



# 2020 AFN RESOLUTIONS

TITLE	NAME	BOARD ACTION
<b>SUBSISTENCE</b>		
20-1	IN SUPPORT OF A SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL FISHERY DISASTER DECLARATION FOR ALL REGIONS/RIVERS	PASS
20-2	SUPPORT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF EMPEROR GEESE IN ALASKA	PASS
<b>HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE</b>		
20-4	SUPPORT AND RESPECT FOR TRIBAL PROTECTION OF RURAL VILLAGES THROUGH TRIBAL COVID ORDINANCES	PASS
20-5	SUPPORT A STATE CHILD PROTECTION LAW	PASS
20-6	FULLY FUND AND MAKE PERMANENT THE TIWAHE INITIATIVE IN FY2021	PASS
20-7	SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE THE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM	PASS
20-8	A RESOLUTION OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT	PASS
20-9	DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE MISSING AND MURDERED ALASKAN NATIVES OUTCOMES BY INCREASING TRIBAL, FEDERAL, AND STATE COLLABORATION, AND IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA	PASS
20-10	SUPPORT FOR S. 2616, ALASKA TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMPOWERMENT ACT	PASS
20-11	ESTABLISHMENT OF ALASKA LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC TASK FORCE ON POVERTY	PASS

20-12	SUPPORTING A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS FUNDS IN INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT AGREEMENTS	PASS
20-13	100% FLU VACCINATION OF ALASKA NATIVES FOR THE 2020-2021 FLU SEASON, AND PRIORITIZED VACCINATION FOR THE AT-RISK, VULNERABLE, AND UNDER-SERVED	PASS
20-14	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONSISTENT FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA SCIENTIFIC CRIME DETECTION LABORATORY IN ORDER TO BECOME AND STAY CURRENT ON TESTING OF BACKLOGGED AND CURRENT SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS	PASS
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20-15	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO INCREASE FUNDING AND RESOURCES TOWARD THE REVITALIZATION OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AND CULTURES	PASS
<b>LAND, ENERGY, &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
20-16	SUPPORT FOR THE USDA HIGH ENERGY COST GRANT PROGRAM	PASS
20-17	RESTORATION OF TRADITIONAL SALMON HABITAT	PASS
20-18	REQUIRING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR-BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LAND SELECTIONS UNDER THE ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS NATIVE ALLOTMENT ACT SECTION 1119 OF THE DINGELL ACT AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS IN ALASKA TO ASSIST VETERANS TO APPLY	PASS
20-19	A RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS INCREASED MARINE DEBRIS AS A RESULT OF INCREASED SHIPPING IN THE ARCTIC	PASS
20-20	INCREASED COORDINATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING FOR ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES TO RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS	PASS
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20-21	URGING THE EXPANSION OF CONTRACTING AND COMPACTING OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	PASS

20-22	SUPPORT FOR STATE RECOGNITION OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES	PASS
<b>OTHER</b>		
20-23	RELIABLE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICES	PASS
20-24	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW VISION FOR EVOS: A ROADMAP TO RESHAPE THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUST	PASS
20-25	CALLING ON THE ALASKA DMV TO FACILITATE THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR REAL IDS IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES	PASS
20-26	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION	PASS
<b>ELDERS AND YOUTH</b>		
20-27	REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO MAKE THE HOUSE TRIBAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE A STANDING COMMITTEE	PASS
20-28	SUPPORTING THE WALTER HARPER PROJECT AND RECLAIMING THE FIRST SUMMIT OF DENALI	PASS
20-29	MAKE GAY PANIC DEFENSE ILLEGAL UNDER ALASKA LAW	PASS

# **SUBSISTENCE**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-1

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF A SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL FISHERY DISASTER DECLARATION FOR ALL REGIONS/RIVERS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** All of Alaska Natives depend on subsistence resources in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native cultures developed rich and enduring societies and economies around the harvest and utilization of natural resources that have sustained us through thousands of years; and
- WHEREAS:** The harvest and utilization of natural resources are vital to our communities social and economic well-being and the survival of Alaska Native cultures; and
- WHEREAS:** Subsistence fish along with other natural resources provide the basic food security for Alaska Natives who live in communities where cash income opportunities are limited; and
- WHEREAS:** The significance of Alaska Native subsistence hunting and fishing was recognized by Congress when it made a commitment to Alaska Natives when it enacted Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980; and
- WHEREAS:** Subsistence hunting and fishing became increasingly important to rural communities as a result of the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic including irregular transportation to and from rural communities; the cessation of transportation during the closure of some communities; loss of cash income opportunities; stable availability of commercial foods; and the increased costs of commercial foods; and
- WHEREAS:** The summer of 2020 is being characterized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as one of the worst salmon seasons in decades; and
- WHEREAS:** Several communities have requested the State of Alaska to declare disaster declarations for the salmon commercial fisheries and to request a disaster declaration from Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and

WHEREAS: Many Native communities depend on subsistence fishing as their primary source of food as well as their cultural way of life and to sustain themselves through the winter months; and

WHEREAS: Native villages are reporting a disastrous 2020 subsistence fisheries season with fishing areas closed; with subsistence fishermen having to go to five or more sites and longer distances from their communities to find any fish; fishing longer hours, and with families able to harvest only two or three fish or to receive two or three fish from sharing; and

WHEREAS: Native villages, which have suffered the loss of wage income jobs; irregular transportation to and from villages resulting in higher costs of commercial foods together with the worst subsistence fishing seasons in decades are facing extraordinary hardships and loss of their food security; and

WHEREAS: Substantial inequities exist between commercial and subsistence fisheries in that disaster funds have been made available for commercial fisheries, but not for subsistence fisheries.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives shall request the Governor of Alaska, the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaskan Congressional Delegation, and the Secretary of Commerce:

- 1) to address the inequities that exist in disaster declaration funding for commercial fisheries but no funding for subsistence fisheries; and
- 2) to provide for subsistence disaster declaration funds for those families and communities that are suffering from the worst fishing season in decades; and
- 3) that the State of Alaska is urged to immediately implement a special subsistence relief program in Native communities; and
- 4) that the State of Alaska and the federal government revise existing economic disaster funds to include disaster funds for subsistence economies that are experiencing severely reduced subsistence harvest.

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE ACTION: AMENDED - DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-2

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF EMPEROR GEESE IN ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** In 2016, the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) adopted an Emperor Goose Management Plan to help guide regulations for a customary and traditional spring and summer subsistence hunt for emperor geese and their eggs, which were opened to legal harvest in Spring 2017; and
- WHEREAS:** The US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducts a Coastal Zone Survey in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta annually to develop the state-wide population index estimates for emperor geese and in 2019, the index dropped below the 28,000-bird threshold that triggers conservation measures to be considered; and
- WHEREAS:** The 2020 Coastal Zone Survey was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a lack of new population estimates to assess the health of emperor geese; and
- WHEREAS:** The emperor goose subcommittee of the AMBCC met twice over the summer of 2020 to discuss and develop recommendations to be shared with the Pacific Flyway Council for endorsement, and then sent to the Service Regulations Committee for approval; and
- WHEREAS:** The subcommittee has recommended the AMBCC continue to implement conservation measures for the 2021 spring-summer subsistence hunt of emperor geese, including maintaining the non-regulatory measure of increased outreach and education and, closing the harvest of emperor geese eggs in all regions of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The regulation change to 50 CFR § 92.22 (closing egg gathering in any region) endorsed by the Pacific Flyway Council will go before the Service Regulations Committee on October 20-21, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives understand the cultural and traditional importance of emperor geese to Alaska Natives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN also understands the need for conservation to protect our resources when they are faced with threats to their populations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED AFN supports continued conservation outreach and education on emperor geese to ensure the protection of this resource for all future generations.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD  
COMMITTEE ACTION: AMENDED - DO PASS  
BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020

