



EXECUTIVE REPORT

November 2016

Dear AFN Co-Chairs & AFN Board Members,

In this President's Report you'll find a brief summary of each of the 30 resolutions passed by AFN delegates at the 2016 Convention. These summaries will give you both the general direction of policy priorities contained in the resolutions as well as the gist of each resolution. More detailed information on the issue and the action to be taken is available in the [full resolution packet](#).

The Alaska Federation of Natives is in a unique position to advocate on these various issues. As it states on the bottom of each resolution, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that *this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.*" The resolutions are central to the policy direction and specific work of the board committees and the staff and by extension the credibility of our organization.

The Credentials and Resolutions Committees are key in managing the process of gathering the statewide community's ideas and concerns, crafting them into resolutions, and facilitating the discussion and voting in a respectful and equitable forum at the Convention.

The Credentials Committee reported that 100% of regional corporations were represented at the Convention and 100% of regional non-profit or tribal consortiums. 152 federally recognized tribes and 152 ANCSA village corporations were represented. There was 87% delegate vote participation. The Credentials Committee membership is as follows:

Sarah Dybdahl, Chair
Billy Charles
Chris Simon
Dee Dee Bennis
Gia Hanna
Jason Bourdukofsky

Kathryn Martin
Lester Lukin
Marie Duriez
Robert Evans
Sheri Burette
Tabatha Toloff

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UPCOMING EVENTS

AFN CAAN Retreat

December 5th

AFN Subsistence Committee

December 12th

AFN Quarterly Board Meeting

December 13th

The AFN Resolutions Committee meets after the resolution's deadline, usually 35-45 days before the AFN Annual Convention to review the resolutions submitted by AFN's membership. The Resolution Committee determines if the draft resolutions comply with AFN's resolution criteria:

1. The Resolutions Committee will entertain resolutions submitted by any recognized Alaska Native delegate to the Annual Convention, Alaska Native Group, or member AFN organizations.
2. The Resolutions Committee will consider only resolutions that address issues of statewide or broader significance.
3. Resolutions submitted must address only one issue with action on the resolution to be stated positively.
4. Resolutions requesting funding may be referred to the AFN board of directors or an appropriate regional or local organization.
5. The Resolutions Committee may refer to AFN board of directors or an appropriate member organization all resolutions that request legal action.
6. The Resolutions Committee will refer to the AFN board of directors all resolutions that are determined to be a divisive issue between member organizations.
7. The Resolutions Committee shall refer all resolutions of endorsements, commendations, or recognition to the AFN board of directors.

Resolutions that adhere to the following criteria are submitted to the board with the recommendation to be sent to the floor of the Annual AFN Convention for consideration by the AFN delegates. Resolutions that don't adhere to the criteria, such as resolutions that are considered controversial or not statewide are reviewed by AFN Board for further action or are tabled. Resolutions submitted after the deadline may be introduced under suspension of the rules and requires a 2/3 vote by the AFN delegates. Additionally, resolutions submitted under suspension of the rules must be distributed to the AFN delegation by Friday morning of each Annual AFN Convention. During this process, the maker of the resolution is responsible for distribution and printing.

The 2016 Resolutions Committee is comprised of the following members:

Greg Razo, Chair
Gail Schubert
Colleen Abad
Linda Pete
Thomas Mack

Russell Nelson
Nancy Barnes
Ron Moto
Pearl Channar



Julie Kitka
President

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

RESOLUTION 16-1

A RESOLUTION THANKING GOVERNOR BILL WALKER FOR DROPPING THE STATE'S LITIGATION AGAINST "LAND INTO TRUST" IN ALASKA

For many years the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) excluded Alaska tribes from regulations that governed the taking of land into trust for tribes elsewhere in the United States; this regulatory ban was ended by the BIA following a 2013 federal district court decision in *Akiachak Native Community v. U.S. Secretary of the Interior*, which ruled that the ban was invalid as arbitrary and capricious.

The State of Alaska, at the time opposing any taking of land into trust in Alaska, continued litigating. After the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the state in 2016, the Alaska Attorney General's Office announced the state would not be bringing further appeals against land into trust, representing a significant political shift in regard to state-tribal relations.

