ANCSA at 50:

EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE



2021 ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES CONVENTION

ANCSA at 50: EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE

Dear AFN Members and Delegates,

On behalf of the AFN Board of Directors, welcome to the 2021 AFN Convention! Over the two days of this virtual gathering, AFN will elect a co-chair and village representatives to the Board, hear reports from leadership in our state and federal governments and experts in key areas of concern, explore challenges and opportunities, and share welcome greetings and uplifting stories both on the agenda and online in AFN's app, social media sites, and our virtual meeting platform. I encourage you to sign in to the platform so you can fully participate. Visit AFN's website for more information and to watch the live webcast. You can also watch the live television coverage on GCI Channel 1,360 North, and ARCS.

Why is the Convention virtual? After consulting state, federal and tribal health officials, and reviewing current data trends, the AFN Board made its decision out of concern for the safety and health of the thousands of attendees who come from every part of Alaska, including AFN delegates, presenters, other participants, artists and exhibitors, and the public. Everyone loves gathering in person, and we hope that Alaska can put the pandemic in our rear view mirror in 2022.

Our Convention theme, "ANCSA at 50: Empowering Our Future," embodies exactly where we are today as we convene our 55th annual meeting just days before the date President Nixon signed ANCSA into law on December 18, 1971. That's what milestone anniversaries are supposed to do: reflect, acknowledge, celebrate, and understand our history by honoring the hard work and dedication of the many women and men who worked on land claims and brought about the implementation of the groundbreaking legislation. However, rather than resting on our laurels, this milestone demands all of us to rededicate ourselves, to challenge our emerging leaders and youth to carry on.

ANCSA's legacy looms large, its impact far-reaching for Alaska Natives and all Alaskans. The economic success is easily understood. However, the expansion of Native self-determination and tribal self-governance is no less essential to our way of life.

The several theme speeches and panels on the agenda affirm the passage of the historic law and trace the consequential progress of the Alaska Native people. It is a story of unity. That story shows how, by working together, we achieved and are still achieving great things for our people.

Though never easy, unity is the key, as the land claims leaders will tell you. It was the key in 1960s as diverse and disparate Native peoples coalesced into a unified force and in the decades that have followed since the passage. And it is the key today. The AFN Annual Convention remains the principal forum and mechanism for the Native community to achieve unity.

We have never run from challenges, nor have we avoided opportunities. Challenges and opportunities go together. We go together.

In closing I'd like to thank AFN Co-Chairs Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson and the AFN Board of Directors for their commitment and hard work throughout 2021.

Have a great Convention and a happy and safe holiday season!



Julie Kitka
AFN President

DAN SULLIVAN
ALASKA

SUITE 302
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

United States Senate

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

December 13, 2021

Dear AFN Delegate,

After great anticipation, the time has once again come to join together for the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention. Each year we gather to reflect on our progress, celebrate our achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to working together to provide a brighter future.

This year's convention theme, "ANCSA at 50: Empowering Our Future" aptly encompasses the past, present, and future. ANCSA was landmark legislation that forever changed the trajectory of the Alaska Native people and Alaska as a state. I am proud to represent the unique history and circumstance of the indigenous people of Alaska.

That uniqueness was put to the test when Alaska Native Corporations were challenged as eligible recipients of much needed COVID-19 pandemic relief from the CARES Act. Since that moment, I have worked with Senator Murkowski and Representative Young to support the Alaska Native Corporations in their efforts to receive the CARES Act funds - a right which was supported by Alaska tribes and tribal non-profits, and eventually upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. While the substance was the funds, the litigation served as an existential threat to the tribal services delivery system within our great state. I stand with you, ready to ensure decades of indigenous self-determination will not diminish on my watch.

Another success is the recently passed bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, which secured record broadband, ferry, water, wastewater, and Tribal Transportation Program funding, as well as the elimination of regulatory red tape. These funds will help build out infrastructure and invest in our people, bettering our communities' health and wellness while laying the groundwork for greater economic opportunities in the months and years to come.

I am committed to continuing to work with all of you to secure a better tomorrow for the next generations, and I want to thank you for your commitment to our great state. Please don't hesitate to call or visit to discuss any issue you have, and know that my door is always open.

