes in Indian Policies or legal rights that may affect Alaska Natives.
2. To assess Alaska Natives issues as they are affected by Federal Indian Policies.
3. To advance changes to Federal Indian Policies that can improve the general welfare of Alaska Natives and enhance self determination.
4. To analyze the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to secure maximum benefits for Alaska Natives.

The FIPC will provide an objective analysis of the Committee's findings, outlining the pros and cons of policy options for the Board of Directors.

When the FIPC was formed, the AFN Subsistence Committee became part of this new Committee. As such, the FIPC must, from time to time, submit its recommendations on how subsistence should be addressed by the AFN Board or the AFN Legislative Committee as a matter of policy.

**Delegates of the 2010 AFN Convention passed the following resolutions related to our subsistence priorities:**

- 10-03: A CALL TO ACTION TO CONGRESS AND THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES TO FULLY PROTECT AND ENHANCE SUBSISTENCE HUNTING, FISHING, AND GATHERING FOR ALASKA NATIVES
- 10-12: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO CONSULT MEANINGFULLY WITH WALRUS HUNTING COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED BY ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION ON PACIFIC WALRUS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT DETERMINATION



# President's Report

## 10-13: CALLING FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS REGARDING THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES' (USFWS) ON-GOING FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT PREDATOR MANAGEMENT FOR ADEQUATE SUBSISTENCE HARVEST NEEDS IN RURAL ALASKA

Resolution 10-3 includes a comprehensive list of resolutions addressing the subsistence hunting and fishing rights of Alaska Natives. 2010 Convention delegates also considered several other related resolutions. All will be addressed collectively here.

The following subsistence-related recommendations were made to Congress and the appropriate Federal Agencies:

1. Congress is urged to enact legislation that will provide lasting protection for the Alaska Native way of life. Necessary changes to federal law include:
  - a. Adding a “Native” priority to the current “rural” priority for subsistence. The current “rural” priority for subsistence hunting and fishing in Title VIII of ANILCA is inadequate in light of growing urban pressures on finite resources. Several federal laws now provide a “Native” or “Native-plus-rural” or “Native-plus-local” subsistence priority in Alaska (e.g. for the taking of halibut, marine mammals, and migratory birds). The same priority should be provided for the legitimate subsistence uses of fish and wildlife by Alaska Natives.
  - b. Extending federal protection of Native subsistence rights to Native-owned lands and all navigable waters and marine waters in Alaska.
  - c. Giving Alaska Natives an ongoing and meaningful co-management role in the federal subsistence management program.
  - d. Exempting the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) so that membership can be limited to eligible subsistence users.
2. Convene a high-level Inter-agency meeting with key White House officials, including the Domestic Policy Council, and the departments that have jurisdiction over subsistence uses. Subsistence management and the legal rights of Alaska Natives cut across a number of Departments within the Administration, including Interior, Agriculture, Justice, State and Commerce.
3. Clarify that Title VIII of ANILCA is “Indian Legislation.”



# President's Report

4. Take interim administrative measures to increase protections for subsistence. In addition to expediting the implementation of the changes in the federal management program that were promised as a result of the recent Secretarial Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, AFN urges the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to take the following actions:
  - a. Amend the regulatory definition of “rural,” and the criteria for assessing rural characteristics, during the decennial review of rural status so that Native Villages such as Saxman do not arbitrarily lose their right to federal subsistence priority.
  - b. Require the Federal Subsistence Board to undertake a comprehensive review of all existing subsistence regulations to ensure they comply with federal law and policy.
  - c. Mandate tribal compacting and contracting of significant aspects of the federal subsistence management program to tribal organizations and increase the use of ANILCA’s Section 809 cooperative agreements.
  - d. Review the Department’s policy of limiting federally reserved waters to lands running through or abutting federal lands created by Title VIII of ANILCA, and initiate a new rule making that would apply the federally reserved water rights doctrine to waters that run upstream and downstream from ANILCA’s conservation units and to Alaska Native allotments. Federal laws protecting Native American and Alaska Native hunting, fishing and gathering rights apply throughout the United States, but nowhere are they more critical than in Alaska, where hunting, fishing and gathering remain economic necessities. Subsistence resources meet a substantial portion of the nutritional needs of Alaska’s Native people, especially in rural areas where the need for subsistence resources for daily nutritional, spiritual and cultural sustenance is the greatest. The indigenous peoples of Alaska have a basic human right to maintain their subsistence way of life, and their cultural beliefs and practices – rights acknowledged in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

AFN board members, staff and I have met with Alaska’s Congressional Delegation and also with the staff of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and the Honorable Don Young, Chair, Subcommittee on Alaska Native and American Indian Affairs repeatedly to make our needs understood.