SUBSISTENCE

RESOLUTION 16-2

REQUESTING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN CO-MANAGEMENT OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER'S SALMON RESOURCES WITH THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) is comprised of thirty-three federally recognized sovereign tribes in western Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The KRITFC and the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife entered into a memorandum of understanding on May 11, 2016, defining the rationale and parameters of co-management for salmon for the respective partnership; and

WHEREAS: Full participation in the same process by the State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, would create a unified management system as well as enhance communication and improve management of the Kuskokwim River salmon for all residents; and

WHEREAS: It is in the best interests of fisheries resources and subsistence users' river-wide and river-long that unified management of the Kuskokwim River's salmon be instituted as soon as possible

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports the effort by the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and request the State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game to join the process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

RESOLUTION 16-3

SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA)

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is the primary source of funding for affordable housing for Alaskan Native, allocating approximately \$98 million each year to Alaskan Tribes and communities. NAHASDA empowers Regional Housing Authorities with local decision making which enables the creation of housing programs that are specific to each region or community. Despite the many successes over the past 15 years with NAHASDA housing programs, demand for affordable housing remains unmet in nearly every Alaskan community.

16-3 requests the Administration support and Congress authorize Indian Housing Block Grant (NAHASDA) funding at NO LESS THAN \$700 million, with subsequent fiscal year increases of \$50 million per year until inflationary reductions have been recovered, and authorize funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) at NO LESS THAN \$100 million. In addition, AFN supports an amendment to empower each Regional Housing Authority to determine region-specific eligibility guidelines to meet the needs of tribal members.

RESOLUTION 16-4

ENCOURAGING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING TO ENSURE ACCESS TO CULTURALLY RELEVANT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE AT RISK OF SUICIDE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Many Alaska Native communities do not have adequate treatment for mental health and substance use disorders, domestic violence and sexual assault. Suicide continues to be an urgent social and health concern for Alaska Natives. Culturally relevant mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment services can help reduce stigma and promote wellness in Alaska Native communities.

AFN will advocate for funding to implement culturally relevant mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for people at risk of suicide and that state and federal funds be distributed without competitive grants funding and without requirements for Lower 48 models that restrict access to these resources.

RESOLUTION 16-5

URGING FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE'S AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO FULLY COMPENSATED LEASES FOR VILLAGE BUILT CLINIC FACILITIES

Village Built Clinics (VBCs) are health care facilities unique to Alaska, historically leased by the Indian Health Service to provide space for the operation of the Community Health Aide Program, which provides essential basic health care services to Alaska Native communities throughout the state. VBCs have been drastically underfunded for decades, leading to deterioration of the clinic facilities themselves and the need for our Native villages and health care programs to divert funding from other sources to subsidize clinic maintenance and operation, impacting the level of service that can be provided. The current IHS funding level of approximately \$6.3 million falls far short of the estimated \$17 million needed.

AFN urges IHS to fully implement its authority in all facilities for which such a lease is requested by an eligible ATHC co-signer, as expeditiously as is feasible and in full compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory provisions as well as court decisions. AFN urges Congress to recognize the fundamental need for safe, functional health care facilities in the remote villages of rural Alaska.

RESOLUTION 16-6

REQUESTING INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPLY WITH THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S FINAL RULE FOR ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The Resource and Patient Management System – Electronic Health Record (RPMS-EHR) system is the foundational electronic medical record, documentation, and healthcare tool used by tribal and Indian Health Service medical providers across the country. The lack of regular upgrading of the Indian Health Services' (IHS) RPMS-EHR system has led to regulatory non-compliance and medical care deficiencies negatively impacting the efficient, safe, effective, and coordinated medical care of thousands of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Critically, the system does not meet Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Final Rule for Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances.

AFN will advocate for a solution from IHS Office of Information Technology (OIT) and will demand a timeline for updating the RPMS-EHR to DEA compliance.

RESOLUTION 16-7

ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY TO REDUCE HUNGER ACROSS ALASKA

Alaskans' health and well-being is critically tied to food security. Hunger is a condition of poverty that affects all regions throughout the state, with roughly 106,000 Alaskans lacking the ability to procure a sufficient amount of healthy food on a regular basis, but is higher in rural Alaska. Alaska's anti-hunger network assists Alaskans in need through voluntary participation of members of the food industry, faith-based, tribal, public and nonprofit organizations, and

private citizens often partnered with state and federal governments.

