



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 50 No. 3 • March 2025

TCC's 2025 Keynote Speaker Taa'ajj Ch'igiiontà'



We are honored to welcome Taa'ajj Ch'igiiontà' as the keynote speaker for the 2025 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting. A Neets'ajj Gwich'in from Vashrajj K'qoq (Arctic Village), Alaska, Taa'ajj is a dedicated advocate for Indigenous knowledge, languages, and rights, with a strong focus on the health, well-being, and sustainability of Native communities. His work emphasizes the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern research to support healing, leadership development, and the preservation of Dinjii Zhuh K'yàa (Gwich'in language and way of life).

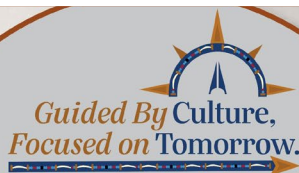
Taa'ajj currently serves as a senior research scientist at the Center for Alaska Native Health Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF),

where he works to incorporate Indigenous practices into health and wellness initiatives. He is also the Gwich'in language project director for the Arctic Village Council, leading efforts to revitalize and sustain the Gwich'in language for future generations. His leadership extends beyond research, as he is a board member of both the Gwich'in Council International and the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute of Alaska, organizations that work to uphold the rights and cultural heritage of Gwich'in people across borders.

His career has also included key leadership roles within Alaska Native governance and education. He previously served as Chief of Vashrajj K'qoq (Arctic Village), advocating for the protection of Indigenous lands and

traditional ways of life. He also held the position of vice chancellor for rural, community, and Native education at UAF, where he worked to expand access to education and resources for Indigenous students and communities.

Taa'ajj holds a baccalaureate degree in Alaska Native studies and a master's degree in rural development. His academic background, combined with his deep cultural knowledge and leadership experience, has shaped his work in strengthening Indigenous self-determination. Through his research, advocacy, and mentorship, he continues to support programs that empower Alaska Native people to reclaim their languages, traditions, and governance systems.



TCC Annual Convention
& Full Board of
Directors Meeting

March 10-13, 2025

New Venue!
8 Star Events Center
1485 30th Ave
Fairbanks



Learn More
www.tananachiefs.org/convention2025/

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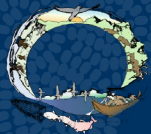


Mission

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign Tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

Vision

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

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Elder Advisor

Mackenzie Englishoe, Gwichyaa Zhee
Youth Advisor



Letter from the Chief

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

We are excited to welcome Taa'ajji Ch'igiiontà' from Vashraji K'oo (Arctic Village) as the keynote speaker for our 2025 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting this month. Taa'ajji is a dedicated advocate for Indigenous knowledge, language revitalization, and community well-being. He will be joined on stage by his daughters, Na'ni'eezh and Ch'eelil, creating a powerful intergenerational presentation that highlights the importance of passing down traditional knowledge to future generations.



Last month, I attended the North Pacific Fisheries Management Meeting, where I provided testimony on bycatch and the urgent need for action to protect our salmon. I want to extend my gratitude to all our advocates who continue to show up and make our voices heard in these critical spaces. More details about this meeting can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.



Additionally, I attended the NCAI Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C., where I, alongside members of our Executive Board, met with our Congressional Delegation. During these meetings, we continued to advocate on critical issues impacting our region, including Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform, pollock subsidies from the USDA, and the status of our large Solar for All grants from the EPA, which have been paused due to recent Executive Orders from the current Administration. These issues, among others, are at the forefront of our discussions as we work to protect funding and resources for our communities.

I understand that many of you have concerns regarding the current state of federal funding and how it may impact essential services. Please know that TCC is actively monitoring these developments. While the situation continues to evolve, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that our programs and services continue uninterrupted.

As always, I appreciate your leadership, guidance, and the work you do for your communities. I look forward to seeing many of you at Convention and working together to build a stronger future for our people.

Mahsi' Choo,
Chief Brian Ridley
Tanana Chiefs Conference

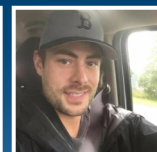
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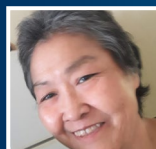
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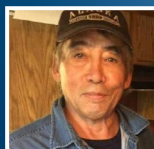
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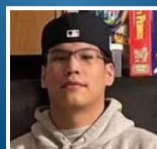
Doren
Sanford



Debbie
Nictune



Frank
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SUBMIT TIPS ANONYMOUSLY:

Text AKTIPS followed by your tip to
84711 or visit
<https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips>



Call the Alaska State Troopers at
907-451-5100, Fairbanks Police
Department at 907-450-6500 or
TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251
ext. 3269.