My best for a safe, meaningful, and productive convention,

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

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THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DON YOUNG

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES 2021 CONVENTION



Friends,

Welcome to the Alaska Federation of Natives 2021 Convention! Although this year's convention looks a little different, I always look forward to this wonderful opportunity to hear from dear friends and family and experience traditions, cultures, and diverse perspectives from across our great state.

AFN is not only a chance to catch up with people we care about – it is an opportunity for the next generation of Alaska Native leaders to step into roles as advocates and champions for their people. This gathering also serves as an important time for me to hear directly from you on the many important issues facing your communities, including rural infrastructure development, subsistence and hunting rights, challenges faced by Native youth, and the fight for self-determination.

I was glad to hear this year's theme is "ANCSA at 50: Empowering Our Future." December 18, 2021 is the 50th Anniversary of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act's enactment. This ground-breaking legislation helped to create the unique system we have in Alaska. It encourages self-determination for the 229 federally recognized Alaska Native Villages and Tribes through the almost 200 village, urban, or group Native corporations, 12 Alaska Native Regional Corporations, and numerous Native-run non-profits from tribal health consortia to Native housing authorities. It is an interconnected and intricate system that relies on all parts working together to benefit all Native communities and the state of Alaska. As we look back to see how far Alaska Natives have come, we must also look forward to the next 50 years of further empowerment for our First Peoples.

This year, I'm proud to announce that Congress has advanced a number of my bills to strengthen Native health care, increase economic and cultural empowerment, and secure safe village infrastructure for years to come.

As I continue advancing these priorities in Congress, I hope you will stay engaged with my office and me so that D.C. hears your voices. Bring your innovative solutions to me so we can find the best ways to continue promoting Alaska Native empowerment.

Thank you for stopping by my virtual booth. I look forward to hearing your feedback, comments, and questions. Quyana!

Don Young
Congressman For ALL Alaska



Congressman Young meets with Alaska Native leaders following a Congressional briefing on ANCSA earlier this month.



Congressman Young discusses the impact of ANCSA for a documentary produced by the ANCSA Regional Association.



Congressman Young meets Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, Kirsten Kolb, and Jerry Moses of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

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#2021AFN
#ANCSAat50
#EmpoweringOurFuture



AGENDA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

Morning Session

9:00 am **Call to Order**
Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Invocation
Rev. Shirley Lee

Posting of Colors
Alaska Native Veterans Association

Recognition of Afghanistan War Veterans
Alaska Native Veterans Association

National Anthem
Alaska Native Charter Cultural School

Welcome Remarks from Dena'ina Leader
Aaron Leggett, Chief and President, Native Village of Eklutna

Welcome Remarks from the City of Anchorage
The Honorable Dave Bronson, Mayor

Recognition of Major Sponsors
Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Welcome Video Messages from Around Alaska

9:35 am **President's Report**
Julie Kitka, President, AFN

9:45 am **Congressional Address**
The Honorable Don Young, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives

10:00 am **State of Alaska Address**
The Honorable Michael Dunleavy, Governor, State of Alaska

10:15 am **Alaska Judicial Address**
Justice Sue Carney, Alaska Supreme Court

10:25 am **Alaska State Legislative Report**
The Honorable Peter Micciche, President, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Louise Stutes, Speaker, Alaska House of Representatives

10:35 am **Alaska Bush Caucus Address**
The Honorable Tiffany Zulkosky, Representative, Alaska House of Representatives

10:40 am **Special Showing: *Voices from the Passage***
A 1991 film about the passage of ANCSA, featuring interviews with some of the Alaska Native leaders who led the fight for land claims, including John Borbridge, Harry Carter, Ray Christiansen, Mary Jane Fate, Willie Hensley, Sam Kito, Flore Lekanof, and Emil Notti.

11:10 am **Special Theme Panel: *50 Years from the Passage***

Alaska Native leaders who were instrumental in the passage and implementation of ANCSA explore the intentions and expectations of ANCSA and how the law has met or not met those expectations.