AFN shall address hunger in Alaska by supporting Alaska's anti-hunger network; and will:

- support development of community-based food programs to promote self-reliance in Alaska's rural communities
- support alternatives and solutions for shipping food to rural and isolated communities that makes food more affordable to purchase, and decreases shipping costs.
- advocate for the strengthening and expanding of federal food programs to better serve Alaskans
- advocate for emergency preparedness plans for the state and federal governments to ensure that food readiness in the event of a disaster a component of all plans

RESOLUTION 16-8

CALL TO ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a serious, heartbreaking problem throughout Alaska, affecting Alaska Natives disproportionately. Homeless Alaska Native individuals are dying in the streets of Anchorage. It cannot be assumed that the state or federal government are going to resolve this issue. Alaska Native corporations, nonprofits, tribal governments, Alaska housing authorities, and AFN and these organizations' leaders have long worked with social services organizations throughout the state to address homelessness and are an essential part of the discussion for pragmatic solutions.

AFN calls upon all Alaska Native businesses and organizations to create a task force with homeless services organizations and state and local authorities to identify and address the needs of the Alaska Natives homeless population throughout Alaska work.

RESOLUTION 16-9

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RURAL GUARD AND RESERVE ACT OF 2016

The resolution acknowledges and honors the history of distinguished service of the Eskimo Scouts in the ATG and The Alaska National Guard (ANG) and the contributions that the Eskimo Scouts made to national security during wartime and peacetime. Rural participation in today's ANG strengthens the United States' national security and provides opportunities for leadership development to thousands of young Alaska Natives. The Rural Guard and Reserve Act of 2016 is meant to enhance the participation of rural Alaskans in the ANG by removing a travel reimbursement cap.

AFN supports the Act to increase opportunities for Alaska Natives living in rural Alaska to serve in the AKNG, thereby contributing to the security of our Nation, the well-being of the State of Alaska, and the social and economic health of rural Alaska.

RESOLUTION 16-10

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXPANDED AND PERMANENT PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION IN ALASKA

Increasing maritime activity and receding sea ice in the Bering Straits and Arctic Ocean is having a negative impact on marine mammals, creating potential conflicts between subsistence and commercial maritime activity, and causing increased search and rescue demands across larger distances.

AFN supports the expansion of the coast Guard's currently limited resources to enhance enforcement across all of Alaska to ensure the protection of subsistence and commercial resources and maritime activity and, pursuant to Executive Order 13175, the Coast Guard is called upon to meaningfully consult with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations and to meaningfully engage with other stakeholders in all aspects of the expansion of its presence across Alaska.

RESOLUTION 16-12

RESOLUTION REQUESTING REVIEW OF FOSTER HOME LICENSING BARRIERS

Alaska Native children are disproportionately represented in the State of Alaska foster care system. Despite ICWA's clear direction to the Office of Children's Services (OCS) to diligently seek Native foster homes for Native children, OCS places the majority of Native children in non-Native homes and the percentage is increasing. The state's expanded list of so-called "barrier crimes" prevents safe and loving Native families from accepting relative, foster, or adoptive placement of Native foster children

AFN urges the State of Alaska to review the list of crimes resulting in a barrier to placement of Alaska Native children in Alaska Native homes and narrow this list, and to begin by removing crimes not directly related to the health, safety and welfare of children. AFN further urges the state to assist potential adoptive Native families in cases where a variance is an option, and to assist in the application for that variance.

RESOLUTION 16-13

RESOLUTION ON WATER & SEWER REFORM

3,300 homes in rural Alaska lack running water and sewer systems. Those with systems have ongoing operations and maintenance needs. Many of these communities are facing the threats of climate change, including eroding coastal and river shorelines, as well as thawing permafrost changing the landscape of rural Alaska. Inadequate sanitation causes severe health problems and increased burdens on communities. The total need for water and sewer infrastructure investment for both first-time service and upgrades and maintenance in Alaska is estimated at \$2.2 billion.

