



**FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE  
2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS  
TITLE PAGE**

- 18-30 A RESOLUTION MANDATING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP AND REQUIRE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND REGIONALLY SPECIFIC ALASKA HISTORY STUDIES.
- 18-31 A RESOLUTION TO STAND TOGETHER AGAINST E-CIGARETTES
- 18-32 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEW ILISAGVIK COLLEGE CAMPUS PROJECT
- 18-33 A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEALTHY EATING, BETTER LIFE CHOICES FOR MENTAL HEALTH
- 18-34 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WEARING ALASKA NATIVE AND AMERICAN INDIAN REGALIA DURING GRADUATION CEREMONIES
- 18-35 A RESOLUTION URGING ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, TRIBES AND CORPORATIONS TO EMBRACE AND RESPECT ELDERS BY ENGAGING THEM IN ACTIVITIES, FORUMS, AND IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY WHERE THEY CAN SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM.
- 18-36 A RESOLUTION FROM ALASKA NATIVE ELDERS AND YOUTH URGING ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE.
- 18-37 A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL SUICIDE PREVENTION SOLUTIONS.

## RESOLUTION 18-30

**TITLE: A Resolution mandating the State of Alaska to require school districts to develop and require culturally appropriate and regionally specific Alaska history studies.**

**Whereas:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership included 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; 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:** Students in Alaska currently are deprived of indigenous cultures and language in their regions; and

**Whereas:** Students in Alaska currently aren't encouraged enough to find value in their culture and traditional ways of life; and

**Whereas:** Teachers often times come to Alaska and are placed in classrooms to teach Alaska history without prior knowledge or proper training in Alaska's diverse history; and

**Whereas:** Prejudice against Alaska Natives is exacerbated by a lack of accurate education about Alaska Native cultures; and

**Whereas:** Alaska Native students often times believe there are more services and programs for ethnic groups that come in to Alaska versus the indigenous population of Alaska; and

**Whereas:** If school districts were required to develop place based accurate curriculum that included input from local elders and tribal organizations, students in Alaska could learn more about their culture and embrace their traditional ways of life;

**Whereas:** Indigenous students throughout Alaska have expressed dissatisfaction with the current way their own cultures are taught, and have expressed a desire/demanded that their education better represent their cultures within their regions and across the state.

**Now therefore be it resolved:** the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., urge the Alaska State Board of Education to mandate that local school districts require 1/2 a semester of Alaska history from the indigenous perspective and 1/2 of a semester of region specific history and government; and

**Be it further resolved:** that the Alaska State Board of Education mandates that teachers require Alaska Native history and culture training prior to teaching any classes; and

**Be it further resolved:** that local school districts are required to develop this curriculum through input from local elders, tribal/Native organizations, and youth; and

**Be it finally resolved:** that local school districts encourage Type M certified local instructors to teach region specific and Alaska history classes.

**Submitted by:** 2018 Elders and Youth Participants

**RESOLUTION 18-31**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO STAND TOGETHER AGAINST E-CIGRATTES**

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership included 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; 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:** Not much is known about vaporizing (vaping) and its health implications; and

**WHEREAS:** Many teens struggle with vaping; and

**WHEREAS:** The main chemical in e-cigarettes is nicotine; and

**WHEREAS:** Some vapes are the equivalent of 30 cigarettes; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** We take a formal stand against e-cigarettes and vaping; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** We call for restrictions on e-cigarettes and more education on the importance of vaping.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** that this resolution, once passed by the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., be transmitted to the Tribal Health system and the State Department of Public Health.

**SUBMITTED BY:** 2018 Elders and Youth Participants

**RESOLUTION 18-32**

**Title:**           **A Resolution Supporting the New Iḷisaġvik College Campus Project**

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership included 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; 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:** We acknowledge that Iḷisaġvik College (“the College”) has provided post-secondary academic, vocational and technical education aimed at meeting the workplace needs since 1986,

**WHEREAS:** The College was accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in 2003 and became a Tribal College in 2005,

**WHEREAS:** While the College is steeped in Iñupiaq culture, language and values, and will continue to draw from the environment in which it resides, Iḷisaġvik provides quality education both in-person and distance to students from across the state of Alaska and hosts summer camp students from villages statewide,

**WHEREAS:** As of 2017, the College offers a tuition waiver in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) which waives tuition for all Alaska Natives/American Indians living in the state,

