



# 2018 AFN CONVENTION FINAL RESOLUTIONS AS AMENDED

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## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-1

- TITLE:** RECOGNITION OF THE RURAL HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
- WHEREAS:** In 1989, the leaders of the Alaska Federation of Natives led, through a call to action, the charge to make positive social change through the development of a behavioral health education program that was grounded in Alaska Native cultures in combination with best practice Western treatment methods; and
- WHEREAS:** A 13-member council, made up of representatives and Elders from the regional tribal health corporations worked for two years to develop an educational delivery model that would allow rural Alaskans an opportunity to gain education in behavioral health that is both accessible to them and pertinent to their cultures so that they could work effectively in their own communities “with the goal of having a counselor in every village;” and
- WHEREAS:** The Rural Human Services program represents a successful collaboration between the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Native Tribal Health Organizations and numerous rural mental health centers and agencies; and
- WHEREAS:** Other educational programs within the University, including the human services associates degree program, the bachelor of social work cohort program, and the PhD in psychology with an emphasis on rural and Indigenous psychology, have followed in the footsteps of the Rural Human Services program by including an Elder instructor in each of the courses offered within their specific programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Rural Human Services program has received the following awards and recognition: 1994 award for excellence and innovation from the National Association for Rural Mental Health Directors; 1994 recognition as a model program in the National Counselor Training and Mental Health News Alert; 1995 recognition as a model program by National Association for Rural Mental Health; 2005 recognition as an Effective Behavioral Health Intervention for Children, Adolescents, and Families of Color by the First Nations Behavioral Health Association; 2006 recognition as an Innovative and Exceptional Practice and Child and Adolescent’s Workforce Education, and Annapolis Coalition On Behavioral Health Workforce Education; and
- WHEREAS** 2018 marks 25 years since the program’s implementation and 493 individuals, with great passion and commitment, have taken on the challenge of supporting

their communities by furthering their education and have graduated with their certificates in Rural Human Services from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and 160 have then continued on to graduate with an Associate of Arts in Human Services, 70 have then received their Bachelor of Arts degrees in Social Work and 7 have received their Masters Degrees and each one of them started with the RHS program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that the AFN Board of Directors recognizes the Rural Human Services program for its 25 years of exceptional delivery of accessible and quality higher education to rural Alaskans and others working with Alaska Native peoples in the field of behavioral health.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DEFERRED TO BOARD – RECOGNITION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



# HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-3

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO INCREASE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HIP) FUNDING AND INCLUDING ADDITIONAL HIP FUNDING IN THE AMERICAN JOB BILL
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally-recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 owes a unique and legal obligation to the 229 federally recognized Indian Tribes of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The Housing Improvement Program has been underfunded, seeing annual appropriations drop 50% since 2008; and
- WHEREAS:** The office of Management and Budget (OMB) deemed HIP Fabricated, redundant, and duplicative in the Native American and Housing Assistance Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) program; and
- WHEREAS:** HIP is a critical addition to other Native American housing programs because it provides housing opportunities to individuals and families who cannot otherwise receive housing assistance from HUD; and
- WHEREAS:** The Federal poverty income guidelines implemented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for HIP is too low, forcing out individuals earning minimum wage as ineligible; and
- WHEREAS:** The Department of the Interior (DOI) should exercise its government-to-government consultation policy by forming a task force, a coalition consisting of Alaska tribal governments and DOI officials to develop policies to ensure that there is no duplication of program services; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN's proposal to include \$50 million for HIP in the FY 2019 budget would provide an economic benefit for the unemployed and those in the need of housing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that this resolution will be forwarded to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, urging increased and continued funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN shall pursue the following executive legislative action to:

- conduct immediate congressional oversight hearings in Alaska to be held before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources regarding the Housing Improvement Program policy and future funding; and
- seek immediate consultation and participation between the Alaskan tribal governments and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop recommendations for revisions to HIP regulations; and
- introduce legislation protecting HIP funding resources within the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs budget proposals to the President; and
- increase HIP funding for FY 2019 to \$50 million; and
- include HIP funding in any future stimulus bills.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	EMMONAK TRIBAL COUNCIL EMMONAK CORPORATION COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-4