MODERATOR

Joe Nelson, Co-Chair, AFN

PANELISTS

Nelson Angapak
Willie Hensley
Roy Huhndorf
Ken Johns
Sam Kito, Jr.
Georgianna Lincoln
Rosita Worl

12:10 pm **Presentation of the Citizen of the Year and Denali Awards**

Tara Sweeney, Honoree, Citizen of the Year
Dr. Bob Onders, Honoree, Denali Award

12:20 pm **PLENARY SESSION RECESS**

Please check the AFN app for the latest Agenda.

Further details on how to download the app can be found on page 13.

12:30 pm Special Report: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the American Cancer Society

The panel shares a 50-year study on the impact of cancer on Alaska Natives and is a call to action to save Alaska Native lives.

MODERATOR

Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, President, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

PANELISTS

Jaeleen Kookesh, Member, American Cancer Society Alaska Advisory Board; Vice President of Policy-Legal Affairs & Corporate Secretary, Sealaska Corporation

Dr. Elena Roik, Cancer Surveillance Director, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Eric Fox, Vice Chair, American Cancer Society Alaska Advisory Board; Vice President of Operations & Security, NANA Management Services

Dr. Aaron Kusano, Member, American Cancer Society Alaska Adv Radiation Oncologist, Anchorage & Valley Radiation Therapy Centers

Dr. Diana Redwood, Senior Epidemiologist, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

Afternoon Session

1:00 pm **Call to Order**
Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Preliminary Credentials Report
Andria Agli, Board Member, AFN

Announcement of Co-Chair Election
Benjamin Mallott, Vice President, AFN

1:15 pm **Congressional Address**
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Senator, United States Senate

1:30 pm **Key Theme Speakers: Alaska's Unique System of Native Self-Determination and Tribal Self-Governance**
Julie Kitka, President, AFN
Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN

1:50 pm **44 Million Acres: Land Status Report on ANCSA Conveyed Lands**
Thomas Heinlein, Acting Alaska State Director, U.S. Bureau of Land Management

2:00 pm **Special Litigation Report: Lessons Learned from *Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation***

MODERATOR

Shauna Hegna, President, Koniag Inc.

PANELISTS

Gail Schubert, Board Member, AFN

Hallie Bissett, Executive Director, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association

Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN

2:20 pm **Congressional Address**

The Honorable Dan Sullivan, Senator, United States Senate

2:35 pm **Department of Veterans Affairs Address**

The Honorable Dennis McDonough, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

2:45 pm **Special Guest Speaker**

General Glen VanHerck, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command

3:00 pm **Current Insights from Alaska's Senior Military Leaders on the Developing Security Dynamics of Alaska and the Arctic**

Join senior military officials with responsibilities in Alaska as they discuss the developing geostrategic environment affecting Alaska and the Arctic region, and inform about current command specific activities to protect and defend the State in an increasingly complex security environment.

MODERATOR

Major General (Ret.) Randy "Church" Kee, U.S. Air Force, Senior Advisor, Arctic Security Affairs, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies

PANELISTS

Lieutenant General David Krumm, Commander, Alaskan NORAD Region, Alaskan Command, and Eleventh Air Force

Major General Brian Eifler, Commanding General, U.S. Army Alaska

Major General Torrence Saxe, Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard and the Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

Panelists continued on next page...

Rear Admiral Brad Collins, Commander, Navy Region Northwest
Rear Admiral Nathan Moore, Commander, 17th Coast Guard District, U.S. Coast Guard
Colonel Damon Delarosa, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District

3:45 pm **Special Report: Climate Change Task Force**
Melanie Bahnke, Board Member, AFN

4:00 pm **Memorial Prayer and Scroll**
Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair, AFN

4:05 pm **Closing Remarks**
Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

4:15 pm **Closing Cultural Performance**
Byron Nicholai, I Sing You Dance

4:30 pm **RECESS**

4:30-5:00 pm **Regional Focus Videos**
Reports from AFN members

6:00 - 9:00 pm **Best of Quyana Alaska**
Selections from television recordings of the best cultural performances from recent years.

HOW TO WATCH AND PARTICIPATE

Click here to watch Convention live!