- 10-14: REQUESTING TRIBAL CONSULTATION BEFORE THE ISSUANCE OF OPERATING PERMITS FOR SPORT/RECREATIONAL HUNTER TRANSPORTERS IN GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES

AFN recommended that the Department of the Interior consult with both the tribes and the ANCSA corporations during the implementation of the Executive Order on tribal consultation, and that the Department of the Interior develop one consultation policy impacting ANCSA corporations and tribes.



# President's Report

## **AFN TOOK THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ACTIONS RELATED TO SUBSISTENCE:**

1. In early 2011, Adrian LeCornu, Nelson Angapak and Jerry Isaac, now Chair of the Human Resources Committee, a standing committee of the AFN Board, briefed key congressional committee staff members, including the staff of the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, on AFN's subsistence-related recommendations. The team also submitted its recommendations to Alaska's Congressional Delegation.
2. In the same trip, this team met with the Honorable Larry Echo Hawk, seeking the support of the Department of the Interior on AFN's recommendations on subsistence.
3. AFN arranged and participated in multiple in-person meetings with the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar regarding the implementation of ANILCA.
4. AFN held Subsistence Briefings with the key staff members from Congressional Committees of proper jurisdiction, the US House Committee on Natural Resources, the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the US Senate Committee on Natural Resources in January of 2010.
5. AFN asked for Congressional Oversight Hearings on subsistence management in Alaska.
6. AFN board and staff members met with White House personnel, including Kimberly Tee Hee and Jodi Gillette in the Old Executive Offices in May 2010 regarding the significance of subsistence hunting and fishing rights of the Alaska Native people.
7. AFN worked to engage the support and participation of rural communities, and encouraged individual participation in the Federal Subsistence Review.

## **FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMPS**

Requiring Alaska Natives to purchase federal licenses—known as Duck Stamps—in order to hunt migratory waterfowl is inconsistent with the 1996 protocol amending the migratory bird treaty between the United States and Canada, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 USC 708, which implements the treaty. The protocol requires that any “regulations implementing the non-wasteful taking of migratory birds and the collection of their eggs by indigenous inhabitants of the State of Alaska shall be consistent with the customary and traditional uses of such indigenous inhabitants for their own nutritional and other essential needs.”

Alaska Native hunters have long viewed the subsistence harvest of migratory birds and their eggs as a community tradition, and not as an individual entitlement that can be reduced to a system of



# President's Report

individual permits. Requiring the purchase of duck stamps is inconsistent with custom and tradition and therefore inconsistent with the Treaty protocol.

## **Key Recommendation**

Amend the Duck Stamp Act by adding an exemption for “eligible indigenous inhabitants of the State of Alaska engaged in the customary and traditional harvest of waterfowl and their eggs.”

### ***Progress of Note***

The most current position of the Secretary of Interior on Duck Stamp Issue is one of the best things we've heard on Duck stamp Issue! In a teleconference meeting with the AFN Legislative/Litigation Committee on October 5, 2011, Secretary Salazar advised the committee that he has decided to handle Duck Stamp issue as a policy matter and has instructed Solicitor Hilary Tompkins, the first ever American Indian to be appointed as Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, to work with her staff to construct an argument that will support that policy position, and that will withstand legal scrutiny, administratively. Legislatively, he will work with Senator Mark Begich on a legislative solution to get clarification, and will hope that it can be put on as a rider on a “must pass” bill.

## **MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT**

The protocol in the amended treaties between the United States, Canada and Mexico recognizes the traditional subsistence harvest of migratory birds by indigenous inhabitants of Alaska and provides that they “shall be afforded an effective and meaningful role” in “the development and implementation of regulations affecting the non-wasteful taking of migratory birds and the collection of eggs” through their participation in co-management bodies. In 2000, the Fish and Wildlife Service established the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and 12 regional management bodies. But neither the Council nor the regional bodies have been adequately funded.

## **Key Recommendation**

The Secretaries of State and Interior should support the implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and its co-management councils by including a treaty-implementation line item in the appropriate agency budget. We also urge Congress to ensure adequate funding in the annual appropriations to cover the costs of these co-management bodies.