Visit www.tananachiefs.org/missing
for more information.

Emerging Leaders: Strengthening Voices, Building Futures

The Emerging Leaders have been actively working to empower youth and create meaningful change in their communities. Over the past few months, they have engaged in leadership development, policy discussions, and cultural initiatives to further their mission of uplifting the next generation.



Year Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth) is a national organization dedicated to promoting personal growth, leadership, and civic engagement among Native youth. The conference provided an opportunity for young leaders to connect with peers, share ideas, and gain new skills to bring back to their communities.

Youth Leadership in Action

In January, the Emerging Leader Youth Advisory Council met in Fairbanks to discuss key initiatives, including Resolution 2024-25, which focuses on developing a youth-driven, culturally relevant drug prevention curriculum. The council collaborated with the Wellness and Prevention Division to explore ways to integrate traditional knowledge into this curriculum, incorporating land-based learning, incorporating elder-youth sitting circles, and community-driven initiatives. Their goal is to create a curriculum that reflects the cultural values of their communities while addressing the challenges faced by today's youth.

National Engagement

In February, several Emerging Leaders attended the UNITY Mid-

Bridging Generations Through Storytelling

Looking ahead, the Emerging Leaders are working on an exciting new initiative. Natalie Newman presented a proposal to create a podcast that would provide a platform for youth and Elders to engage in dialogue on critical community topics such as hunting and fishing, cultural preservation, mental health, and more. This project stems from their strategic plan developed last fall and aims to strengthen intergenerational connections while amplifying youth voices.

Through leadership development, cultural initiatives, and community-driven projects, the Emerging Leaders continue to be a driving force in shaping a brighter future for the next generation.

When It Comes to Colon Cancer Prevention Is Key

Alaska Native people have the highest rate of colon cancer in the world. To fight this, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) urges Alaska Native adults to start screening at age 40—five years earlier than national guidelines.

Colon cancer is one of the deadliest cancers in the U.S., but it can often be prevented with regular screening. The disease usually starts as small growths, called polyps, in the colon or rectum. If found early, doctors can remove these polyps before they turn into cancer. Different screening options are available, including stool tests, CT scans, and colonoscopies. A colonoscopy is the most thorough test because it allows doctors to check the entire colon and remove any polyps during the procedure.

TCC is working to make screenings more common and is encouraging other Alaska Tribal Health Organizations to do the same. However, not enough people are getting screened. Doctors and health providers want more adults to take this life-saving step.

If you are 40 or older, talk to your doctor about getting screened for colon cancer. Early detection saves lives, and acting now can help prevent serious health problems in the future.

Make a Difference

Become a Foster Parent

Help Us Find Safe Homes!

Help us reach our goal of having readily available foster parents in Fairbanks and across the TCC region to provide safe, loving homes at a crucial time in a child's life.

Our Tribal communities have a need for caring, supportive families to care for our Tribal children who are in foster care.

Questions? Contact:

Niisha Walsh | Tribal Social Services Manager
valeen.walsh@tananachiefs.org | 907-452-8251 ext. 3372

Need Your REAL ID? Come to the TCC Annual Convention!

TCC Family Services & Support is partnering with Turbo Tags and Title for REAL IDs / Driver's licenses. The deadline for REAL IDs for domestic flight travel (travel anywhere within the U.S.) is May 7, 2025. You may think you don't need one, but you do.

There is NO COST for Tribal members!

Visit the Turbo Tags and Title booth at the Services Fair March 10-11, 2025 to apply for your REAL ID.

Bring the Following Original Documents:

Identity (Bring ONE of these documents):

- U.S. passport or passport card
- U.S. birth certificate

Social Security Number:

- Know your social security number (card not required)

Residential Address (Bring TWO documents from two different sources that have your first and last name and your current home address):

- Rental/lease agreement or mortgage document
- Home utility bill (including cell phone)
- Government-issued tax documents
- Employment documents



- Insurance documents, including medical, dental, vision, life, home, rental or vehicle.
 - Alaska Tribal ID (For non-standard remote Alaska addresses only within the Tribal area indicated on the ID)
 - Voter registration confirmation letter
- For more options, visit <https://dmv.alaska.gov/credential-services/realidupdate/>

If Your Name Has Changed:

If your name now is different than the name on your original documents, bring a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or other court documents stating the change. These documents can be obtained from the Office of Vital Statistics at the at the contact information below.