**WHEREAS:** Combined with the College’s ability to provide quality distance education, Iḷisaġvik is positioned to provide tuition-free post-secondary education to Alaska Natives across the state,

**WHEREAS:** While the College has made the best possible use of the existing infrastructure, the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL) infrastructure is now approximately 70 years of age and was never meant to house a college campus,

**WHEREAS:** the College is located 3 miles outside of town and transportation is a challenge in accessing the current campus, and

**WHEREAS:** having a new campus closer to town will be beneficial for students to access community resources and the college will be built to accommodate more students from across Alaska, and

**WHEREAS:** the college, in continuation of meeting Alaska’s workforce and higher education needs, requires a new college campus in Utqiagvik to meet these growing needs,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., support Iḷisaġvik College on the New Iḷisaġvik College Campus Project. This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

**SUBMITTED BY:** 2018 Elders and Youth Participants

**RESOLUTION 18-33**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEALTHY EATING, BETTER LIFE CHOICES FOR MENTAL HEALTH.**

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership included 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; 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:** Eating more traditional foods and less western foods (salt, sugar, flour, fast foods) is best for mental health; and

**WHEREAS:** The effects of good life choices are best for your mental health, including not using alcohol, drugs, or eating junk foods; and

**WHEREAS:** Healthy eating and living will promote cleaner thinking and wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS:** What we put into our bodies will reflect to the world; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** We will continue promoting better life choices for you, through access to traditional foods; culturally based life styles; clearer thinking with a healthy mind, body and spirit.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** We call for more statewide attention to this topic, encouraging our people to commit to: putting up and eating traditional foods, overall healthy eating, reduction or abstaining from alcohol, drugs, junk food, mindfulness through meditation, prayer with a clear mind makes for better life choices.

**SUBMITTED BY:** 2018 Elders and Youth Participants

**RESOLUTION 18-34**

**TITLE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WEARING ALASKA NATIVE AND AMERICAN INDIAN REGALIA DURING GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership included 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; 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:** It is the responsibility of the Anchorage School District's Title VII Indian Education Native Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Anchorage School District (ASD) regarding modifications, reforms, or development of elementary and secondary school programs, services, policy or other efforts that serve Alaska Native and American Indian students; and

**WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Alaska Native & American Indian Regalia in the ASD is to seek creating or changing the school district's policy or administrative regulations regarding dress standards for graduation ceremonies; and

**WHEREAS:** The ASD's Title VI Indian Education Native Advisory Committee and the members of the Alaska Native & American Indian Regalia in the ASD is seeking our support for Alaska Native and American Indian graduating students, in every school district in Alaska, to allow students to wear traditional Tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies; and

**WHEREAS:** Providing our communities across the state to accentuate, honor and celebrate Indigenous culture, heritage and traditions; and

**WHEREAS:** Allowing our Alaska Native and American Indian students to wear regalia or an object of cultural significance while participating in the colonized rite of passage, high school graduation; and

**WHEREAS:** Our younger students will recognize the academic success and great accomplishment of completing high school with a positive Native role model; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** by the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that all school districts in Alaska write policies and/or administrative regulations for graduation attire that includes allowing for Alaska Native and American Indian students to wear traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance.

**Submitted by:** 2018 Elders and Youth Participants

**RESOLUTION 18-35**

**TITLE:**       **A RESOLUTION URGING ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, TRIBES, AND CORPORATIONS TO EMBRACE AND RESPECT ELDERS BY ENGAGING THEM IN ACTIVITIES, FORUMS, AND IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY WHERE THEY CAN SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM**

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership included 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; 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:** Elders are and need to continue to be upheld, respected, and engaged because of their role as transmitters of knowledge to the next generation and as authority figures who support their communities by guiding decisions and behavior while anchored in traditional values; and

**WHEREAS:** Elders have knowledge valuable to many matters pertaining to the health, well-being, and functioning of communities including, but not limited to language, subsistence, supporting public safety, addressing conflict, and other experiences that will help youth, adults, and communities to be stronger; and

**WHEREAS:** Organizations can consider different mechanisms to engage Elders in their traditional role such as official advisors to Boards or Councils, offering advice to professionals engaged in public safety and search and rescue, scholars providing guidance on perpetuation and continuation of language and culture; and