## **REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT**

The Indigenous Peoples' Council on Marine Mammals (IPCoMM), an AFN subcommittee, has negotiated amendments to section 119 of the MMPA with the federal agencies. Section 119



# President's Report

currently authorizes agreements between Alaska Native organizations and federal agencies in order to conserve marine mammals and to provide for co-management of their subsistence uses by Alaska Natives. It also authorizes funding for the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior each year to carry out these purposes.

## Key Recommendation

In the 110th Congress, Congressman Don Young introduced HR 5429, a stand-alone bill that incorporates a package of amendments to the MMPA that strengthen the co-management role of Alaska Native organizations engaged in co-management of marine mammals, and that enable the federal agencies and Alaska Native organizations to develop marine mammal conservation regimes collaboratively in order to avert management crises that can arise under the current system. AFN urges passage of similar legislation during the current Congress.

The proposed amendments would allow the agencies to develop harvest management plans within existing or newly developed cooperative agreements in coordination with Alaska Native organizations. These plans would implement measures taken by Alaska Native organizations and their member tribes to regulate the subsistence take of marine mammals prior to a finding of depletion. The proposed legislation also provides for an increase in the annual amount authorized for implementation of Section 119 to cover the funding needs of IPCoMM and Alaska Native organizations engaged in co-management of marine mammals.

## AMEND THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

The Pacific Fisheries Management Council has 14 voting members from the states of Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho. One voting member is appointed from an Indian tribe with federally recognized fishing rights in one of the member states. Tribes submit nominations for the voting seat to the Secretary of Commerce. A similar process should be mandated and implemented for the NPFMC.

## Key Recommendation

AFN has recommended that the Magnuson-Stevens be amended to establish at least one voting seat for a tribal representative on NPFMC. Tribes are represented on another Magnuson Management Council. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council has jurisdiction over all marine waters along the U.S. Pacific Coast south of Alaska.

## *Progress of Note*



# President's Report

Don Chapman, US Department of Commerce Senior Adviser on Native American Affairs, supported this concept but recommended that the Alaska Native community pursue at least 4 voting members as an initial approach when Nelson N. Angapak, Sr., Senior Vice President of AFN met with him in early 2011.

## Health, Safety & Welfare

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- 10-04: VILLAGE SURVIVAL: HIGH COST OF HEATING FUEL
- 10-06: REQUEST FULL FUNDING OF THE “ALASKA ENERGY PATHWAYS” PROJECTS

Both of these resolutions address the high costs of heating fuel as well as the high cost of energy in rural Alaska. The AFN Board and staff met with Governor Parnell, the Bush Caucus and other state legislators in February 2011, during AFN’s first board meeting of the year, which is traditionally held in Juneau. Members of the Bush Caucus and the Governor were generally supportive.

- 10-19: APPROPRIATION OF MORE FUNDS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS BY STATE OF ALASKA AND CONGRESS

In early 2011, Jerry Isaac, Nelson N. Angapak, Sr., and Adrian LeCornu, met with key Congressional staff members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, members of Alaska’s Congressional delegation, staff from the Washington DC Office of the Governor, and with the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, the Honorable Larry Echo Hawk. We delivered our membership’s clear message that one of the keys to economic development in rural Alaska is managing the cost of energy, and that we must invest in finding alternative sources of energy for rural Alaska.

In a letter dated March 4, 2011, to Senator Akaka and Senator John Barrasso, Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, AFN stated that “Recognizing that these energy priorities are not traditional parts of the federal Indian budget, AFN strongly urges the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to support restoring level funding for Department of Agriculture High Energy Cost Grants and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program that allows our tribal members and tribal organizations to help meet the high energy costs in Alaska Native villages.”



# President's Report

We brought the same message to the attention of the Secretary of the Interior during an August 8, 2011 meeting and again during a follow-up meeting on October 5, 2011.

In the October 5, 2011 meeting with the Secretary of the Interior, Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes advised the committee that he has assigned Kim Elton and Pat Pourchot to inventory federal statutes addressing renewable resources in Alaska that may apply to Alaska. Deputy Secretary Hayes will be returning to Alaska in November of this year, at which point AFN will again address the issue of energy with him.

Finding a solution for the high cost of energy is one of the highest priorities of AFN and has been for a period of time. We want to take this opportunity to thank Governor Parnell and the Alaska State Legislature for supporting us in our efforts to address the high costs of energy as it impacts our villages in rural Alaska.