You can watch the Convention live on TV on 360 North, Channel 1 on GCI cable and GCI's new Yukon TV, ARCS, and listen on Koahnic public radio.

Visit our Virtual Event Platform here.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Morning Session

9:00 am **Call to Order**
Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Invocation
Nick Jackson

Recognition of Major Sponsors
Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

9:05 am **Resolutions Committee Report**
Jodi Mitchell, AFN Resolutions Committee Chair

9:20 am **Special Report: Section 29 Update**
Brigham McCown, President and CEO, Alyeska Pipeline Services Company

9:30 am **Unfinished Business: Restoration of Aboriginal Hunting and Fishing Rights**
Chris McNeil, Navigator, AFN Navigator Program

9:45 am **Unfinished Business: Native Empowerment**

This panel will explore what needs to happen and what needs to be accomplished in order to advance the Native community both near term and long term in AFN unity and public policy, Native health and wellness, and housing.

MODERATOR

Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair, AFN

PANELISTS

Willie Hensley, Alaska Native Leader
Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, President, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Jacqueline Pata, President and CEO, Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority

10:15 am **U.S. Department of Interior Address**

The Honorable Debra Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

10:30 am **Unfinished Business: Transformational Change in Education**

The Honorable Michael Dunleavy, Governor, State of Alaska
The Honorable Michael Johnson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Julie Kitka, President, AFN

10:45 am **U.S. Department of Education Address**

The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

11:00 am **Special Guest Speaker: Alaska Native Student Success Initiative**

Pat Pitney, Interim President, University of Alaska

11:15 am Special Report: What's in the Historic Infrastructure Bill for Alaska

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was signed into law earlier this fall, provides historic investment into the nation's roads, bridges, ports, airports, broadband, ferries, water and wastewater, resilience, and energy projects— and will modernize and upgrade Alaska's core infrastructure. This in-depth report will cover what is included for Alaska in the bill.

PANELISTS

Lisa Sutherland, Lead Federal Navigator, AFN Navigator Program

Amber Ebarb, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Annie Hoefler, Legislative Director, Office of U.S. Senator Lisa Mukowski

Kate Wolgeumuth, Senior Rural Advisor, Office of U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan

Alex Ortiz, Chief of Staff, Office of U.S. Congressman Don Young

Jocelyn Broman, Legislative Assistant, Office of U.S. Congressman Don Young

Kevin Swanson, Legislative Assistant, Office of U.S. Congressman Don Young

Colonel Damon Delarosa, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District

Garrett Boyle, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission

Raina Thiele, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska Affairs & Strategic Priorities, U.S. Department of the Interior

12:15 pm Special Listening Session: Community Input on the Infrastructure Bill

Convention participants can ask questions and make comments to the panelists through the AFN virtual event site or by emailing questions in advance to afninfo@nativefederation.org.

Garrett Boyle, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission

Colonel Damon Delarosa, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District

Raina Thiele, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska Affairs & Strategic Priorities, U.S. Department of the Interior

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Afternoon Session

1:00 pm **Call to Order**
Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson, Co-Chairs, AFN

Final Credentials Report
Andria Agli, Board Member, AFN

Announcement of Co-Chair and Village Representatives
Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN

1:05 pm **2021 Elders and Youth Conference Report**
Elizabeth La quen náay Medicine Crow, President and CEO, First Alaskans Institute

1:15 pm **Biden Administration Arctic Policy**
Dr. Michael Sfraga, Chairman, Arctic Research Commission
Ambassador David Balton, Executive Director, Arctic Executive Steering Committee

1:35 pm **Department of Treasury Update**
Jacob Liebenluft, Chief Recovery Officer, U.S. Department of Treasury
Fatima Abbas, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Treasury

1:45 pm **Department of Justice Update**
The Honorable Vanita Gupta, Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

2:00 pm **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Work Group**

Bryan Wilson, Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska, U.S. Department of Justice

Ingrid Cumberlidge, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Alaska, U.S. Department of Justice

2:15 pm **Special Guest Speaker**

The Honorable Brian Schatz, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

2:20 pm **Special Guest Speaker**

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman, 27th Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration

2:30 pm **Tribal Recognition Ballot Initiative**

Joe Nelson, AFN Co-Chair; Ballot Initiative Co-Sponsor

Richard Peterson, Ballot Initiative Co-Sponsor

Elizabeth La quen náay Medicine Crow, Ballot Initiative Co-Sponsor

Waahlaal Giidaak Barbara Blake, Ballot Initiative Co-Sponsor

2:45 pm **AFN Navigator Project Update**

Sara Peterson, Deputy Project Director, AFN

2:55 pm **Special Report on Good Government: Census, Redistricting, Ranked Choice Voting, and Looking Ahead to the 2022 Elections**

MODERATOR

Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair, AFN

PANELISTS

Tom Panamaroff, Board Member, AFN

Melanie Bahnke, Board Member, AFN

Nicole Borromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, AFN

Scott Kendall, Attorney

3:15 pm **Innovations and Technological Advancement in Connectivity**

MODERATOR

Julie Kitka, President, AFN

PANELISTS

Hallie Bissett, Executive Director, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association

Greg Chapados, President and COO, GCI

Lesil McGuire, Alaska and Arctic Affairs Consultant, OneWeb

Ben Cuttriss, Account Manager Alaska, OneWeb

Hemant Chaurasia, Vice President of Product, Astra

3:45 pm **AFN President's Awards**

William "Bossa" and Hazel Alstrom II, Parents of the Year

Betty Anagick, Elder of the Year

Ruth Demmert, Dr. Waler Soboleff "Warriors of Light"

Cyrus Harris, Culture Bearer

Ed Mercer, Public Service

Susanna Naslik Norton, Della Keats "Healing Hands"

Madilyn Short, Lu Young Youth Leadership

4:30 pm **Special AFN Video: Uplifting Voices from the Pandemic**

4:50 pm **Closing Remarks: Reflections on the Theme and the Convention**

Sheri Buretta, Chair, AFN Convention Committee

5:00 pm **Closing Cultural Performance**

Alaska Native Lutheran Choir

Benediction

Nelson Angapak

Adjournment

Virtual
EXHIBIT BOOTHS

This year, we will feature dozens of exhibit booths *virtually* by AFN member organizations, government agencies, non-profits, educational institutions and Denali, Katmai and Susitna Convention sponsors.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13
8:00 am - 6:00 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14
8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Click here to be taken to the Virtual Exhibit Booths.



AWARDS



Citizen of the Year
Tara Sweeney

Tara Katuk Mac Lean Sweeney was confirmed by the United States Senate as the 13th Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior on June 28, 2018, and assumed official duties on July 30, 2018. Ms. Sweeney is the first Alaska Native and the second woman to be confirmed for the position. She comes to the Department of the Interior after serving as executive vice president of external affairs for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC).

Ms. Sweeney, from Utqiaġvik, grew up in rural Alaska. She has spent her professional career working to empower Native organizations and communities through advocacy at all levels of government, with a strong focus on the federal process.

Ms. Sweeney also has served in leadership positions on numerous business and nonprofit boards at the state, national and international levels, including (until recently) chair of the Arctic Economic Council, a trustee of the Ted Stevens Foundation, and co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives. In 2008 the Alaska Journal of Commerce named her a "Top Forty Under 40" business leader. In 2014 and 2017 her team won two Emmy® Awards from the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for its IAM IÑUPIAQ commercial campaign 2014 and its 2017 long-format documentary titled, "True North, the Story of ASRC." In 2017 she was inducted into the Anchorage ATHENA Society, a program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce that encourages the potential of women as valued members and leaders of the business community.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Ms. Sweeney is married with two children. Ms. Sweeney is a tribal member of the Native Village of Barrow Traditional Iñupiat Government and the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, both federally recognized tribes in Alaska. She is also a shareholder in the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Alaska Native regional corporation established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

The Assistant Secretary is responsible for carrying out the Department of the Interior's trust responsibilities regarding the management of tribal and individual Indian trust lands and assets and promoting the self-determination and economic self-sufficiency of the nation's 573 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and their approximately two million enrolled members.