Juneau Office

Walk-in Office Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm
5441 Commercial Blvd.
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-3391

Anchorage Office

Walk-in Office Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm
3901 Old Seward Hwy, Ste. 101
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 269-0991

You can also visit www.vitalchek.com to request copies of any of these documents.

Celebrate National Nutrition Month: The Power of Family Meals

March is National Nutrition Month, making it the perfect time to focus on the importance of eating together as a family. If you're concerned about what your child eats—or doesn't eat—the solution might be as simple as gathering around the dinner table. Family meals provide more than just nourishment; they create a supportive environment where children learn healthy eating habits, improve their social skills, and strengthen family bonds.



Studies show that children who regularly eat with their families tend to consume more fruits and vegetables, maintain a healthy weight, and develop better communication skills. They are also less likely to engage in risky behaviors and more likely to feel connected to their parents. Simply put, eating together is good for both the body and the mind!

Bringing family meals into your routine doesn't have to be overwhelming. Try these tips to make it easier:

- **Keep it simple:** Choose easy, nutritious meals that can be made in 30 minutes or less.
 - **Cook once, eat twice:** Make extra portions of lean protein or grains to use in future meals.
 - **Create a routine:** Set a regular mealtime that everyone can count on.
 - **Get the family involved:** Kids can help set the table, stir ingredients, or even help shop for groceries.
 - **Make it fun:** Try themed meals, picnics on the floor, or family conversation starters to keep mealtime engaging.
 - **Start small:** commit to one family meal per week and build from there. Before long, you'll find that family meals become a cherished part of your routine.
- Celebrate National Nutrition Month by making mealtime a priority in your home!

2025 TCC Calendars Available Now!

Send your mailing address to
Communications_Dept@tananachiefs.org
or call 907-452-8251 ext. 3424 to get your
calendar today!

Indigenous Healing Gathering

A Day of Cultural Healing & Connection

Saturday, March 8 • 10am - 4pm
CAIHC Bldg A.

Community Health Aide *Spotlight*

Amber Demit-Albert - Northway

By Linden Stackiokas

Amber Demit-Albert is one of those lucky people who knew from an early age just what she wanted to do with her life: work in the medical field.

At first, she thought this would mean becoming a nurse. Then she saw the opening for a health aide in Northway, the village where she was raised and still lived. It would mean traveling to Fairbanks for training, sometimes for a month at a time, but with her husband's urging and support, she applied.



The book learning was very detailed and challenging, even for someone who had always done well in school. But by August 2023, Amber was one of three health aides in Northway, a village of close to 300 people, located 40 miles from the Canadian border. The people she had known all her life, many of whom were relatives, were now patients she saw at the clinic. Amber became accustomed to the confidentiality requirements of the job, knowing that privacy was important to gaining the trust of patients.

The job of a health aide turned out to be all that Amber had hoped. She loved the work and helping the community where she grew up get healthy and stay healthy. Because she was from the village, she already had a basis for connecting with people, which made becoming their health care provider easier in some respects. The scariest part of the job, especially when she first started, was being on-call and thus solely responsible for handling emergencies. But that has become easier with time and experience. She has learned to trust the backup she has from Fairbanks doctors and the women she calls her "two amazing coworkers."

Between being a health aide and tending to her eight children ranging in age from 4 to 21 years old, Amber does not have a lot of free time. She is especially appreciative of her 9 am to 3 pm schedule, which gives her extra time at home with family and sharing the yearly labor-intensive

seasonal activities of moose hunting, fishing for white fish, and ice fishing. When she does have spare moments, she likes to sew and do beadwork.

"And I love to travel," she says. "I love warmer places, like Palm Springs, Florida, and Hawaii."

The job of a health aide is not something a person does alone. Among her strongest supporters, Amber lists her husband who has encouraged her since the first steps into her profession; her mother-in-law who is always there for her children when Amber goes off for training for long periods; and her aunts who are always there when they are needed. Whether she must leave in the middle of the night for an on-call emergency or be gone for weeks in Fairbanks, they keep things going on the home front so she can concentrate on her job.

Asked what advice she might give to someone considering becoming a health aide, Amber says she would urge them to not be intimidated but to learn about the process. The program is designed to provide knowledge in small doses, so the facts and techniques are less intimidating to learn. She would remind them that it is a unique privilege to know enough to be able to help people in their worst condition during their greatest hour of need. At a more practical level, health aides will always be needed so there is job security. The benefits are good and the staff and supervisors at Tanana Chiefs are supportive. Finally, going through the training means that participants end up bonding with other health aides starting out. After the trainings, when these new friends have moved on to jobs in various villages, they can still be reached out to for support and reassurance.