## **HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELLNESS**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-4

- TITLE:** SUPPORT AND RESPECT FOR TRIBAL PROTECTION OF RURAL VILLAGES THROUGH TRIBAL COVID ORDINANCES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** Tribes are sovereign nations with authority and responsibilities over their land and people. This inherent sovereign authority includes the right to promote and protect the health and welfare of our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal jurisdiction in Alaska extends over tribal members people and tribal lands; tribes may extend jurisdiction over non-member conduct in certain instances, including when such conduct “threatens or has some direct effect on the political integrity, the economic security, or the health or welfare of the tribe”; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal authority to assert jurisdiction over nonmembers is at its strongest when responding to public health crises like COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 crisis exacerbates the already drastic disparities faced by Alaskan tribal governments. Alaskan Tribes are challenged geographically, logistically, and financially and many villages are located on main waterways, far separated from urban centers, mostly accessible only by boat, snowmachine, or plane; and
- WHEREAS:** Most of our villages are hundreds of miles from the nearest hospital, and many have only one or two health care professionals. The common guidance of hand washing is not applicable to villages that live without running water because of the lack of infrastructure or the lack of funding to maintain the necessary water and sewer infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska villages face an extreme housing shortage resulting in multiple generations of large extended families living under one roof, often in a few rooms making social distancing very difficult; and
- WHEREAS:** Food security in rural Alaska is already in jeopardy as the state and federal governments manage tribal traditional lands and do not adequately account for Alaska Native hunting and fishing needs; and

WHEREAS: Most Alaskan city schools remain closed due to high COVID cases, yet because of the passage of strict village travel bans by the local tribal government, many village schools are able to remain open to students; and

WHEREAS: A number of tribes have received outstanding support by State of Alaska agencies and officials that understand the importance of protecting the highly vulnerable villages to COVID infections and the significance of keeping village schools open; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes need continued support to honor and respect tribal laws passed to protect villages and schools from a COVID outbreak.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the State of Alaska honor, support, and assist in the enforcement of tribal laws that seek to protect villages from COVID infections and outbreaks.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-5

TITLE: SUPPORT A STATE CHILD PROTECTION LAW

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was passed by Congress in 1978 to help prevent the widespread practice before 1978 of state courts permitting non-Indian persons and couples to adopt or be foster placements for Indian children; and

WHEREAS: National Indian and non-Indian organizations, state governments, members of Congress, tribes and tribal communities, and thousands of AI/AN individuals have supported ICWA as an essential and effective policy that protects the best interest of AI/AN children; and

WHEREAS: Early application and consistent compliance with ICWA prevents unlawful removals of Alaska Native children from family and promotes stable placements in loving, permanent homes, connected to family and culture; and

WHEREAS: Current research shows that family, culture, and community promote resiliency and healthy development in Alaska Native youth; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native children continue to be taken from their homes at alarming rates (rates three times higher than other children) due largely to misapplication, ignorance, or willful non-compliance with the mandates of ICWA and often without notice to or engagement with the child's tribe; and

WHEREAS: On June 14, 2016, the Bureau of Indian Affairs promulgated comprehensive, legally-binding regulations clarifying the requirements of ICWA for state courts; and

WHEREAS: These regulations provide valuable clarification for both states and tribes on the steps to properly implement ICWA requirements and necessitate that both states and tribes work closely together; and

WHEREAS: ICWA's almost 60% of the children in foster care in 2020 are Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS: Recent opposition to ICWA has risen in the form of frivolous litigation, misinformation campaigns with Congress, and attempts to garner media attention by exploiting tragic events and promoting racist, inaccurate stereotypes of Alaska Native and American Indian tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby recognizes and firmly supports the continued need for the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives, in an effort to improve Indian Child Welfare Act compliance and implementation and to mitigate the possibility of harm and lack of permanency to Alaska Native children in the foster care system, support the adoption of Alaska statutes and regulations that mirror the intent of federal ICWA.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-6

- TITLE:** FULLY FUND AND MAKE PERMANENT THE TIWAHE INITIATIVE IN FY2021
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tiwahe Initiative was established in 2015 to improve the health and wellbeing of families in tribal communities, and to reduce poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, and associated outcomes such as youth suicide; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tiwahe Initiative includes two components: one component which includes a recurring funding increase for all tribes that operate Social Services and ICWA programs; and another component which includes additional Tiwahe funding support for a demonstration/pilot program at six tribal locations to develop improved coordination and delivery of services, and which could serve as a model for other tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tiwahe Initiative was intended as a five-year demonstration program, and upon completion of the five-year program period, if tribes evidenced success through performance measures identified in their Tiwahe plans, the program and funding would thereafter be recurring; and
- WHEREAS:** Other successful tribal demonstration/pilot programs supported by Congress and the Administration, and which subsequently became permanent and expanded, include the 477 Program (P.L. 102-477), and the Self Governance Program; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress has supported the Tiwahe Initiative since it began, citing the importance of providing culturally-appropriate services with the goals of empowering individuals and families through health promotion, family stability, and strengthening tribal communities as a whole; and
- WHEREAS:** FY2019 was the fifth year of the Tiwahe Initiative, and a report to Congress is underway demonstrating the impact and effectiveness of this program. Based on the anticipation of a positive report Congress committed to funding Tiwahe for FY2020, but did not make funding for the program permanent at that time; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes participating in the Tiwahe demonstration/pilot program have made

significant progress in strengthening families through the Tiwahe Initiative, and believe the final report to Congress will document that success, as well as provide guidelines for other tribes; and

WHEREAS: The funding Congress provided through the Tiwahe Initiative to all federally recognized tribes enabled tribes to significantly improve services to tribal families and children, and to positively impact tribal families and communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request Congress to fully fund and make permanent the Tiwahe Initiative in FY2021.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-7

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE THE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** There is a public safety crisis in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program is to partner with rural Alaskans to improve safety and quality of life; and
- WHEREAS:** The VPSO Program is vital to providing public safety in Alaska, and villages in Rural Alaska are asking for this service to be provided; and
- WHEREAS:** The VPSO Program works well when it is locally supported, has a strong community connected officers, and services are delivered with excellence; and
- WHEREAS:** The VPSO Program currently faces many challenges – including a steady decrease in state funding, the disparity in pay relative to other State law enforcement officers, difficulties in recruiting and retaining officers, and inadequate or non-existent public safety buildings and officer housing – some of which are challenges nationwide and some of which are unique to providing public safety in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The 10 regional VPSO contractors began to work together through the VPSO Tribal Caucus for the strengthening and enhancement of the VPSO Program; and
- WHEREAS:** In May 2018, the VPSO Tribal Caucus led a Statewide VPSO Strategic Planning meeting; and
- WHEREAS:** At the conclusion of that meeting, the VPSO tribal contractors and the State of Alaska agreed on a strategy with five components:
- (1) Improving communication through better branding, community engagement, and strengthening and building partnerships at all levels;

- (2) Making a VPSO available in every community;
- (3) Giving Tribal contractors the flexibility needed to provide public safety in a way that works for each individual region;
- (4) Ensuring adequate funding for all Program needs;
- (5) Defining the VPSO's role and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature created a Village Public Safety Officer Working Group [Alaska Legislature VPSO Working Group] to provide substantive policy recommendations related to the VPSO Program for submittal to the Alaska legislature no later than January 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS: the Alaska Legislature VPSO Working Group consulted with stakeholders, including the tribal contractors, on recommendations to strengthen and enhance the VPSO Program; and