This award recognizes the contributions of a Native person who has demonstrated strong commitment, dedication, and service to the Alaska Native Community and to Rural Alaska. The Award is bestowed annually on an individual selected by the AFN Board of Directors for exemplary work that has improved the lives of Alaska Native people.



Denali Award

Dr. Robert Onders

Dr. Robert Onders is the Interim Administator for the Alaska Native Medical Center. Prior to this role, he served as the Medical Director for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). He was the President of Alaska Pacific University (APU) from January 2017 to April 2020 when APU affiliated with the ANTHC. Prior to joining ANTHC in 2015, Dr. Onders worked as clinical director for Kodiak Area Native Association and emergency department director at West Park Hospital in Cody, Wyoming. Dr. Onders graduated from a combined six-year B.S./M.D. program through Kent State University and Northeast Ohio Medical University in 1997. He completed his Family Medicine residency, Juris Doctorate, and Master of Public Administration with the University of Wyoming.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a non-profit Tribal health organization designed to meet the unique health needs of Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Alaska. In partnership with the more than 175,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people that we serve and the Tribal health organizations of the Alaska Tribal Health System, ANTHC provides world-class health services, which include comprehensive medical services at the Alaska Native Medical Center, wellness programs, disease research and prevention, rural provider training and rural water and sanitation systems construction.

ANTHC is the largest, most comprehensive Tribal health organization in the United States, and Alaska's second-largest health employer with more than 3,000 employees offering an array of health services to people around the nation's largest state.

This award recognizes the contributions of a Non-Native person who has demonstrated strong commitment, dedication, and service to the Alaska Native Community and to Rural Alaska. The Award is bestowed annually on an individual selected by the AFN Board of Directors for exemplary work that has improved the lives of Alaska Native people.

President's Award Winners



Cyrus Harris
Culture Bearer



Susanna Naslik Norton
Della Keats "Healing Hands"



Betty Anagick
Elder of the Year



Madilyn Short
Lu Young Youth Leadership



William "Bossa" and Hazel Alstrom II
Parents of the Year



Ed Mercer
Public Service



Ruth Demmert
Dr. Walter Soboleff "Warriors of Light"

THANK YOU LEADERS

We are deeply grateful to the many members of our community who have supported AFN's progress over the years.

Our dedicated committee chairs and board members, staff, volunteers, and past-presidents, strategic partners, and convention delegates imagined a better future for our peoples and worked tirelessly to make that better future a reality.

INTEGRITY,
PRIDE IN HERITAGE,
PROGRESS



Ana Hoffman, Co-Chair
Bethel Native Corporation



Joe Nelson, Co-Chair
Sealaska Corporation

Richard Peterson, Secretary
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida

Gail Schubert, Treasurer
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Roy Ashenfelter
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Melanie Bahnke
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Sheri Buretta
Chugach Alaska Corporation

Debra Call
Cook Inlet Villages

Esther Evikana
Arctic Slope Native Association

Andrew Guy
Calista Corporation

Kimberly Jorgensen
NANA, Inc.

Vivian Korthuis
Association of Village Council Presidents

Sarah Lukin
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Nathan McCowan
Aleut Villages

Jodi Mitchell
Sealaska Corporation

Myron Naneng Sr.
Y-K Delta Villages

Nasruk Nay
Northwest Villages

Loretta Nelson
Kodiak Area Native Association

Charlie Nelson
Maniilaq Native Association

Al Nix
Southeast Villages

Francis Norman
Chugachmiut, Inc.

Gloria O'Neill
Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Tom Panamaroff
Koniag, Inc.

Linda Pete
Copper River Native Association

Dimitri Philemonof
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

Brenda Rebne
Ahtna Villages

Matthew Rexford
Arctic Slope Villages

Julie Roberts-Hyslop
Interior Villages

PJ Simon
Tanana Chiefs Conference

Lorena Skonberg
Kodiak Villages

Tom Tilden
Bristol Bay Villages

Angela Totemoff
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The Aleut Corporation

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ANCSA AT 50:

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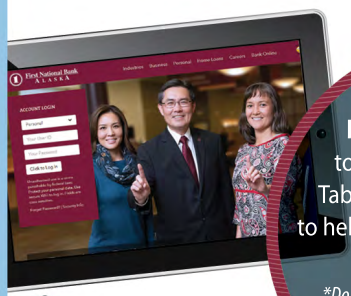
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We represent Alaska Native Corporations in every region of Alaska. Our work includes corporate advice; land management and resource development; permitting and environmental compliance; tax; mergers, acquisitions, and real estate transactions; and government contracting.