Amber does not expect anything in her life to change soon. She looks forward to many more years of flying off to warmer places but always coming home to the life and people of Northway.

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- Comprehensive support with medication and behavioral tools.
- Personalized follow-up for up to six months to keep you on track.

Topics Covered:

- Benefits of quitting
- Understanding nicotine withdrawal
- Behavioral tips to help you quit
- Medications available at CAIHC pharmacy

Details:

- Next Classes: 3/12, 4/9, & 5/14 from 12:00pm-1:00pm
- Location: CAIHC Building A - Training Room by Security
- Sign-Up: Call 907-451-6682 opt. 5

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Never, Ever Gardened Before in Alaska? Keep Reading

By Heidi Rader, Professor of Extension at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Gardening for the first time can be daunting, especially in Alaska with the added challenges of a short growing season, sometimes too-cool weather, and sometimes very hot weather. Although the internet provides a wealth of information, when you've never done something before, sometimes you don't even know what questions to ask. Here are answers to some questions you may have not known to ask about gardening.

Where are you going to put it?

An ideal garden spot gets eight or more hours of direct sunlight; has rich, loose soil free of weeds, rocks and roots; is a good distance from trees and shrubs; has an easily accessible water source; and has an 8-foot-high fence to keep moose and other pests out. That's the ideal, but many of us garden in less-than-ideal spots because that's what we have available. However, it's something to work toward or arrange if you can.

Do you want to grow in containers, raised beds, or in-ground?

Growing in Containers: Container gardening can be a good option for those who do not have a spot to plant a garden in the ground. But containers can be challenging to keep watered. A full hanging basket may need to be watered two to three times a day in the heat of the summer in Fairbanks. You'll want to make sure you use good potting soil for hanging baskets rather than just digging up soil from your backyard. For one, that type of soil may be very heavy and hard to move. Also, you need to optimize growing conditions in containers because of the added stress on plants.

Growing in Raised Beds: Raised beds can be a nice route for new gardeners as well. They can be made from a variety of materials, including wood, cement or metal (anything non-toxic that will not rot quickly). They require less water than containers, but more than gardening in the ground. There are a few advantages to raised beds. They warm up and retain heat in the summer; they can be placed on a deck, on rocky soil, or on top of a lawn; and they minimize the amount of soil you need to bring in and keep good soil from getting trampled on and

compacted.

Another advantage of raised beds is that there are lots of ways to make the aisles incompatible with weeds. For example, the walkways between the raised beds could be cement, rock, mulch or weed fabric. Weeding walkways is not a fun task. Keep your growing space for growing and your walkways for walking!



Try and fill a raised bed to crowd out weeds, but don't pack it so close so that nothing matures.

Growing in the Ground: Finally, if you do have a spot to garden in the ground, this can be a good way to go for deep-rooted crops, like potatoes, and may require less watering than containers or raised beds. If you find tree roots or weeds growing in your garden, you can deal with them easier by rototilling.

What can you grow?

Once you've decided where to put your garden, the next big decision is what to grow. The easiest things to grow in Alaska are short-season, cool-season crops. That said, even though radishes and spinach are some of the fastest growing, quickest-to-mature crops, they have a pesky habit of going to seed or bolting in Fairbanks because of our long (sometimes hot) days.

Some of the easiest crops to grow in Fairbanks are kale, peas, snap beans, lettuce, beets, carrots, turnips and potatoes. All of these crops can be directly seeded or planted outside in the ground as opposed to many crops that need to be planted indoors to give them a head start so that they mature before the growing season ends: zucchini, broccoli, cabbage, tomatoes and many flowers, to name a few. Corn, winter squash, giant cabbage, Brussels sprouts, peppers and eggplants *can* be grown in Fairbanks, but they are a bit more challenging because they take longer to mature and/or require heat and sun to mature. As a first-time gardener, try the

easy crops first before you tackle more challenging crops.

Personally, my favorite things to grow are those that are best eaten fresh and that I can harvest and eat all summer long.

What varieties should you choose?

Not only do you need to choose crops, you also need to choose which variety of each crop to grow. There are many varieties of carrots, for example. Some mature early, some late, some are purple, some yellow, some are sweeter, some are better for storage. We trial how different varieties of carrots and many other crops perform here in Fairbanks at UAF so you can consult our reports for what has performed best.