## 10-05: ASKING PRESIDENT OBAMA TO REQUEST FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS FOR 2012 AND BEYOND

Members of AFN's leadership have repeatedly met with White House representatives to request that the Obama Administration continue to pursue full funding of all programs that impact American Indians, Alaska Natives and the Native Hawaiians. Furthermore, in a joint letter dated March 4, 2011, the Co-chairs of AFN, Albert Kookesh and Ralph Andersen, AFN President Julie Kitka, Loretta Bullard, and Gloria O'Neill (members of the BIA Tribal Budget Advisory Committee) urged the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, Chairman, SCIA, and the Honorable John Barrasso, Vice Chairman, SCIA, to support the President's budget request for programs impacting Alaska Natives, Native Americans and the Native Hawaiians.

## 10-07: ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL NATIVE VETERAN LIAISON POSITIONS

The Office of Veterans Affairs in Alaska has appointed a regional Native Veteran Liaison on a pilot project basis whose primary duty, among others, is to advise veterans of the benefits they have earned while they served in active duty in the US Armed Forces. The VA, AFN is told, has had on-going discussions regarding this matter. AFN is on record urging the VA to consider using existing health care facilities and infrastructure operated by Alaska Native health care facilities to meet the health care needs of veterans living in rural Alaska and reimburse them for these services.

## 10-08: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA SECURE PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO/FROM DIOMEDE, AK AND OTHER SIMILARLY SITUATED COMMUNITIES



# President's Report

A letter was written to the Honorable Marc Luiken, Commissioner, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, State of Alaska, urging the Department of Transportation to investigate and consider providing the kind of transportation services called for in the attached resolution to Diomede and other similarly situated communities in the State of Alaska. In his response to this letter and the resolution, he advised us that he is looking into this matter and will let us know upon arriving in his course of action.

**10-09: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATHS OF HOMELESS ALASKANS IN ANCHORAGE AND OTHER HUBS**

A letter was written to Mr. Mark Mew, Chief of Police, Anchorage Police Department, officially asking him to institute a comprehensive investigation into the deaths of homeless people that have occurred within the Municipality of Anchorage. He was also asked if there were trends and linkages in the deaths of these people.

**10-10: A RESOLUTION ENDORSING RETENTION OF ALASKA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DANA FABE**

Dana Fabe was retained as a member of the Alaska Supreme Court by the electorship of the State of Alaska with little or no involvement by AFN or any Alaska Native organization.

**10-15: SUPPORTING REGIONAL WELLNESS INITIATIVES**

A letter was sent to Commissioner Bill Streur, Alaska Department of Health and Social Service, to urge him to consider making funds available through his department so the social gains made by Statewide Wellness Initiative Programs across the State of Alaska will continue to benefit rural Alaska.

A similar letter was sent to The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services. Alaska's Congressional Delegation was cc'd on the letter to Secretary Sebelius.

**10-16: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR STATE RECOGNIZED TRIBAL DEATH CERTIFICATES AND REGIONALLY-BASED MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICES**

This resolution was a topic discussed between members of the Bush Caucus and AFN representatives when the AFN Board met in Juneau in February 2011. As a follow-up to these meetings, A letter was sent to the Honorable Albert Kookesh, Co-chair, Alaska State Senate, Bush Caucus and the Honorable Reggie Joule, Co-chair, Alaska State House, Bush Caucus requesting expansion of the Medical Examiners (ME's) to Alaska by opening ME offices in



# President's Report

“hub” communities such as Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Dillingham and others. The ME’s in these places could authorize death certificates for accidental deaths that may take place in rural Alaska.

A letter was sent to the Attorney General asking him to consider investigating a way for the State of Alaska to recognize tribal certificates as well, and asking him to consider legislation that would authorize this.

**10-17: A RESOLUTION REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) FUNDING**

A letter was sent to Alaska’s Congressional Delegation regarding NASHADA funding seeking their support.

**10-20: A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE REPRESENTATION OF ALASKA NATIVES IN THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) PROGRAM**

In an August 31, 2011 meeting with Governor Parnell, he was informed that AFN supports efforts to increase the number of Alaska Natives in the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program as an effective and meaningful way to address the disproportionate number of the Alaska Native children in the child welfare system. In addition, he was asked to consider reviewing the program as it relates to domestic violence (with the proposition that Alaska Native volunteers will have a better understanding of the needs of other Alaska Natives). He agreed to look into the matter.