WHEREAS: In January 2020, the Alaska Legislature VPSO Working Group submitted its recommendations and findings to the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS: In February 2020, members of the Alaska Legislature VPSO Working Group introduced HB 287 and SB 231, [Village Public Safety Officer Grants]; and

WHEREAS: This legislation is a positive initial step toward realizing the goals in the VPSO strategic plan to give tribal contractors the ability to operate and administer the VPSO Program in the way best suited to meet the individual public safety needs of their respective regions; and

WHEREAS: This legislation includes such provisions as the ability to assign roving officers to better serve communities, transferring the grant administration to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, and consultation with tribal contractors on all major aspects of program governance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call for the passage of legislation incorporating the recommendations of the Alaska Legislative VPSO Working Group and the VPSO Tribal Caucus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN recognizes the Alaska Legislature VPSO Working Group and the VPSO Tribal Caucus for their commitment to public safety in rural Alaska and the VPSO Program; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN calls for work to continue to vet strategies to strengthen and enhance the VPSO Program, including but not limited to tribal compacting.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEE ACTION: AMENDED - DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-8

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** Alaska Native tribes know what is best for their children, Alaska Native families and communities are the best places for Alaska Native children to thrive, and Alaska Native children steeped in the love, values, and culture of their Tribes have the best chance of being healthy, engaged members of society; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s tribes have inherent authority to initiate and adjudicate actions related to children subject to the tribes’ jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS:** The experience in Alaska is that as tribes and tribal organizations acquire resources to more completely fulfill this inherent authority, the number of Indian children who become subject to the Alaska Office of Children’s Services’ (OCS) investigations and custody actions diminishes. In addition, when tribes and tribal organizations collaborate with or take on responsibilities for OCS, the outcomes improve; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and tribal organizations operate robust child welfare programs which assist and support families in need, and children in the custody of OCS; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska tribes and the State of Alaska share an obligation to Alaska’s Native children; and
- WHEREAS:** The State has recognized this fact for many years and has worked to better integrate the tribes’ work through Tribal/State collaborations; and
- WHEREAS:** While there are still many administrative and systemic barriers to integrating the tribes’ work with the State’s, the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact of 2017 and the Scopes of Work that have been initiated in the past two years have paved the way for tribes and tribal organizations to provide the services that are currently the responsibility of the State. This improved collaboration will result in

improved outcomes for Alaska Native children, and the end result of this work could be a complete integration of the State and Tribal child welfare systems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives affirm their continued support of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact and Tribal Co-Signers ability to take on more activities through the adoption and implementation of additional Scopes of Work.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN commends the State of Alaska for its continued support for, and commitment to, the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, which will improve the outcomes for Alaska's children.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-9

**TITLE:** DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE MISSING AND MURDERED ALASKAN NATIVES OUTCOMES BY INCREASING TRIBAL, FEDERAL, AND STATE COLLABORATION, AND IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** There is a public safety crisis in Alaska where there are disproportionately high rates of crimes against Alaska Native women, children and individuals causing a consistently alarming increase of Missing and Murdered Alaskan Natives (“MMAN”) –

- Alaska is the deadliest state for women with approximately 59% of women experiencing intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Alaska Native women continue to suffer the highest rate of forcible sexual assault and have reported rates of domestic violence up to 10 times higher than in the rest of the United States.<sup>[2]</sup>
- Alaska has the fourth-highest rate of missing and murdered women in the Nation.<sup>[3]</sup>
- Numbers of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women and the lack of a diligent and adequate federal response is extremely alarming to indigenous women, tribal governments, and communities.<sup>[4]</sup>
- Teenagers who are removed from their Native villages to cities on the road system often run away and are at risk from trafficking and being taken advantage of; and

**WHEREAS:** This public safety crisis directly impacts tribes in Rural Alaska due to lack of funding and a lack of basic public safety infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS:** Tribes in Rural Alaska face a unique challenge due to the lack of basic public safety infrastructure to establish protocols and procedures for investigation, prosecution, and reporting and data collection systems for tribal law enforcement to respond to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Alaskan Natives; and

WHEREAS: Many Alaska Native villages have no local law enforcement or police of any kind – in May 2019, 98 tribal communities in Alaska had no state-funded law enforcement, and about 70 of those communities had no local police of any kind; and

WHEREAS: Federal initiatives such as the Presidential Taskforce on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives focus on enhancing the operation of the criminal justice system through consultations, listening sessions, creating model protocols and procedures, collecting data, better use of already existing data collection systems and improving the ways that law enforcement respond to such cases – systems that tribes in Rural Alaska often do not have in place or are only beginning to establish; and

WHEREAS: Initiatives and systems should be developed to increase the research needed to enhance the infrastructure required for investigation and prosecution of Missing and Murdered Alaskan Natives cases in Rural Alaska’s villages that have no public safety officers; no public safety buildings; and/or existing public safety officers have not received adequate training, lack the proper equipment, and do not receive adequate pay or benefits; and

WHEREAS: On June 28, 2019, Attorney General Barr declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes are asking for no more or no less than any other community in the State of Alaska or in the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives affirm its support of continued collaboration with tribal, state, and federal partners presenting proposals and recommendations for increased public safety infrastructure in our region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on the Presidential Taskforce on Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaska Natives to take steps to create an atmosphere for conversation and collaboration to address the ongoing need to establish and enhance public safety tools and infrastructure for tribes in Alaska as part of the ongoing conversation and solution of Missing and Murdered Alaskan Natives; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN calls for a Taskforce on Missing and Murdered Alaska Natives that addresses the specialized needs and concerns for Missing and Murdered Alaskan Natives in Alaska and how to enhance tribal and state criminal justice systems in Alaska to address these concerns.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-10

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR S. 2616, ALASKA TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMPOWERMENT ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** There is a public safety crisis in rural Alaska:
- 59% of adult women in Alaska have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both[1];
  - Reported rape in Alaska is 2.5 times the national average[2];
  - Alaska Natives comprise just 19% of the state population, but 47% of reported rape victims[3];
  - In rural Alaska’s tribal communities (and for Alaska Native women living in urban areas) women reported rates of domestic violence up to 10 times higher than in the rest of the United States and physical assault victimization rates up to 12 times higher[4];
  - More than 95% of all crimes committed in rural Alaska can be attributed to alcohol[5]; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes in rural Alaska have little to no public safety resources to keep their tribal communities safe; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes rely on a patchwork of state law enforcement and tribal law enforcement, which leaves gaps in service and instability for tribal governments and tribal public safety employees; and
- WHEREAS:** The interpretation of certain legislation regarding Indian Country in Alaska has cast the status of Alaska tribes’ criminal jurisdiction into doubt; and
- WHEREAS:** On June 28, 2019, Attorney General Barr declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** On October 16, 2019, U.S. Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced S. 2616, the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act legislation; and

WHEREAS: S. 2616 recognizes that, regardless of land title, Indian tribes in Alaska have inherent civil and criminal jurisdiction over all Alaska Natives present in their villages; and

WHEREAS: S. 2616 recognizes that Indian tribes in Alaska have full civil jurisdiction within their villages to issue and enforce protection orders involving any individual; and

WHEREAS: S. 2616 also creates a pilot program in Alaska in which the Attorney General will select up to five tribes or inter-tribal organizations each year to exercise general civil jurisdiction over all persons within the village, plus criminal jurisdiction over all persons for certain enumerated crimes; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes have waited long enough for the devastating impacts of a lack of public safety in their communities to be addressed; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes are asking for no more or no less than any other community in the State of Alaska or in the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call for the passage of S. 2616, Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to this end, a hearing be scheduled and held on this legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to this end, the members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation co-sponsor this legislation.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-11