When should you plant?

You should plant your garden as early as you can, which means after you are reasonably assured it is not going to freeze at night. Some people use frost cloth so that they can protect the plants from light frost and plant earlier. Sometimes frosts can be unpredictable, but you can base your planting date off the average last spring frost as well as a look at the weather forecast.



The weeds in this garden are outcompeting the crops.

According to the Alaska Garden Helper, Fairbanks' growing season or days above 32 degrees Fahrenheit is from May 9 to Sept. 23. Of course that is the average, so sometimes it's going to be later and sometimes earlier. You can look up the average growing season wherever you live in Alaska past, current, and predicted with the Alaska Garden Helper.

When you're planting indoors, it's important to start plants at the right time. The right time basically has to do with how big the plant will be when you plant outside — not too small, but also not too big for its britches, so to

speak (or container).

I like to use Johnny's Seeds Calculator. It's not perfect. For instance, even if you start melons and okra indoors at the time the calculator recommends, that doesn't mean they will grow in Alaska due to the length of our growing season and amount of heat we get.

Be sure to give plants enough space when you plant! And you can often plant multiple crops of short-maturing crops like lettuce and radishes as well.



The cabbage in this garden is a little close and they might not fully mature.

Is your soil good for growing?

Getting a soil test is one way to assess if your soil is good for growing. The test will determine your soil pH (is it acidic or alkaline? Veggies like a neutral pH of 7 best) as well as your overall nutrient levels. You can find a bunch of information on soil testing here.

If you're buying potting soil or topsoil, then you won't need to test your soil, initially. The reality is that many gardeners successfully garden without getting a soil test but not without adding fertilizer to their garden. Adding compost and rotating crops (i.e. not planting the same thing in the same spot every year) are always good things to do. You can compost much of the inedible plants your garden grows (broccoli leaves, weeds that haven't gone to seed, pea plants, etc.) as well as food scraps, lawn clippings and raked leaves.

How much and what type of fertilizer should you add?

Fertilizer comes in many forms. There are organic fertilizers or conventional (manufactured). Some are slow-release fertilizers that can be added at the beginning of the season and should last for most of the season. Water-soluble fertilizers are mixed with your water and often added weekly or every time you water. A good tell that your plants do not have enough fertilizer is that they are yellow or otherwise discolored.

Most fertilizers identify the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N-P-K) on their packaging. The higher the numbers, the higher the concentration. Often, organic fertilizers have a lower concentration of N-P-K and rather than having all three of the primary nutrients, may only have one nutrient, although often they have more micronutrients. They tend to release more slowly than conventional nutrients.

When should you water?

You can water your garden with a watering can, hose, sprinkler, soaker hose or drip irrigation. Right after you plant seeds, you need to keep them moist until they germinate. This can be hard when we have hot, windy springs like we did in 2022. I found myself watering my garden three times a day to keep the soil consistently moist.

When you water a hanging basket, you want to make sure there are a couple inches of space in the container in between the soil and the top. You'll fill the container once or twice. When you see water running out the bottom, you'll know you've watered enough. Hanging baskets sometimes need water twice a day in the heat of the summer.

Raised beds require a similar soaking. If you're watering with a hose in an in-ground garden, it can be difficult to adequately soak the soil as you can get water running off because water comes out so quickly. Drip irrigation is an ideal way to get water only to the plants you're growing (not to the weeds!) and waters slowly enough that you're not washing away soil — especially important right after you've planted seeds — you don't want to wash away your seeds or small seedlings.

When should you weed?

The best time to weed is when plants are small. This requires you actually know what the plants you are growing look like when small and what a weed looks like when small. If you can't get to them when they're small, at least try to get them before they've gone to seed.

When should you think about pests?

Preventing pest and disease problems and identifying pests early is always easier than when an outbreak occurs.

When should you harvest?

As mentioned earlier, plants bolt — or go to seed — in Fairbanks incredibly quickly. For some crops like radishes and spinach, you may only have a couple days' window to harvest the crop before it bolts. Other crops get woody or bitter. Zucchini can grow gigantic seemingly overnight. Most people won't mind a giant zucchini in a quick bread, but in a stir fry, they are best when they are smaller.



After broccoli has gone to flower, most people don't eat it. Leave it in your garden to attract pollinators

How do you remember what you learned from last year?