**10-21: A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**

This resolution is submitted for consideration at every AFN Convention, as funding for Alaska Legal Services is on a fiscal-year-to-fiscal-year basis. At the 2010 AFN Convention, delegates supported urging Governor Parnell to retain and increase the appropriation for the Alaska Legal Services Corporation in his Proposed FY 2011 Budget. They further urged the Alaska Legislature to appropriate adequate funding, and urged Congress to award sufficient funding to the Federal Legal Services Corporation to support the Alaska Legal Services Corporation’s Mission “Of Providing Free Legal Services On Vital Issues To Low Income Alaskans.”

Each year, AFN sends a letter to the Alaska State Legislature, the governor of Alaska, and Alaska’s Congressional Delegation urging them to continue funding Alaska Legal Services for the upcoming fiscal year.



# President's Report

- 10-22: URGING THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY AND THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) TO INCREASE SERVICE TO RURAL ALASKA AIR HUB COMMUNITIES

A letter was written to the Honorable Raymond H. "Ray" LaHood, Secretary of Transportation, with a carbon copy to J. Randolph Babbitt, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, urging him to encourage the airline industry to find ways to increase their service to rural Alaska.

- 10-24: SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

During the February 2011 meeting of the AFN Board of Directors, the issue of suicide, in particular among Alaska Natives and Alaska Native youth, was discussed with the Bush Caucus members. Questions regarding funding for such programs were also raised with them.

A letter was sent to Commissioner Bill Streur, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, urging him to seek funding for suicide prevention programs across the State of Alaska, and in particular in rural Alaska, including, but not limited to, appropriations by the Alaska State Legislatures.

A similar letter was sent to the Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services, specifically urging her to seek funds through the United States Congress.

## ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT

- 10-18: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT OF 2010, S.3740

The reintroduction of what was S. 3740 during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress was included in the 2011 AFN Federal Priorities. This topic was one of the major issues raised with John Katz of the Office of the Governor, Alaska's Congressional Delegation; Congressman Dan Boren, ranking member, US House Subcommittee on American and Alaska Native Affairs and other US Senatorial staff members such as Kawe Mossman of Senator Inouye's office in one of the early trips to Washington, DC by the AFN staff and Jerry Isaac, Chair, HRC Committee. They also sought the support of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

This bill was reintroduced by the Honorable Mark Begich as S. 1192, "Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2011," on June 14, 2011. This is a bill to supplement State jurisdiction in Alaska Native villages with Federal and tribal resources to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska while reducing domestic violence against Native women and children, and reducing alcohol and



# President's Report

drug abuse. AFN has corresponded with the staff of Senator Begich to request a public hearing on the bill.

This bill would create a demonstration project by which participating tribes would be able to enforce tribal laws regarding alcohol and substance abuse, and domestic violence, within their villages. It would also establish a grant program to support the demonstration project, and a separate grant program within the Department of the Interior to provide for tribal police officers. Although this is just a demonstration project, it is a start, which AFN strongly supports. For more than a decade AFN has sought legislation to confirm tribal authority to enact and enforce laws dealing with serious social problems at the village level, whether as a pilot project or on some other basis.

This bill was also raised with Governor Parnell on August 31, 2011.

We thank Senator Begich for introducing S. 1192, and we urge him to do all that he can to convince SCIA to hold a hearing on this bill, move it out of committee, and pursue its passage by the US Senate.

## Culture

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- 10-25: IN OPPOSITION TO THE DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED NATIVE HANDICRAFTS AS PORTRAYED IN A POSTER DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

A national effort is under way to define "significantly altered" as it is set by regulation (50 CFR Part 18.3). AFN has been advised that a nationwide workgroup has been formed with members from NOAA, USFWS, and IPCOMM to address several issues, one of them being the definition of "significantly altered Native handicrafts." IPCOMM is a new member of the workgroup, by invitation from USFWS. The referenced poster mentioned in this resolution is no longer being distributed.

## Land & Natural Resources

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- 10-26: SEEKING LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE STATE OF ALASKA'S IMPOSITION OF CRITICAL HABITAT AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS ON



# President's Report

## ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION, NATIVE VILLAGE, AND ALASKA NATIVE ALLOTMENT PRIVATE PROPERTY

A letter was sent to Governor Parnell, the Honorable Don Young, the Honorable Mark Begich and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski confirming the Critical Habitat Area (CHA) management plans can not apply on ANCSA and other Alaska Native owned lands since such lands are private lands, and that the imposition of such cannot be justified by an administration that is seeking public support for its fights against federal designation of critical habitat in the State of Alaska.