- TITLE:** ESTABLISHMENT OF ALASKA LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC TASK FORCE ON POVERTY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) is a statewide Community Action Agency supported by federal funding and a partnership with the State of Alaska, and others, to address poverty as its primary mission; and
- WHEREAS:** RurAL CAP works with numerous partners across the state to deliver vital programs and services such as Head Start, Weatherization, Tribal Justice, and Affordable Housing, including programming aimed at addressing key social determinants of health necessary for supporting families who are living with poverty; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives experience the highest rates of poverty in Alaska, averaging approximately 28% statewide over the past 15 years; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaska Natives who are living with a low income are kept from poverty by vital social safety net programs, the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, Alaska Native Corporation dividends, and/or subsistence fishing, hunting, and gathering of natural foods; and
- WHEREAS:** Healthy Alaskans 2020 recognized a need for addressing poverty and linked lowering the number of Alaskan's living with poverty to health care and education, among others, without showing significant progress reducing the number of Alaskan's living with poverty; and
- WHEREAS:** The Providence Alaska Community Health Needs Assessment for 2018-2021 listed addressing poverty and social determinants of health as its top priority need; and
- WHEREAS:** Programs addressing social determinants of health within Alaska are inadequately funded and support for families living with poverty or kept from living with poverty by safety net programs, are not able to find resources to assist them in addressing the problems that keep them in poverty; and

WHEREAS: Other states have recognized the impact of structural racism, inequality, and historical trauma as a root cause for poverty; and

WHEREAS: The science of addressing the root causes of poverty has advanced in the past 55 years requiring a new conversation about the reasons for the continued persistence of poverty; and

WHEREAS: The RurAL CAP Board of Directors has adopted the new strategic goal of leading a statewide conversation about the impact of poverty on families in Alaska, with an emphasis on the high rate of poverty among Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The goal of this conversation for alleviating poverty will benefit from active partnerships with families and individuals who are living with or have lived with poverty, Alaska Native organizations, state and local governments, health care providers, the private sector, and organizations who work with families and individuals living with poverty; and

WHEREAS: A legislatively created task force is an appropriate entity to coordinate and engage the diverse network of entities both interested in and engaged with the root causes of poverty and resulting effects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports RurAL CAP's efforts for the creation of a poverty task force by the Alaska State Legislature.

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-12

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS FUNDS IN INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT AGREEMENTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 United States has a legal and moral obligation to provide for the health of Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) as established under the U.S. Constitution, treaties, statutes, Supreme Court precedent, executive orders, and federal policies; and
- WHEREAS:** although the United States holds these solemn trust and treaty obligations, AN/AI populations continue to suffer from disproportionate incidence rates of diabetes and diabetes-related conditions that detrimentally impact the long-term health, welfare, and vitality of AN/AI individuals, families, and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33, to address the disparate impact of diabetes among AN/AI populations; and
- WHEREAS:** to carry out its mission, AFN supports the advocacy of the Alaska Native Health Board on issues affecting AN/AI health and wellbeing, diabetes and related chronic conditions having particular impact and costs to the Alaska Tribal Health System; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Tribal Health System works to ensure incorporation of culture, traditions, and values in SDPI and other diabetes-related program development, research, and community-based activities according to its mission; and
- WHEREAS:** SDPI is set to expire on December 11, 2020, the reauthorization of the program presents an opportunity to incorporate tribal recommendations; and
- WHEREAS:** the reauthorization of the SDPI presents an opportunity to further strengthen the pillars of the SDPI program that have contributed to improved clinical outcomes in diabetes prevention and treatment among AN/AI populations; and

WHEREAS: AFN recommends that reauthorization legislation be amended to allow SDPI funds to be included in Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contracts and compacts (Public Law 93-638) in order to alleviate the administrative burden associated with applying for grants, reporting, and most important to allow SDPI grantees to receive contract support cost funds in order to assist in paying the administrative costs of managing SDPI programs, which is consistent with Congress' intent under the ISDEAA to maximize tribal resources available for the delivery of healthcare programs; and

WHEREAS: currently SDPI grantees have duplicate reporting requirements associated with grants—which are already fulfilled through ISDEAA contracts and compact—and must also program at least 25% or more of their SDPI funding to cover administration associated with managing SDPI funds. This takes valuable resources out of patient care which could be covered by the indefinite discretionary appropriation process that currently funds contract support costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual AFN Convention that AFN supports a legislative amendment to allow funding provided under the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to be included in Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the delegates of the 2020 Annual AFN Convention repeal the AFN Resolution 19-30, titled *SUPPORTING A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS PROGRAMS AND FUNDS IN INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT AGREEMENTS*; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the delegates of the 2020 Annual AFN Convention that AFN propose an amendment of Section 330C(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. ch. 6A § 201 et seq) that would add the following new subparagraph

*DELIVERY OF FUNDS. — On request from an Indian tribe or tribal organization, the Secretary shall award diabetes program funds made available to the requesting tribe or tribal organization under this section as amounts provided under Subsections 106(a)(1) and Subsection 508(c) of the Indian Self-Determination Act, 25 U.S.C. § 5325(a)(1) and § 5388(c), as appropriate.*

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-13

- TITLE:** 100% FLU VACCINATION OF ALASKA NATIVES FOR THE 2020-2021 FLU SEASON, AND PRIORITIZED VACCINATION FOR THE AT-RISK, VULNERABLE, AND UNDER-SERVED
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** While seasonal influenza (flu) viruses are detected year-round in the United States, flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter. The exact timing and duration of flu seasons can vary, but influenza activity often begins to increase in October. Most of the time flu activity peaks between December and February, although activity can last as late as May; and
- WHEREAS:** Though forecasts for the fall/winter 2020-2021 season have not yet begun, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) anticipate a robust flu season; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the CDC, American Indians and Alaska Natives are at higher risk and more likely to die from pneumonia and flu than other races; and
- WHEREAS:** According to DHSS, some people, such as older adults, young children, and others with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications, no matter their race or ethnic group; and
- WHEREAS:** The rate of hospitalization for influenza and lower respiratory tract infections is multiple times higher for Alaska Natives in communities with inadequate sanitation services compared to similar communities with adequate facilities and the general U.S. population; and
- WHEREAS:** Influenza poses an especially serious threat to Alaska Natives and other rural Alaskans because of the prevalence of multi-family and multi-generational housing, distance from hospitals with higher inpatient bed and ICU bed capacity, and the far-flung supply chain of medicine and personal protective equipment; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's grim history of generation-destroying influenza pandemics has disproportionately impacted Alaska Natives, none more than the 1918-1919 pandemic; and

WHEREAS: Alaska health systems, particularly the relatively limited systems in rural Alaska, are already stretched thin responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still surging in Alaska and is anticipated to be a continuing challenge at least until an effective vaccine is developed and delivered; and

WHEREAS: According to the CDC, while vaccine effectiveness can vary, recent studies show that flu vaccination reduces the risk of flu illness by between 40% and 60% among the overall population during seasons when most circulating flu viruses are well-matched to the flu vaccine; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anne Zink said in her presentation to the Alaska Federation of Natives' (AFN) July 22 Roundtable, about 40% of Americans get [influenza], [but vaccines are] really effective at minimizing the disease spread; and

WHEREAS: Our state and federal governments are responsible for the development, distribution, and delivery of effective flu vaccines every year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Governor of Alaska, the Chief Medical Officer, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Service, the Center for Disease Control, and any official with influence on the development, distribution, and delivery of the 2020-2021 flu vaccine regimen ensure that 100% of Alaskans can be effectively vaccinated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the above mentioned government officials to prioritize at-risk, vulnerable, and underserved Alaskans including Alaska Natives in the delivery of the life and health-saving vaccine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and tribal health organizations to provide education and outreach to Alaska Native communities on the safety, efficacy, and benefits of flu vaccinations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN urges its members to encourage tribal members to receive the 2020-2021 flu vaccination.