Keep a garden journal so that you remember what grew well, what you liked, and what didn't so well. You don't want to repeat the same mistakes every year. Record what you like and what performs well in your garden. Keep track of what crop and variety you planted and when, productivity level and harvest dates, if you liked it or not or had too much or too little.

Questions about gardening or the Tribes Extension Program? Visit www.uaf.edu/ces/tribes Contact Heidi at hbrader@alaska.edu or (907) 474-6620. For more articles like this, go to: <https://it-growsinalaska.community.uaf.edu/>

Heidi Rader is professor of Extension in partnership with TCC. This work is supported by the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program Project 2022-41580-37957. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

Scan here to access additional resources





Attend the 41st Annual Tribal Justice Conference

April 22nd-24th, 2025 | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Westmark Hotel | Fairbanks

Tanana Chiefs Conference is pleased to partner with the University of Alaska Fairbanks – Department of Tribal Governance and the Alaska Native Justice Center. Join us for a day of meaningful conversations on issues important to our Tribes, including public safety, child protection, and the protection of our Tribal members.

This event will feature discussions on court systems, family services, and public safety, along with trainings to support and strengthen Tribal justice systems.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
<https://tinyurl.com/41AKTJC>

SCAN ME TO REGISTER!



QUESTIONS? Contact:
Sonja Kokrine-Huntington
Sonja.kokrine-huntington@tananachiefs.org
907-452-8251 ext. 3007



Kim Taylor Honored by AKPhA

Kim Taylor, TCC Pharmacy Technician, has been awarded the Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award by the Alaska Pharmacy Association. For nearly 20 years, Kim has provided exceptional service to six subregional clinics and 39 villages, expertly managing remote medication dispensing, inventory, and emergency transport. Her dedication, problem-solving skills, and leadership make her an invaluable asset to Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. Kim's commitment to excellence in patient care and pharmacy operations truly sets her apart. TCC proudly celebrates her well-deserved recognition and unwavering service to our communities.

TCC Shuttle Service

TCC's complementary Patient Shuttle Service now has extended hours to meet the needs of patients traveling to Fairbanks for medical appointments.

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday • 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Call (907) 347-0765 for appointments outside the route schedule.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Saturday - Sunday • 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Call (907) 687-8338

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Monday - Friday • 5:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday • 6:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday • 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

SCAN TO VIEW MORE SHUTTLE INFO!



We Will Not Be Ignored: Tribal Leaders Call for Change at NPFMC Meeting

During the February 2025 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) meeting, Tribal leaders and advocates from across the State stood together to demand immediate action to address the ongoing salmon crisis. The meeting focused on new bycatch management measures for chum salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, drawing strong Tribal testimony from across regions with leaders and advocates from TCC, AVCP, Kawerak, and Tlingit & Haida showing up united to urge the council to take meaningful action to reduce bycatch of chum salmon. Chief Brian Ridley of Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) testified about the devastating impact of salmon declines on Tribal communities and condemning the Council's continued prioritization of the billion-dollar pollock industry over Indigenous subsistence fisheries.

"We will continue to show up—alongside other Chiefs, Tribal members, and advocates—until you hear us, listen to our voices, and take action," said Chief Ridley. "We will not be ignored. We are not going away. No meaningful action has been taken to confront this crisis."

Salmon populations continue to plummet, with the 2024 Yukon River fall chum run being the third-lowest on record. Between 2010 and 2014, an average of 84,438 chum salmon were taken for subsistence each year; in 2024, that number dropped to just 3,618. TCC and its Tribes now spend up to \$1.96 million buying salmon from commercial fleets to supplement the teaching of cultural practices around putting away salmon while fishing is not allowed on the Yukon River.

The impacts extend beyond the loss of food security. Rates of diabetes have increased by 24.6%, obesity has risen by 70%, and malnutrition has climbed by 50% as communities are left to rely on processed foods in-

stead of the nutrient-rich salmon that has sustained them for generations. "The pollock industry's profits are literally being paid with our lives," Ridley emphasized. "While billion-dollar trawl companies benefit from our waters, Indigenous families along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers are being stripped of their food security, cultural traditions, and economic stability."

Despite the severity of this crisis, state and federal regulations continue to prioritize non-Alaskan owned economic interests, allowing destructive trawling practices to persist. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has failed to hold the pollock industry accountable, even as Indigenous communities suffer the consequences. TCC co-authored sections of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to highlight the social, economic, environmental, and health impacts of declining salmon populations and harvest restrictions, but the EIS still prioritizes commercial fishing profits and does not integrate Traditional Knowledge as best available science.