In the letter to Governor Parnell, AFN urged him to instruct the Alaska Department of Law and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to reverse their present course with respect to imposition of management plans on private lands, such as the ANCSA lands, within Critical Habitat Areas.

## Education

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- 10-27:      ALASKA TRIBES, REGIONAL CORPORATIONS, VILLAGE CORPORATIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, BOROUGHS AND TRIBAL COLLEGES PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA AND ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

A letter was written to University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University urging them to consider partnering with the tribes in Alaska, regional and village corporations, boroughs and tribal colleges, including assisting with accreditation, where applicable.

We also thank them for the quality education they provide to Alaska's students and, in particular, Alaska Native students.

- 10-28:      ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A letter was written to Governor Parnell urging him to consider creating an Alaska Native Education Advisory Committee that would work in partnership with the Honorable Mike Hanley, Commissioner of Education & Early Development, to address issues that impact Alaska Native students across the State of Alaska.

- 10-29:      A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND THE ALASKA NATIVE SERVICES PROVIDED FOR STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL THROUGH ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAMS



# President's Report

A letter was written to Governor Parnell urging him to consider implementing this resolution by encouraging Commissioner Mark Hanley, of the Alaska State Department of Education, to partner with and help fund innovative Alaska Native programs in the regions that specifically address Alaska Native students' needs, to close the persistent achievement gap for Alaska Native students, allowing our young people – our future generation of adults – to fulfill their unlimited potential.

## 10-30: SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO RESTORE BIA EDUCATION FUNDING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

A letter was sent to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, the Honorable Larry Echo Hawk, urging him to consider restoring funding, and otherwise providing BIA support, directly to villages in Alaska. Alaska's Congressional Delegation was sent copies of this letter.

## Economic Development

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### 10-31: TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OF RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES

A letter was sent to Marc Luiken, Commissioner, Department of Transportation, regarding this matter. In addition, in a meeting with the Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation, it was brought to his attention that the cost of transportation of goods to rural Alaska is exceedingly expensive. He was asked to consider supporting the reauthorization of the Denali Commission. He was also asked to consider allocating funds originally appropriated for the use of the Denali Commission there, rather than with the State of Alaska. He was supportive of this concept.

### 10-32: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE DENALI COMMISSION

The Denali Commission is an independent federal agency designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska. With the creation of the Denali Commission, Congress acknowledged the need for increased inter-agency cooperation and focus on Alaska's remote communities. Since its first meeting in April 1999, the Commission is credited with providing numerous cost-shared infrastructure projects across the State that have exemplified effective and efficient partnership between federal and state agencies, and the private sector (source: Denali Commission website).

The Alaska Federation of Natives played a major role on the initial authorizing legislation that created the Denali Commission, and we are making every effort to encourage reauthorization of the Denali Commission, including:



# President's Report

1. In February 2011, AFN sought support for reauthorizing the Denali Commission from Alaska State legislators and the Bush Caucus.
2. AFN Team members have repeatedly raised the issue with Alaska's Congressional Delegation, beginning in early 2011. They universally support us on this effort.
3. For two years, the AFN Team has solicited support from the Washington DC Office of the State of Alaska. They have expressed their support for our efforts.
4. When AFN's HRC met on June 22, 2011, one of the major topics raised by the members of the HRC was that AFN must continue to seek reauthorization of the Denali Commission.
5. AFN has sought the support of the Secretary of the Interior for reauthorization of the Denali Commission.
6. The Alaska Native leadership met with the Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation, in Anchorage on September 28, 2011, at Cook Inlet Tribal Council's offices and sought the support of the Secretary on this issue. In particular, we worked to secure the transportation funds associated with the transportation programs of the Denali Commission.
7. The HRC has designated reauthorization of the Denali Commission as a top priority for 2011/12

## Voting & Elections

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10-33: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BALLOT PROPOSITION 1, EXPANSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE

This proposition was defeated by Alaska voters. AFN did not have the financial resources to pursue the passage of this proposal on a statewide basis.

10-34: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE COMMISSION BY THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

AFN intends to seek funding to pursue establishment of an Alaska Native Language Commission. Staff will defer to the AFN board of directors as to the structure of a new committee of the board in support of this resolution, as needed.