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-14

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONSISTENT FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA SCIENTIFIC CRIME DETECTION LABORATORY IN ORDER TO BECOME AND STAY CURRENT ON TESTING OF BACKLOGGED AND CURRENT SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** In November of 2013, the Indian Law and Order Commission released a report that shared the following alarming statistics: Alaska Native women are over-represented in the domestic violence victim population by 250%. Alaska Native Women represent nearly half of all REPORTED rapes, or at least 7 times the non-Native rate, and in Native communities, REPORTED rates of domestic violence are up to 10 times higher than the rest of the United States; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2015, the Alaska Federation of Natives adopted resolution 15-29, a resolution calling for increasing the safety of Alaska Native women, and the report also cited the very same 2013 Commission report statistics; and

**WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska reports that Statewide, 1 in 3 Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives. According to the Alaska Victimization Survey conducted by the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center, the following statistics share the rates that adult women have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence or both:

Aleutian Pribilof Island Region, 2015: 45% of adult women  
Anchorage Municipality, 2015: 1 in 2 adult women  
Bristol Bay, 2011: 50% of adult women  
Fairbanks North Star Borough, 2011: over half of adult women  
Juneau, 2011: over half of adult women  
Kenai, 2013: 52% of adult women  
Ketchikan, 2013: 50% of adult women  
Kodiak, 2012: 44% of adult women  
Matanuska Susitna, 2013: 53% of adult women  
Nome Census area, 2014: 51% of adult women  
Sitka, 2012: 47% of adult women

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, 2012: over half of adult women; and

WHEREAS: By reporting, victims know that they may be entering into a legal process that will be difficult and re-traumatizing, and aside from the trauma of the event itself, victims are aware of the backlog of Sexual Assault Kits in the queue for testing at the State of Alaska Crime Lab. These fears associated with reporting bear weight in victims' decisions to report; and

WHEREAS: According to the 2000 National Women's Study, victims of sexual and violent crime suffer the resulting effects:

Being 6 times more likely to suffer from prolonged PTSD Symptoms

Being 3 times more likely to suffer from severe depression

Being 13 times more likely to attempt suicide

Being 13 times more likely to self-medicate with alcohol

Being 26 times more likely to self-medicate with other substances; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska maintains the highest rates of sexual violence in the Nation, and the State of Alaska has long been aware of this public health crisis. Yet State funding to address this issue has been consistently insufficiently appropriated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests that the State of Alaska appropriate funding and staffing adequate to allow for the backlog of SA Kits to be completely processed as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon the State of Alaska to ensure that the State of Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory consistently receives funding and staffing necessary to ensure that all SA Kits are processed in a timely manner in all future State Budgets, to aide in justice being served to all victims of sexual assault and violent crime.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020

## **EDUCATION**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-15

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO INCREASE FUNDING AND RESOURCES TOWARD THE REVITALIZATION OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** Culture and language are foundational aspects of one’s identity, and are critically important to the perpetuation of Alaska Native language and culture. Pedagogies must reflect Indigenous values, cultures and languages for the Indigenous children of Alaska to have a positive self-concept, strong cultural identity, and to thrive; and
- WHEREAS:** Historically, all of Native America’s languages were disallowed in schools, and loss of language and culture was a direct consequence of government and school policies promoting assimilation. Over the course of the last 30 years, research has shown that Community Protective Factors based on Cultural Continuity help to protect Indigenous youth against suicide and high-risk behaviors. Of these protective factors, the inclusion of local culture and language in schools to strengthen cultural identity is the leading protective factor for Indigenous youth; and
- WHEREAS:** While most school curricula are professionally developed, printed and bound, cultural and bi-lingual education classes are often treated as extracurricular, rely on materials developed by individual teachers and printed in schools. This disparity in materials could translate to children as inferiority of one's cultural identity; and
- WHEREAS:** The 1990 US Congressional Native American Languages Act Section 2903 declares: “It is the policy of the United States to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages;” and
- WHEREAS:** In 1998, Alaska Native Educators, in partnership with the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative, the National Science Foundation, the Annenberg Foundation, Alaska Federation of Natives and the University of Alaska, developed a set of standards

for education, entitled Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools. Within these guidelines, there are standards for the students, educators, curriculum, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 14.1 states: Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS: In 2012, the Alaska State Legislature passed Senate Bill 130 into law. The bill established the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council to assess the state of Alaska Native Languages, reevaluate the programs within the state, and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to establish new programs or reorganize the current programs; and

WHEREAS: In 2014, the Alaska State Legislature passed House Bill 216, which officially recognizes 20 Alaska Native Languages as official languages of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, shares as of 2018, that of the 20 distinct Alaska Native Languages, ALL 20 languages are currently considered threatened by extinction; and

WHEREAS: In September 2018, the Governor of the State of Alaska signed Administrative Order 300, declaring a state of linguistic emergency for Alaska's Indigenous languages; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Ways of Knowing and Learning, Ways of Being and Value Systems, are parallel and equal to any other, and should be respected and supported. Alaska Native Ways, Knowledges and Understandings add to the incredible diversity and contribute to the richness of our Great State and Nation. Alaska Native communities need support for local initiatives to restore and enhance cultural and language programs in all schools, as fully equal, fully supported aspects of our school systems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans, the U.S. Department of Education, and the State of Alaska Department of Education to recognize the urgency of the situation, and to allocate additional funding and resources toward the revitalization of Alaska Native cultures and languages.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020

## **LAND, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCES**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-16

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR THE USDA HIGH ENERGY COST GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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: Rural Alaskan energy prices are more than 5-10 times higher than the national average for heat and electricity and adversely impact local communities and economies; traditional ways of life and the basic ability to survive with such high costs create impossible choices for families and small businesses; and

WHEREAS: The USDA High Energy Cost Grant is a lifeline for rural communities across the country and across Alaska who struggle with energy costs that are at or more than 275% of the national average cost for heat and electricity; and

WHEREAS: Over the past five years, the USDA High Energy Cost Grant (HECG) has received over \$200M in grant applications for less than \$62M in available funds proving the incredible need for increasing available funding to this important program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests that the federal government sustain and increase funding for the USDA High Energy Cost grant to assist high energy cost communities across rural America and Indian Country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives specifically requests that the Alaskan legislative delegation, whose state is home to our nation's highest energy costs, takes a lead role in advocating for and securing additional funding for this important program.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-17

TITLE: RESTORATION OF TRADITIONAL SALMON HABITAT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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: AFN supports food security and recognizes the cultural and religious role that Salmon plays in Alaska, advancing the cultural, economic, political, and general welfare of Alaska Natives with the protection of Native food security and subsistence rights and uses among its highest priorities; and

WHEREAS: throughout Alaska, rivers and streams have provided nutritional and cultural benefit to Alaska Native people throughout time immemorial, but in many cases, the productivity of salmon-producing rivers and streams has been degraded over the years through human development of hydroelectric projects and other projects which alter the natural flow of Alaska rivers for uses besides traditional salmon production; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native people wish to restore the traditional rivers and streams for fish and wildlife habitat, traditional subsistence uses, and sustainable natural resources development; and also believe that the communal harvesting efforts and the sharing and preservation of resources like Alaska Salmon stocks are fundamental values that served to unify Natives; and

WHEREAS: our harvest and utilization of natural resources are vital to our communities' social and economic well-being and the survival of Alaska Native cultures; and

WHEREAS: many Alaska Tribes are used to working with others, including resource management agencies, conservation organizations, and electrical power utilities, to restore traditional salmon runs by river and stream restoration projects, including the return of water to river and lake systems, where water has been diverted for electricity generation and secondarily for water consumption needs; and