The Council is currently considering five potential actions, ranging from maintaining the status quo to implementing bycatch limits, corridor closures, or industry-led avoidance measures. The revised alternatives for chum salmon bycatch management will be incorporated into the Draft EIS, which is being refined and will be published in the Federal Register. Once released, there will be opportunities for public comment, and the National Marine Fisheries Service continues to accept requests for Tribal Consultation. Final action by the Council is



anticipated by December 2025 but is subject to change.

TCC urged the Council to take immediate action by adopting a holistic, ecosystem-based management approach prioritizing conservation. "Conservation continues to be shouldered solely by our Tribes," Ridley said.

TCC acknowledges and thanks the many Tribal leaders, advocates, and community members who continue to show up in these spaces. Their voices are critical in holding decision-makers accountable and pushing for change.

Tribal representatives and community members are strongly encouraged to participate in upcoming public comment periods to ensure their perspectives are fully considered in the final decision-making process. We will continue to show up, and we will not stop fighting for the survival of our people and our salmon.

To get involved in this essential fight and to stay informed about upcoming advocacy opportunities, please reach out to TCC Tribal Resource Stewardship at TRSP@tananachiefs.org or visit <https://www.tananachiefs.org/tribal-resources-stewardship-program/>.



2025 Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting Agenda At-A-Glance

This agenda is tentative and represents the planned schedule as of February 21, 2025

Monday

March 10, 2025

7:30 AM

Credentials Committee Meeting
8 Star Event Center

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Annual Delegates Meeting

8:40 AM

Invocation, Moment of Silence

8:45 AM

Presentation of Colors

9:00 AM

TCC Welcome Addresses, In Memoriam, Committee Assignments

Community Welcome Addresses

Doyon Limited, Fairbanks Native Association, Interior Regional Housing Authority, Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of North Pole

10:00 AM

Break

10:15 AM

Elder Addresses
Emerging Leaders Report

11:00 AM

Congressional Delegation Addresses

12:00 PM

Working Lunch

1:00 PM

Introduction of Theme & Keynote

2:00 PM

Health Report

3:00 PM

Break

3:15 PM

Prevention & Healthy Lifestyle Panel

5:00 PM

Recess

Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Welcome Reception

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall
Starting at 5:00 pm



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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Fullford Electric

RESPEC
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Explore Fairbanks
Architects Alaska
Horst Expediting



DOYON
Limited

Thursday

March 13, 2025

8:30 AM

Reconvene

Invocation

8:35 AM

Consideration of Resolutions

10:00 AM

Break

10:15 AM

Consideration of Resolutions, Continued

12:00 PM

Working Lunch

1:15 PM

Election Committee Report

Elections

3:00 PM

Break

3:15 PM

Recognitions & Oath of Office

5:00 PM

Adjourn



Tuesday

March 11, 2025

8:30 AM

Reconvene

Invocation

8:40 AM

Missing & Murdered Indigenous People

10:00 AM

Congressional Delegation Address

10:15 AM

Break

10:30 AM

Tribal Land Stewardship

11:30 AM

Federal Updates Impacting Alaska

12:00 PM

Working Lunch

Veteran's Affairs Lunch & Listen

1:00 PM

Building Our Future: Housing Opportunities

3:00 PM

Break

3:15 PM

Convention Sponsorship Check Presentation

3:30 PM

Addressing Violence Against Youth

5:00 PM

Adjourn



Wednesday

March 12, 2025

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Invocation

8:40 AM

Elections & Credentials Committee Report

8:45 AM

Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum;
Adoption of Agenda; Adoption of Minutes

9:15 AM

Chief's Report

10:45 AM

Break

11:00 AM

Financial Report

12:00 PM

Working Lunch

1:30 PM

Proposed Bylaw Changes

2:00 PM

Break

2:15 PM

Approval of Updated Resolution Rules; Resolutions Committee Report; Consideration of Resolutions

5:00 PM

Recess



TCC Services Fair
8:00am - 4:00pm
8 Star Event Center
Rooms 102, 103, 104 & 105

Arts & Crafts Fair
8:00am - 5:00pm
8 Star Event Center
Rooms 102, 103, 104 & 105

2025 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting Elections

Subregional Advisory Board Elections

Executive Board of Directors

Subregional Positions

Yukon Flats Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Chief Nancy James, Gwichyaa Zhee

Yukon Tanana Subregion 3-year team (2025-2028)
Currently Chief Lori Baker, Minto

Regional Health Advisory Board

Upper Tanana Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Sylvia Pitka, Northway