- TITLE:** CALLING FOR SUPPORT TO INCREASE RESOURCES IN COMBATING DRUG EPIDEMIC, ESPECIALLY OPIOID ABUSE, HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE USE AND ADDICTION, IN THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (“AFN”) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. AFN’s membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the rates of death from prescription opioid overdose among American Indian or Alaska Natives increased almost four-fold from 1 .3 per 100,000 in 1999 to 5.1 per 100,000 in 2013; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the National Drug Control Policy report of 2009, among all ethnic groups, Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are the highest percentage rate (18.3) of 12 years old and higher to have used illegal drugs in the past 30 days; and
- WHEREAS:** In recent years, drug trafficking, prescription drug abuse and the resulting opioid, heroin and methamphetamine epidemics have exponentially increased and plague Native Communities throughout Alaska, causing massive societal, cultural, emotional and monetary damage to Alaska’s Natives and their Communities and causing countless injuries and deaths of many native peoples, especially youth, from addiction, overdose and suicide, and also contributes to human trafficking among young Native men and women; and
- WHEREAS:** There is a significant lack of resources allocated for education, treatment, preventative services, facilities and public safety in Alaska’s Native Communities to address and resolve this drug epidemic, which poses a direct threat to the Alaska Native Community, and especially to Alaska’s native youth; and
- WHEREAS:** Federal, state and local governments must make critical investments to address drug addiction and overdose injuries and deaths within the Alaska Native Community; and

WHEREAS: Federal, state and local governments and courts are vested with the primary responsibility of providing law enforcement and prosecution services regarding Alaska Native Communities; and

WHEREAS: Federal, state and local governments' responsibilities include managing complex criminal investigations, implementing interdiction programs, carrying out surveillance of criminals, infiltrating drug trafficking networks, developing and implementing undercover techniques, executing search warrants, confiscating illegal drug supplies, and collecting and processing evidence (collectively the "drug enforcement programs"); and

WHEREAS: The current structure of the drug enforcement programs are divided into regions, and resources are limited, with some Alaska Native Communities have only temporary, little, or no drug enforcement program related personnel or resources located within hundreds of miles of those communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention that AFN hereby calls on all federal, state, and local governmental agencies, including but not limited to, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the Department of Justice, the State of Alaska and Alaska's municipal and Alaska's borough related agencies and governments, located in Alaska's Native Communities, to increase enforcement activities [canine enforcement activities], criminal penalties, and other resources, support services and personnel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on all federal, state, and local government agencies, to advance education, prevention, treatment facilities and public safety programs designed to address opioid abuse, heroin and methamphetamine use and addiction within the Alaska Native Community be undertaken immediately; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:

UKPEAĠVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION  
AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-5

- TITLE:** CALLING FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE TO INCLUDE DOCTORS OF CHIROPRACTIC, DOCTORS OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE, LICENSED ACUPUNCTURISTS, AND OTHER NON-PHARMACOLOGIC PRACTITIONERS AS HEALTH PROFESSIONS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 186 village corporations, 12 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:** Acute and chronic pain escalated the use of opioid pain medication and other drugs across Alaska and Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS:** The Center of Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain recommends that non-pharmacologic therapy and non-opioid pharmacologic therapy are preferred for chronic pain; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress authorized the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to use chiropractic care in their facilities in 1999, and the VA has since grown the program to provide services to all eligible veterans because of the health benefits for chronic pain and decrease in opioid use; and
- WHEREAS:** Indian Health Service (IHS) funding is limited and health care delivery is increasingly expensive; and
- WHEREAS:** Indian Health Service and tribal health care programs incur higher costs than average health care programs in the United States increasing the urgency and need to integrate innovative care that improves patient outcomes and reduces cost; and
- WHEREAS:** Doctors of Chiropractic, Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine and Licensed Acupuncturists specialize in natural therapies, spinal manipulation, health promotion and wellness consistent with the culturally-connected therapies of our Alaska Native/American Indian people; and

WHEREAS: Research has shown that patients managed by Doctors of Chiropractic, Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine and Licensed Acupuncturists show dramatically reduced pharmaceutical costs, reductions in surgeries, reduction of inpatient hospital admissions and days spent in hospitals; and

WHEREAS: The IHS does not consistently keep Doctors of Chiropractic, Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine, Licensed Acupuncturists, and other non-pharmacologic physicians on their list of health professions; and