WHEREAS: the leaving of insufficient water flows for salmon in such river and stream systems makes them insufficient to support runs of Alaska salmon; and,

WHEREAS: the Eklutna River is just such an example of a river and lake systems in Southcentral Alaska where the traditional Tribe has been working to achieve salmon restoration and has affirmed, supported, and authorized studies to inform and to conduct restoration and enhancement of salmon habitat, and other processes to promote the natural productivity, cultural value, and appropriate uses of the Eklutna River; and

WHEREAS: Salmon have been the most important nutritional and cultural natural resource for Alaska Natives like the Eklutna people who work with others, including ANCSA Regional and Village corporations, conservation organizations, resource management agencies, and the power companies, to restore Eklutna River salmon runs by restoring water to the River from Eklutna Lake, where it is diverted for electricity generation and secondarily for Anchorage water needs leaving insufficient flows for salmon in a salmon system which once supported a run of red salmon.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives, meeting in its 2020 Annual Convention, supports efforts to restore traditional rivers and streams for fish and wildlife habitat, traditional subsistence uses, and sustainable natural resources development, and in particular, supports tribes like Native Village of Eklutna, which is actively engaged with stakeholders and policymakers to restore the Eklutna River for salmon habitat.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-18

- TITLE:** REQUIRING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LAND SELECTIONS UNDER THE ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS NATIVE ALLOTMENT ACT SECTION 1119 OF THE DINGELL ACT AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS IN ALASKA TO ASSIST VETERANS TO APPLY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Alaska Native Veterans Program of 2019 provides the opportunity for eligible Vietnam-era Veterans or their heirs to select a Native Allotment on Federal land in Alaska under the 2019 Dingell Act if they have not applied for a Native Allotment. The program is open to all eligible Alaska Natives who served between Aug. 5, 1964, and Dec. 31, 1971; and
- WHEREAS:** Land selections available for the Native Allotments will be very limited because the selection of lands will be only from available BLM lands in three areas of the State and not available in each region. Other federal lands such as National Parks and Preserves should be made available for selection; and
- WHEREAS:** Service Providers such as Kawerak Land Management Services and other providers across the State will be unable to handle the overflow of Probates and Realty transactions once the Lands are approved for the Veterans. Service Providers should have increased funding added to their compact funding in the very near future to handle this overflow of work we anticipate to come; and
- WHEREAS:** Applications for submittals returned to the applicants due to incorrect land descriptions or other technical errors on the application must be returned to the BLM within 60 days with corrections. Due to the delay in mail service in the rural areas of the State of Alaska, this 60-day period should be increased to 120 days.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN calls upon the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and our congressional delegation to amend the Dingell Act to open land in the 12 regions in Alaska for Veterans selection of lands. Extend the 60-day application corrections be increased to 120 days; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that additional funding be set aside for Service Providers to provide adequate staffing to assist the Veterans and their Heirs requesting assistance to apply for these Allotments.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: AMENDED - DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-19

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS INCREASED MARINE DEBRIS AS A RESULT OF INCREASED SHIPPING IN THE ARCTIC
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** Marine debris poses severe threats to Alaskan communities and have increased as a result of increased shipping; and
- WHEREAS:** From July 2020 to the time of the submission of this resolution the Bering Strait region from Shishmaref to Saint Lawrence Island experienced a large scale foreign debris event with thousands of trash and debris items washing ashore ranging from foods containers to petrochemicals; and
- WHEREAS:** Indigenous residents in our region merely going about their subsistence activities had to become first responders to clean up hundreds of miles of coastline and/or document debris and trash in hopes we could stop marine debris from happening; and
- WHEREAS:** the 2020 Bering Strait region debris event threatens our food security and litters our pristine shorelines and foretells what we may expect as shipping increases; and
- WHEREAS:** the United State Coast Guard and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Office has been informed of the debris event but neither federal agency has been able to deliver resources to stop this event or find the culprits; and
- WHEREAS:** Bering Strait region residents have been on their own to deal with the 2020 Bering Strait region debris event and hope other regions do not suffer the same.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge its leaders to find ways to increase Alaska's marine debris response capability, and engage the international community to curtail marine debris.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-20

- TITLE: INCREASED COORDINATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING FOR ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES TO RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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: Alaska is warming 2.5 times faster than the global average. Consequently, our health, livelihoods, lands, waters, fish, wildlife, and unique culture as Alaska Indigenous communities are being adversely impacted; and
- WHEREAS: Our communities are facing extremely aggressive erosion, flooding, and permafrost thaw that threatens community infrastructure and the sustainability of our communities. Families are being displaced. Communities have no choice but to move to new, safe and healthier sites; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately \$4.5 billion is needed to prevent impacts to *existing* community infrastructure in 144 Alaska Native communities over the next fifty years. Over the next ten years, approximately \$100 million per year is needed to protect *existing* community infrastructure. However, only \$13 million was accessible to communities from existing programs in 2019; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately \$34 million is needed for environmentally-threatened communities to complete site-specific risk assessments, which may cost up to \$450,000 per community. Currently, only two Tribes have completed these assessments; and
- WHEREAS: The regulations and requirements of most federal programs, including FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers, are developed for the contiguous United States. By design, they prevent vital resources from being available to our communities. The effective programs--such as the BIA Tribal Resilience Program, the Denali Commission Village Infrastructure Protection Program, and HUD Indian

Community Development Block Grant programs--do not have sufficient funding to meet the needs of our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) direct the AFN board of directors to develop the AFN Climate Change Taskforce (Resolution 2019-56) and to collaborate with Tribes, Alaska village corporations, partners, and agencies to improve the efficacy of policies and programs that support community-driven solutions to environmental threats. The forthcoming "Assessment of the Unmet Needs of Environmentally-Threatened Alaska Native Villages" report will guide the near-term objectives of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that federal agencies provide top-down direction and to their programs to engage with Alaska Native communities to address environmental threats, including evaluating and eliminating federal barriers faced by our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that federal agencies increase resources available for technical assistance providers--including Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the State of Alaska Community Resilience Program, and the State of Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys--to support communities to address environmental threats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that Congress provide a single, committed source of funding for Alaska Native communities to address environmental threats. Specifically, AFN requests that Congress, the Department of Commerce, and the Commissioners at Denali Commission allocate \$50 million annually to the Denali Commission's Village Infrastructure Protection Program for protection-in-place, managed retreat, and relocation solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that the Department of the Interior direct the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Resilience Program to (1) award at least \$10 million annually for site-specific risk assessments, planning, and design for protection-in-place, managed retreat, and relocation projects in Alaska over the next five years; and (2) remove the \$150,000 cost cap on grant awards to enable risk assessments, planning, and design projects to occur faster and within one project period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that the Department of Housing and Urban Development increase funding available to the Indian Community Development Block Grant programs such that an annual average of \$10 million is awarded to Alaska Native communities for projects that advance protection-in-place, managed retreat, and relocation solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the Federal Emergency Management Agency (1) provide 100% federal cost-share for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)

programs for Alaska Native communities that meet the agency’s definition of a “small and impoverished community”; and (2) enable all environmentally threatened communities to apply to FEMA HMA funding programs to address erosion, flooding, and permafrost thaw *without* community-specific FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN requests that the Army Corps of Engineers provide 100% federal cost-share for Alaska Native communities for the Section 116, 103, and 14 programs.