Resolution 16-13 calls on tribes and tribal organizations to create development plans to coordinate tribal investment in communities amongst regional institutions. It requests the Indian Health Service establish a program that allows tribes to utilize federal sewer and water funding from multiple agencies, allowing for a clear path to development, rather than the piecemeal approach. Finally, 16-3 calls on federal partners to work Alaska Tribes to create one unique regulatory

structure that will allow tribes the flexibility and innovation and incentivize the establishment of multi-tribal utility organizations.

RESOLUTION 16-14

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW TO REMOVE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS PREVENTING REHABILITATED INDIVIDUALS FROM WORKING

When a former addict or offender is able to become a healthy and balanced individual, they often emerge with a criminal history preventing them from working at a tribe or Alaska Native organization based due to the requirements of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Protection Act (ICPA) and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act (ABCA). Recruitment and retention of qualified individuals by tribes and tribal organizations can be challenging enough. Applying for variances of the State Barrier Crimes Act in order to hire otherwise qualified individuals is a time-consuming and burdensome process.

AFN supports an initiative to amend the ICPA and the ABCA to adequately provide for rehabilitated individuals with a demonstrated safety record for an appropriate period of time in relation to the crime committed to apply for and hold certain positions. AFN requests that the Alaska Attorney General and Department of Health and Social Services work with AFN to develop blanket variances for employees of tribes and tribal organizations.

RESOLUTION 16-15

THAT THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE PERMANENTLY REINSTATE THE MONTH OF MARCH AS “SOBRIETY AWARENESS MONTH (SAM)” IN SUPPORT OF ITS DECLARATION OF POLICY UNDER ALASKA STATUTE 47.37.010

Between the years of 1995 and 2006, the Alaska Legislature designated the month of March as Sobriety Awareness Month ten times in recognition and support of Alaska Statute 47.31.010, which recognizes, appreciates, and reinforces the “example set by its citizens who lead, believe in, and support a life of sobriety.” Many Alaskans lead, believe-in and support a life of sobriety as a positive, healthy, and productive way of life, free from the devastating effects of alcohol and drugs; and

AFN calls upon the Alaska State Legislature to: permanently reinstate and annually designate, in perpetuity, the month of March as Sobriety Awareness Month; and enact or amend all state grant services and any state grants federal matching requirements for all substance abuse prevention programs, to set aside up to five percent of their annual program budget to help the State of Alaska meet its declaration of policy under AS 47.37.010. Resolution 16-15 also calls Alaska’s Governor, his or her Cabinet, and for-profit or nonprofit agencies to support sobriety through several methods and initiatives outlined in the resolution.

RESOLUTION 16-16

REQUESTING THAT THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DOES NOT FURTHER REDUCE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER (VPSO) BUDGETS

With per capita rates on average of 9.3% which far exceeds the crime rate in urban Alaska of .07%, the communities in rural Alaska depend heavily on The Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers and the Village Public Safety Officer Program for primary support for safety and well-being. Even so, Many rural communities in Alaska do not have adequate access to public safety services. These agencies have each taken significant reductions in their budgets that has resulted in the loss of positions. Further cuts to their budgets will mean the loss of public safety services in rural Alaska and increasing the crime per capita rates.

AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to maintain or increase the Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers and Village Public Safety Officer Program budgets that was allocated for State Fiscal Year 2017.

EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 16-17

REDUCE INEQUITIES IN THE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN RURAL ALASKA BY OPPOSING ANY DIMINISHMENT OF EQUAL ACCESS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND FUNDING, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO UNDERFUNDED OR UNFUNDED MANDATES OR INCREASING THE MINIMUM AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP

Opposes any action by policy makers or others to exacerbate the inequities in the provision of rural public education. Requests the Alaska Congressional delegation to work with their colleagues to revoke the 1985 appropriations riders so that our small village schools are able to access BIE financial resources to help enable Tribes achieve self determination in education through Tribal schools. Urges the Alaska State Legislature to prioritize funding high quality public education for all Alaskans by reducing inequities in the provision and funding of rural schools, honoring the scheduled 2016 increase in the base student allocation from \$5,880 to \$5,930 as a first step, and seriously examining and reducing unfunded/underfunded mandates to school districts, finding equitable costs savings and increasing funding for public education in the future.

LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

RESOLUTION 16-18

REINSTATEMENT OF THE ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT FOR ALASKA TRIBES

Urges the State of Alaska to reinstate the Alaska Coastal Management Program, including Tribal seats (2), for advancing well-managed, broadly-beneficial utilization of our coastal and natural resources.

RESOLUTION 16-19

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF AN ECONOMIC DISASTER IN GULF OF ALASKA FISHERY DEPENDENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND REQUESTING THE UTILIZATION OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHING REVOLVING LOAN FUND (CFRLF) TO ASSIST AFFECTED FISHERMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES IMPACTED BY THE FISHERIES DISASTER

Resolves that the State of Alaska use all available tools, including a request for support from the federal government, to assist the fishermen (boat owners, captains and crew) and their families that have been economically impacted by this fisheries disaster, and should declare a condition of economic disaster in Gulf of Alaska fisheries and other river systems in Alaska so that the numerous tools and methods built into the Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund (CFRLF) to assist harvesters who may experience financial hardship as a result of poor fishery returns or other unexpected occurrences that may affect livelihoods can be used. Also requests that the DED utilize those tools to the fullest and provide the flexibility to weather the economic storm with the affected fishermen.

RESOLUTION 16-20

REQUESTING THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO ALASKAN TRIBES BY FULLY FUNDING 3 ADDITIONAL ALASKAN POSITIONS WITH THE DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

Requests that the U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Indian Energy immediately dedicate the promised funding to increase Alaskan staff to three new full time employees by the end of 2016 and that those positions be located here in Alaska. Also requests DOI OIE create a full-fledged Alaskan Field Office that can improve the connection, outreach and effectiveness of the DOE in Alaska.

RESOLUTION 16-21

TO CREATE A RURAL ALASKA CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE TO MODIFY THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION FUND TO DEVELOP CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA

Calls for the formation of a Rural Alaska Clean Energy Task Force by the Alaska State Legislature to draft new regulations and formulas for calculating PCE payments such that it becomes de-coupled from diesel fuel consumption and instead promotes private investment in clean energy infrastructure in rural Alaska. Stipulates that PCE payments to eligible communities do not diminish over time as their diesel fuel consumption declines with deployment of new, clean energy infrastructure, but rather, the PCE payment remains as a guaranteed revenue stream and as an incentive to continue to reduce diesel fuel consumption for both heating and electricity.

RESOLUTION 16-22

AFN REQUESTS THE STATE OF ALASKA GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF EROSION OF ALASKA NATIVE LANDS

Requests that the State of Alaska Governor's Tribal Advisory Committee address the effects of erosion due to climate change on Alaska Native Lands.

RESOLUTION 16-23

PROTECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES RELIANT ON COMMERCIAL AND/OR SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES

Opposes the creation of any National Marine Sanctuary or Marine National Monument that jeopardizes the economic health and vitality of one or more rural communities reliant on commercial and/or subsistence fisheries in Alaska and mandates tribal consultation and engagement with Alaska Native individuals and organizations prior to designating Marine National Monuments or Sanctuaries in Alaska.

ECONOMIC

RESOLUTION 16-24

URGING A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE RURAL ALASKA AIR TRAVEL AND AIR AND MARINE FREIGHT INDUSTRIES WITH A GOAL OF FINDING FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE AIRFARE/FREIGHT PRICES BY 25-50% AND INCREASE RURAL AIR TRAVEL SAFETY

Calls for a comprehensive study of the rural Alaska air travel and air and marine freight industries, which form the primary travel infrastructure for almost all communities in rural Alaska. If said study outlines feasible innovative measures that have a high likelihood of success in reducing travel/freight prices significantly in rural Alaska, AFN calls on the Alaska Legislature to adopt such measures within a 3-5 year timeline. Also calls for the inclusion and involvement of local agencies, tribes, municipalities, and nonprofits throughout the entire process.