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Tony Agnes, Nikolai

Education Council

E-Board Representative 1-year term (2025-2026)
Currently Chief Nancy James, Fort Yukon

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Chief Alice (Allie) Dale, McGrath

Upper Tanana Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Larry Mark Sr., Tanacross

Interior Athabaskan Tribal College Board of Trustees

Upper Kuskokwim Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently VACANT

Upper Tanana Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently VACANT

Yukon Tanana Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Alex Hanna, Minto (Resigned 2024)

Yukon Flats Subregion 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Jacqueline Balaam, Birch Creek (Resigned 11/2024)

Full Board of Directors Elections

Officer Positions

Vice President 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Sharon Hildebrand, Nulato

IRHA Board of Commissioners

Seat C 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Speedy Sam, Huslia

Seat D 3-year term (2025-2028)
Currently Kimberly Carlo, Gwichyaa Zhee



FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

FNA Annual Membership Meeting
March 7, 5:00 p.m.
Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall

Breaking Trail
2025
ANNUAL MEETING
OF SHAREHOLDERS

FRI., MAR. 14
8 STAR EVENTS CENTER
FORMERLY FRIENDS CHURCH
DOORS OPEN 8 A.M. AKDT
Participate online www.doyon.com



BE A LEADER
vote early

eproxy.doyon.com

PROXY Deadline
MAR. 11 RECOMMENDED
MAIL-BY MAR. 3

Questions?
907-459-2000
www.doyon.com

Need A Ride To Convention?

Catch the Shuttle!

Monday March 10th - Thursday, March 13th | 8:00am - 8:00pm

The shuttle will run between the Westmark and 8 Star Events Center on the following schedule:

- 8:00am - 10:00am: Every 15 minutes
- 10:00am - 8:00pm: Every 30 minutes





Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council Newsletter

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424
communications_dept@tananachiefs.org
www.tananachiefs.org

Communications Division
122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



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FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Clinician I
Fairbanks	Deputy Chief Information Officer
Fairbanks	Paul Williams House Case Manager
Fairbanks	Home Care Provider Coordinator
Fairbanks	Certified Nurse Assistant
Fairbanks	Purchasing Agent
Fairbanks	Sobering Center Technician I
Fairbanks	Addictions Clinic Manager
Fairbanks	Paul Williams House Clinical Supervisor
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II - Tribal Government & Justice Division
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Gateway to Recovery
Fairbanks	Receptionist - OJT
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Urgent Care
Fairbanks	Nurse Practitioner - Urgent Care
Fairbanks	Residential Support Technician
Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant I
Fairbanks	Lead Medical Laboratory Scientist
Fairbanks	Phlebotomist
Fairbanks	Lead Clinic Greeter
Louden (Galena)	Home Care Provider

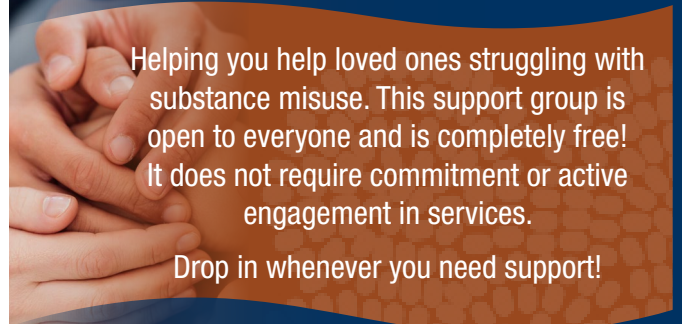


Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

Visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see a full list of open positions and learn more about the benefits available through Tanana Chiefs Conference.

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Let's Talk!



Helping you help loved ones struggling with substance misuse. This support group is open to everyone and is completely free! It does not require commitment or active engagement in services.

Drop in whenever you need support!



Scan the QR Code for more info & join us Wednesdays via Zoom
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 8

Indigenous Healing Gathering

CAIHC, Building A | Fairbanks, AK
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BjX99aRb/>

MAR 10-13

2025 Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting

8 Star Event Center | Fairbanks, AK

MAR 14

TCC Offices Closed

Traditional Chief's Day

APR 8-10

Annual Self-Governance Meeting

Fairbanks, AK | More Information to Come

APR 16-17

2025 Education Summit

Fairbanks, AK | More Information to Come

APR 22-24

41st Annual Alaska Tribal Justice Conference

Westmark | Fairbanks, AK | More Information to Come