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
COMMITTEE ACTION: AMENDED - DO PASS  
BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020

## **ANCSA/TRIBAL**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-21

- TITLE:** URGING THE EXPANSION OF CONTRACTING AND COMPACTING OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** Alaska’s tribes and tribal organizations have a proven track record of administering both federal and state-funded programs and services to their tribal members; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and tribal organizations, through PL-638 compacts and contracts, have successfully managed federal funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide social services and the Indian Health Service to provide health services for decades; and
- WHEREAS:** Compacting and contracting with tribes and tribal organizations to operate certain federal programs has been proven to reduce cost, eliminate bureaucracy, and improve service delivery; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and tribal organizations are best positioned to, and have experience in, delivering high-quality services effectively and efficiently in extreme rural America, where many tribal members live in communities with limited transportation and technology infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and tribal organizations stand ready to address serious challenges facing their tribal members, including Rural Alaska’s public safety crisis; and
- WHEREAS:** If tribes and tribal organizations could access non-competitive funding directly from federal agencies, such as the Department of Justice or the Administration of Children and Families, high-quality programs and services could be delivered to tribal members and their families.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Federation of Natives will advocate for the expansion of compacting and contracting for the delivery of federal services and programs by tribes and tribal organizations.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-22

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR STATE RECOGNITION OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** Alaska Native peoples and Alaska Native tribes have existed in what is now known as the State of Alaska from time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes possess inherent powers and authorities, including self-governance of internal affairs; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes act in the best interest of their tribal members in all areas, including the protection and safety of children, families, and vulnerable members of society; the stewardship of our natural resources; the support and promotion of education and workforce development; and the health and wellness of all tribal members; and
- WHEREAS:** There are 229 federally recognized tribes in the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** In years past, the State of Alaska argued that tribes did not exist, and had never existed, in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal government, through the Department of the Interior “Sansoneetti Opinion” (1993) and Congress’ passing of the Federally Recognized Tribe List Act of 1994, confirmed the existence of Alaska tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Supreme Court (*John v. Baker*, 1999) and the State of Alaska Executive Branch (Alaska Admin. Order No. 300, 2018 and Alaska Department of Law 2017 Opinion – Legal status of tribal governments in Alaska) has since also recognized the existence of Alaska tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** Through legislation that passed the Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives in March 2020 (HB 221), the Alaska State Legislature, as the third branch of the State government, would also recognize the existence of Alaska tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call for the Alaska Legislature to pass legislation providing for State recognition of federally recognized tribes.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEE ACTION: AMENDED - DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020

**OTHER**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-23

TITLE: RELIABLE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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: Villages and community members rely on the United States Postal Services (USPS) to deliver mail, medication, and other critical items timely; and

WHEREAS: Over the last couple of years, village communities are increasingly experiencing non-weather related delays of mail delivery by airlines who are responsible for the USPS mail delivery to the villages; one community did not receive mail for over a month, as well as delays in access to mail at local post-offices due to sudden post office closures in villages for weeks on end; and

WHEREAS: Tribal Health Services is shipping thousands of medication refills per month to patients in the villages through USPS 1<sup>st</sup> class certified mail, where tribal health organizations are paying for 1<sup>st</sup> class certified mail delivery; and

WHEREAS: We are experiencing that USPS 1<sup>st</sup> class, barcoded certified mail is not scanned correctly at the various mail distribution locations, so accurate tracking of certified mail is not possible; and

WHEREAS: For example, the USPS Mail was being held up with an airline carrier for over two weeks in November 2019, which led to at least 1,000 people in 3 communities not receiving their mail for over two weeks; which resulted in a significant number of patients not receiving their refill medication timely, which led to several emergencies with patients running out of critical medication and in at least one situation led to an evacuation of a patient by air-ambulance; and

WHEREAS: Rural villages also experience barriers to post office access due to lack of available human resources, which could be addressed with flexible hours and multiple part-time hires; and

WHEREAS: Recent operational changes to the USPS overtime policies, sorting abilities, and collection methods, among others, have further exacerbated the issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives engage the Alaska Delegation and other stakeholders to advocate for significant improvements in the USPS access and delivery of critical mail services to the rural communities with increased funding for continued services.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-24

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW VISION FOR EVOS: A ROADMAP TO RESHAPE THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUST
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) discharged approximately 11 million gallons of crude oil into the Prince William Sound causing innumerable damage to environments and communities within the Chugach region and the immediate surrounding areas of the Koniag region; and
- WHEREAS:** the villages and people within these regions were most devastated due to impacts on their subsistence way of life as well as damages to Native lands and archeological resources; and
- WHEREAS:** the settlement of state and federal lawsuits resulting from the oil spill created the EVOS Trust in 1991 with \$900 million in funding and oversight from the EVOS Trustee Council; and
- WHEREAS:** the EVOS Trust has distributed monies over thirty years to projects with the purpose to conduct research, community development, and habitat acquisition; and
- WHEREAS:** the EVOS Trust Council in 2011 launched a “sunset” plan to spend down the fund in 20 years dissolving the EVOS Trust and Trustee Council; and
- WHEREAS:** the EVOS Trust currently has approximately \$188 million in remaining assets; and
- WHEREAS:** the Chugach and Kodiak Regions are far from being healed from the ongoing impacts of the oil spill; and
- WHEREAS:** a Think Tank of prominent Alaska citizens representing a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise convened in 2017 to explore whether there was a better way to manage the remaining funds to provide benefits in perpetuity while staying true to the intent articulated in the settlement documents that established the EVOS Trust in 1991; and

WHEREAS: the Think Tank recommends the EVOS Trustee Council allocate the remaining dollars (excluding wind-down costs and current obligations) to continue focus on research and restoration in accordance with the settlement documents; and

WHEREAS: the current structure of the EVOS Trust is expensive and inefficient, with approximately \$0.46 per dollar spent on some projects going to administrative expenses; and

WHEREAS: the EVOS Trust is in need of increased transparency and inclusiveness for groups interested in submitting projects that meet the original guidelines set by the EVOS Trust establishing documents; and

WHEREAS: the EVOS Trust should transfer the remaining assets to a trusted Foundation with a track record of strong financial performance and a reasonable cost structure and experience operating permanent endowments for critical entities providing scientific research, cultural presentation, and human services within the spill impacted regions; and

WHEREAS: the EVOS Trust should allocate the remaining funds to a competitive and transparent grant program for all spill-impacted communities, with grant decisions recommended by a panel of experts to be administered in perpetuity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 AFN Board affirms its support for the “New Vision For EVOS Trust”; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 2020 AFN Board call on the EVOS Trustees to review the “New Vision for EVOS” proposal and pursue formal opinions on the legality of the proposal.

SUBMITTED BY: CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION AND KONIAG

COMMITTEE ACTION: AMENDED - DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-25

- TITLE:** CALLING ON THE ALASKA DMV TO FACILITATE THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR REAL IDS IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requires all air travelers to show valid identification at airport checkpoints in order to travel; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal REAL ID Act established requirements for state-issued driver's licenses and identification (ID) cards in order for them to be valid for air travel, and the State of Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is responsible for implementing these requirements in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The deadline for full compliance with the REAL ID Act was extended to October 1, 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic; and
- WHEREAS:** Beginning October 1, 2021, Alaska residents must have a REAL-ID-compliant State-issued driver's license or ID card, or other valid forms of identification (such as a passport or a tribal-issued photo ID card); and
- WHEREAS:** Many residents in Alaska Native communities do not have alternative forms of valid identification and rely on State-issued driver's licenses or ID cards for air travel; and
- WHEREAS:** Over one hundred Alaska Native Communities have no local DMV office, are not connected to the road system and the cost of air travel to the nearest DMV facility is prohibitively high; and
- WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in numerous travel restrictions and office closures and reduced hours, which has made obtaining a REAL ID even more inaccessible for many residents in Rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Access to air travel is imperative for residents in Alaska Native communities in order to access a higher level of health care than that provided in their local communities; and