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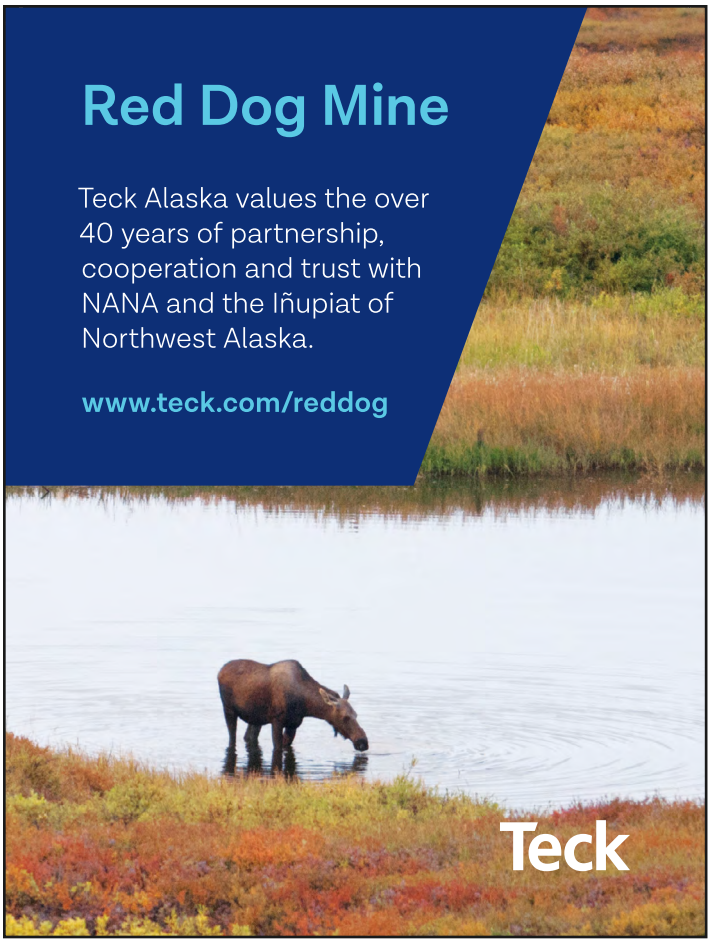
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ALASKA NATIVE VALUES

ALASKA NATIVE CULTURES ALL HOLD CERTAIN VALUES TO BE PARAMOUNT

Below is a list of some important values all Alaska Native cultures share:

SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS
Each Person Has a Special Gift

LIVE CAREFULLY
What You Do Will Come Back to You

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE
Giving Makes You Richer

TAKE CARE OF OTHERS
You Cannot Live Without Them

KNOW WHO YOU ARE
You Are a Reflection on Your Family

HONOR YOUR ELDERS
They Show You the Way in Life

ACCEPT WHAT LIFE BRINGS
You Cannot Control Many Things

PRAY FOR GUIDANCE
Many Things Are Not Known

HAVE PATIENCE
Some Things Cannot Be Rushed

SEE CONNECTIONS
All Things Are Related

Source: Alaska Native Knowledge Network, University of Alaska Fairbanks

AFN's Mission

Alaska Native people began as members of full sovereign nations and continue to enjoy a unique political relationship with the federal government. We will survive and prosper as distinct ethnic and cultural groups and will participate fully as members of the overall society. AFN's mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community. Our major goals are to:

- Advocate for Alaska Native people, their governments and organizations, with respect to federal, state and local laws;
- Foster and encourage preservation of Alaska Native cultures;
- Promote understanding of the economic needs of Alaska Natives and encourage development consistent with those needs;
- Protect, retain and enhance all lands owned by Alaska Natives and their organizations; and
- Promote and advocate for programs and systems which instill pride and confidence in individual Alaska Natives.

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