**WHEREAS:** Inclusion of Elders in this role is a modern adaptation of how communities can respect, uphold, and engage Elders; and

**WHEREAS:** Engaging Elders in activities, forums, and in an advisory capacity to organizations to share their wisdom and knowledge will strengthen Alaska Native communities and help develop leadership in the next generation; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** by the participants of the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., to encourage Alaska Native Communities, Organizations, Tribes, and Corporations to engage Elders in the many ways they can use their wisdom and knowledge; and

**SUBMITTED BY:** 2018 Elders and Youth Participants

**RESOLUTION 18-36**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION FROM ALASKA NATIVE ELDERS AND YOUTH URGING ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership included 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; 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:** In 2015, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) EpiCenter reported that 11.6% of Alaska Native high school students reported binge drinking; and

**WHEREAS:** The ANTHC EpiCenter reported that in 2015 13.2% Alaska Native high school students reported abusing prescription drugs; and

**WHEREAS:** From 2010 to 2014, one in five Alaska Natives aged 18 and older reported binge drinking; and

**WHEREAS:** Substance abuse results in long-lasting negative physical, mental, and emotional effects including but not limited to increased risk of illness and infection, heart, lung, and brain damage, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, unintentional pregnancies, and is a contributor to adverse childhood experiences which impact the long-term health of individuals; and

**WHEREAS:** Pregnant women under the influence of drugs or alcohol increase the risk of miscarriage, still birth, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; and

**WHEREAS:** The leading cause of birth defects and mental retardation is the use of substances by women who are pregnant; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribal Health organizations are equipped to educate members of the Alaska Native community about the risk factors of substance abuse at any age to the physical and mental health of individuals and families, and the impacts substance abuse has on community; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribal Health organizations have access to resources to implement local treatment and recovery centers; and

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives adopted resolution 15-12 A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND DRUG

TREATMENT CENTERS IN RURAL ALASKA and there is a sense of urgency in rural Alaska to establish these treatment centers; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** by the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., urging Alaska Native tribal health organizations to develop and implement culturally appropriate, local solutions to prevent substance abuse by educating individuals, families and communities about the impacts of substance abuse on them and communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the participants also urge Alaska Native tribal health organizations to reinvigorate efforts to establish rural substance abuse treatment and recovery centers; and

**SUBMITTED BY:** 2018 Elders and Youth Participants

## RESOLUTION 18-37

**TITLE:**       **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL SUICIDE PREVENTION SOLUTIONS**

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership included 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; 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:** Alaska Native communities experience suicide mortality at a rate of 40.9 deaths per 100,000 population and is the fourth leading cause of death for Alaska Natives as reported in the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Statewide Data: Suicide Mortality updated on February 2, 2017; and

**WHEREAS:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2011 that Alaska Native and American Indian people experience the highest rates of suicide of all racial and ethnic groups; and

**WHEREAS:** The statewide suicide rate for Alaska Native people has decreased by 11.9 percent according to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's data, but the rate of suicide is still the highest in the nation and requires urgent attention to build resilience to prevent suicide; and

**WHEREAS:** The causes of suicide can vary and include, but are not limited to feelings of shame, bullying, cyber-bullying, little to no access to opportunities, class inequity, despair, mental health challenges, sexual assault, substance abuse, etc.; and

**WHEREAS:** People affected by these factors and causes need support access to resources that can increase their resilience before becoming suicidal; and

**WHEREAS:** Individuals can make a difference by taking action to support people at risk by addressing bullying, not shaming people when they make a mistake, role modeling appropriate behavior, embracing sharing with people who may have less or need assistance, and many other ways; and

**WHEREAS:** Individuals and communities that want to make a difference need assistance learning about what factors and causes lead to suicide and how they can work together with Alaska Native Tribal Health organizations or other appropriate community organizations to take action locally; and

**WHEREAS:** Some communities and regions are leading the way to developing and implementing community-based suicide prevention programs that are culturally relevant; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** by Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., to call for Alaska Native tribal health organizations to increase support for communities implementing local community-based solutions by providing education on the factors and causes of suicide, connecting individuals and groups with tools to support each other and individuals at-risk, and to advocate for resources from appropriate organizations to support community-based solutions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** we call for Alaska Native Tribal Health organizations to increase support for communities in implementation of local suicide prevention solutions; and

**SUBMITTED BY:** 2018 Elders and Youth Participants