ANSCA/TRIBAL

RESOLUTION 16-25

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PROVIDE TRIBAL COURT FUNDING FOR TRIBAL NATIONS IN PUB. L. 280 STATES

Calls on Congress to appropriate \$16.9 million for tribal court funding in Pub. L. 280 states and to explicitly state that this funding be directed to tribal courts in Pub. L. 280 states. Demands that tribal nations in Pub. L. 280 states should be able to access the entirety of this funding through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to use in a manner that tribal nations decide best suits the needs of their tribal courts. Acknowledges the initiative and success of Senator Lisa Murkowski in securing a FY 16 appropriation for tribal courts in PL 280 states.

RESOLUTION 16-26

RESOLUTION DEMANDING THE STATE OF ALASKA ADEQUATELY COMPENSATE THE FAIRBANKS FOUR FOR THE 18 YEARS THEY WERE UNLAWFULLY IMPRISONED

Expresses AFN's support and advocacy for the reintroduction and passage of the legislation that was known last session as HB 55 (Sponsor Kawasaki) and HB 243 (Sponsor Lynn), which were not brought to the House floor for a vote but would assign some funding to all Alaskans that have been wrongfully imprisoned. Demands that the State of Alaska provide for the immediate needs of George Frese, Eugene Vent, Marvin Roberts and Kevin Pease to include housing, counseling, education and legal services.

RESOLUTION 16-27

CALLING FOR THE UTILIZATION OF THE ALASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION JUDICIAL REVIEW OF INEQUITABLE BAIL SETTING AND SENTENCING PRACTICES TOWARD ALASKA NATIVE DEFENDANTS AND FOR STATE ACTION TO GUARANTEE ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE RECEIVE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF DEFENSE COUNSEL

Calls for the utilization of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission and that an essential judicial review of the inequitable bail setting and sentencing practices for Alaska Native defendants be conducted with urgency. Asks that a review of adequate access to legal counsel for criminal defendants be undertaken immediately.

RESOLUTION 16-28

OPPOSITION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF A QUOTA ON CHUKCHI SEA POLAR BEARS

Opposes the implementation of regulations, including a quota, for Chukchi Sea polar bears until Traditional Ecological Knowledge about the population status and health of Chukchi Sea polar bears has been well documented and is used for determining an appropriate quota if one is needed, until there is clear justification for the need for a restriction on the harvest of Chukchi Sea polar bears, and until meaningful and repeated consultation between the federal government with the affected tribal governments in western and northern Alaska has occurred. Resolves AFN's determination to restore the Native exemption that once existed within the Marine Mammal Protection Act to hunt Chukchi Sea polar bears.

RESOLUTION 16-29

SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A TRANSFORMATIVE TRUTH & RECONCILIATION PROCESS THAT IS BUILT UPON THE VALUE OF HEALING AND ADDRESSES THE ISSUES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (INCLUSIVE OF OUR POLITICAL STATUS AND OUR RACIAL STATUS) AND PEOPLES OF COLOR THEREBY ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY FOR ALL

Supports the creation of a transformative truth and reconciliation process that is built upon the value of healing and addresses the issues of indigenous peoples (inclusive of both our political status and our racial status) and peoples of color, thereby advancing racial equity for all.

Resolves that the AFN Council for the Advancement of Alaska Natives will collaborate with First Alaskans Institute to help advance this work.

RESOLUTION 16-30

IN SUPPORT OF USE AND SALES OF WALRUS IVORY IN TOOLS, ARTS AND CRAFTS

Opposes the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in domestic ivory ban laws. Encourages the banning of domestic sales of elephant ivory and requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory, whale bone, walrus skin, sea otter, and seal skin be exempted from current and future domestic ivory ban laws in the United States.

RESOLUTION 16-31

URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE ADVANCING ARCTIC POLICY INITIATIVES TO MAINTAIN A CONTINUED FOCUS ON THE ARCTIC

Urges the State of Alaska and the United States Government to continue to strive to be world leaders in all matters related to the Arctic, that the United States continue the coordination of arctic policy efforts through the White House Arctic Executive Steering Committee, and that both governments meaningfully partner with and engage indigenous peoples in arctic policy work to continue the momentum developed to date. Extends gratitude and appreciation to the State of Alaska and the United States Government for the elevation and advancement of arctic policy issues.

More detailed information on the resolutions can be found in the [full resolution packet](#).