WHEREAS: If members of Alaska Native communities in rural Alaska are unable to obtain a REAL ID-compliant State-issued license or ID card by October 1, 2021, many will not have access to health care beyond that provided in their local communities, which could lead to negative health outcomes and higher costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call on the State of Alaska DMV to create positions within the DMV for outreach to rural communities off the road system with no DMV access to assist residents with the application process, to coordinate appointment times when residents are able to travel to a DMV facility, and take other actions that would facilitate rural residents obtaining a REAL ID; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the State of Alaska DMV imminently create a comprehensive plan to address the lack of DMV services in Native Communities in rural Alaska and provide equal access to services for all Alaska residents.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-26

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** For over 50 years, Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) has ensured fairness for all in the justice system by providing access to free civil legal help for Alaskans who cannot afford it; and
- WHEREAS:** civil legal aid protects the livelihood, health and safety of Alaskans and helps them to avoid eviction, illegal dismissal from employment, domestic violence, and denial of healthcare and lawful benefits; and
- WHEREAS:** ALSC's lawyers in twelve offices and six medical-legal partnership sites embedded within tribal healthcare facilities around the state serve a population of 131,270 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 31,504 Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** ALSC has been a strong ally of the Alaska Native community through landmark court cases such as *Alvarado v. State*, *Carle v. Carle*, *Aguchak v. Montgomery Ward*, *Allakaket v. Hickel*, *John v. Baker*; *State v. Native Village of Tanana*, *Simmonds v. Parks*, *Native Village of Tununak v. State of Alaska*, *State of Alaska v. Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*, *Akiachak Native Community v. U.S. Department of the Interior*; and
- WHEREAS:** several regional nonprofits including Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Maniilaq Association currently partner with ALSC to support local ALSC offices and staff in the communities of Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks and Kotzebue; and
- WHEREAS:** several regional for-profits have provided significant financial and in-kind support to ALSC's regional offices including Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, CIRI, Inc., Bering Straits Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Doyon, Ltd, and the Sitnasuak Native Corporation; and

WHEREAS: several tribal governments including the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian tribes of Alaska, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, the Nome Eskimo Community and Orutsararmiut Native Council have also provided financial support for and partnered with ALSC; and

WHEREAS: since 1984 when ALSC received an appropriation from the state of Alaska of \$1.2 million to serve a population of 41,000 people eligible for ALSC's services, the number of Alaskans eligible for ALSC's help has more than doubled, yet the state's current contribution to ALSC is less than it was 35 years ago; and

WHEREAS: the State of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for fiscal year (FY) 2021, which was approved by Governor Dunleavy, in the amount of \$810,000, which is far less than what is needed to assure that all Alaskans have access to equal justice and it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and

WHEREAS: the vast majority of ALSC's cases involve the basic human necessities of family, safety, shelter, food, access to medical care and income maintenance; and

WHEREAS: a 2017 report by the Alaska Court System Access to Justice Committee estimates that an individual Alaskan experiences 2.1 legal issues every eighteen months and ALSC's current funding levels only stretch far enough to help about 7,315 people living in over 200 communities each year; and

WHEREAS: ALSC must turn away over half of the qualified individuals each year with critical legal needs due to its limited resources; and

WHEREAS: every additional \$100,000 of funding enables ALSC to directly benefit 182 more people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the Governor of Alaska to retain the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed FY 2022 budget, and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urges Congress to award sufficient funding to the federal Legal Services Corporation to support Alaska Legal Services Corporation's mission of providing free legal services on vital issues to low-income Alaskans.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020

## **ELDERS AND YOUTH RESOLUTIONS**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-27

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO MAKE THE HOUSE TRIBAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE A STANDING COMMITTEE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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:** Alaska Natives and indigenous people have inhabited our lands and waters for over 10,000 years and plan to be here another 10,000 years and Alaska Native voices and guidance are often missing from discussions and decisions related to the welfare of Alaska Natives and our lands & waters; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has 229 Federally-recognized Tribes whose citizens makeup 20% of our state population and who continue to deploy Tribal sovereignty to do what is best for our Tribal citizens and future generations and all Alaskans benefit when we have adequate and accurate representation on issues impacting our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The House Tribal Affairs Committee deals directly with Alaska Native issues and as 20% of the population deserves a permanent place in the Alaska State Legislature, whether the issues be Domestic Violence, Land and Water protection, MMIW, economic development and corporate issues, Alaska Native Tribal health, funding that goes to our communities, education, public safety, cultural issues, Census, Child Welfare; and a standing, special, or joint committee which acts between legislative sessions may consider any legislative matter which is consistent with the jurisdiction of the committee; and
- WHEREAS:** In its first Legislative session, the House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs has shown great progress can be made in advancing strategic partnerships with Tribes to address a myriad of issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the participants of the 2020 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention that the State of Alaska creates an authorized revision of the Uniform Rules in the 2021 State Legislative Session to make the House Tribal Affairs Committee a Standing Committee; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution once passed be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, Senate President and the Alaska Legislature.

SUBMITTED BY: 2020 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE AND SHAWAAN JACKSON-GAMBLE (CH'AAK'TI) FROM THE VILLAGE OF KHEEXH KWAAN (KAKE, AK)

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-28

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE WALTER HARPER PROJECT AND RECLAIMING THE FIRST SUMMIT OF DENALI

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 first person ever to set foot on the summit of Denali, the highest point in North America, was a young 20-year-old Koyukon Athabascan man named Walter Harper- as point man for the Pioneer Ascent led by Hudson Stuck and Harry Karstens in June 1913 and that included two students acting as dog mushers and base camp support named Esaias George 14-year-old Koyukon, and 15-year-old John Fredson, Gwitchin; and

WHEREAS: A group of Alaskans including family members of that first successful climb, known as The Walter Harper Project, wish to bring greater recognition of these three young Alaskan Natives' contribution to this truly historic event through the construction of a life-sized statue of Walter Harper and a series of interpretive panels seeking to educate the general public and most especially young Alaska Native children about this event.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support the effort of The Walter Harper Project, partnering with the Fairbanks Native Association, to build this Memorial not only to honor this historic accomplishment of our Ancestors but to share their legacy with today's youth; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2020 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention strive to inform the schools throughout Alaska by furnishing copies of this resolution so that they may add this to their Alaska History curriculum; and to further inform the general public by the wide distribution of this resolution throughout the Native community through Tribal organizations, and regional associations.

SUBMITTED BY: 2020 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE AND MICHAEL HARPER (KOYUKON) FROM DGHEYEY KAQ (ANCHORAGE)  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 20-29

TITLE: MAKE GAY PANIC DEFENSE ILLEGAL UNDER ALASKA LAW

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 8 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Gay/Trans panic legal defense legitimizes and excuses violent and lethal behavior against the LGBTQ+ community. It is a legal strategy that asks the jury to find that the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity is to blame for the defendant's violent outburst, this includes murder; and

WHEREAS: Gay Panic Defense is a loophole that legalizes violence (including murder) against LGBTQ+ people. Then it blames the LGBTQ+ victim for causing the defendant to go into a state of panic; and

WHEREAS: The LGBTQ+ community makes up 3.5% of the United States. Yet one in five lesbians and people who identify as bisexual or gay have experienced hate crimes, and one in four transgender people will as well. Between 2013 and 2017 we know of 102 transgender people who were killed in hate crimes in the United States, 75 of those 102 were African American or a Person of Color. That is only the fraction of the truth, many do not come forward, and not all official sources record them as hate crimes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the delegates of the 2020 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention that the Alaska Legislature take action to make Gay Panic Defense illegal under Alaska law; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution once passed be transmitted to the Alaska Legislature, and Alaska Native Heritage Center.

SUBMITTED BY: 2020 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE AND ANYA TYRELL (YUP'IK)

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2020