WHEREAS: Being on the list of IHS health professions means people in these professions are eligible for IHS scholarships, loan repayment, and career opportunities within our tribal health care facilities; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native/American Indian people deserve the same quality of care and the same level of resources as the VA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN does hereby urge the Indian Health Service to permanently include Doctors of Chiropractic, Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine, Licensed Acupuncturist, and other non-pharmacologic physicians on its list of health professions; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-7

- TITLE:** CALLING ON THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE TO FULLY FUND CORE SANITATION PROJECTS IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The lack of clean running water and proper sewage disposal is a leading cause of preventable disease in rural Alaska villages. Respiratory, gastrointestinal and skin diseases are rampant in areas without safe water supplies; and
- WHEREAS:** Children are five times more likely to have respiratory infections and 11 times more likely to get pneumonia compared to children who live in homes with running water; and
- WHEREAS:** Indian Health Service policy requiring a contribution for “ineligible” buildings connected to or benefitting from sanitation facilities infrastructure (such as schools) is a reversal of prior policy and will have a severe impact on the ability to provide such infrastructure Alaska communities; and
- WHEREAS:** By imposing the same requirements on Indian communities that have long applied to non-Indian communities, IHS is improperly eliminating Indian communities as a discrete beneficiary, which is inconsistent with federal law, including the Indian Sanitation Facilities Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s village communities cannot afford to contribute any amount to sanitation infrastructure projects because they are small, remote, and have little to no economic base or potential; and
- WHEREAS:** IHS should consider sanitation facilities infrastructure projects in rural, isolated communities to be fully eligible and should provide the full project funding amount to ensure no community is left without critical public health infrastructure.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that AFN will advocate that IHS allow full funding of core sanitation projects in Indian communities without a pro rata contribution requirement for non-Native homes and community buildings that receive an incidental benefit; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AFN will urge our congressional delegation to include language in the Federal/IHS budget every year that in communities with

a population under 2000 or in communities with a Native population over 80% then the match is not required.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie E. Kitka'.

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-8

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PREVENTION OF VANDALISM AND DAMAGE TO RURAL AIRPORTS AND RUNWAYS IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally-recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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: Air travel is the only available transportation that provides access to the road system and the rest of the world for many of rural Alaska's Native communities, several months out of each year; and

WHEREAS: Our communities rely on air travel for passenger, medevac, cargo, and mail services; and

WHEREAS: There has been a recent increase of airport vandalism, including vandalism and damage to runway lights and airport equipment; and

WHEREAS: There is unsafe non-aviation activity on runways, including snow-machines, four wheelers, bicycles, and pedestrians, causing damage to runway surfaces and resulting in expensive repairs in a time of limited funding availability; and

WHEREAS: Damage to runways and airports can prevent regularly scheduled flights and medevacs from accessing the airport; and

WHEREAS: Damage to runways and airports may impact a community's ability to access medical care, travel, and receive goods.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN calls for its members to encourage their communities to protect the airports and runways in our communities.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION:

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-9

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE IMMEDIATE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA)
- WHEREAS:** The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) created the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program specifically for the benefit of Alaska Native and American Indian communities to promote the wellbeing of Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA's current authorization expired on September 30, 2013, and there is a strong concern among the Alaska Native community NAHASDA may be viewed as a lesser funding priority because it remains an unauthorized program; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA allocates approximately \$98 million each year to Alaskan Tribes and communities and is the primary vehicle for meeting critical housing needs in Alaska Native villages; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA empowers Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), also known as Regional Housing Authorities, with local decision making which enables the creation of housing programs that are specific to each region or community; and
- WHEREAS:** Private sector housing construction and development in rural Alaska is almost non existent; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the many successes with NAHASDA housing programs, American Indian and Alaska Native housing conditions remain inferior by almost every relevant national metric, and demand for affordable housing remains unmet.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges Congress to act swiftly to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-10

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING CHANGES IN THE ALASKA STATUTES TO MAKE THE CONDUCT INVOLVED IN THE RECENT CASE INVOLVING AN ASSAULT ON A NATIVE WOMAN A SEX OFFENSE AND SUPPORT FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE ALASKA STATUTES REGARDING SEX OFFENSES BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally-recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Justice Center (ANJC) was founded 25 years ago to address inequities in the justice system with regard to Alaska Native people, in particular the lax treatment of cases involving Alaska Native women; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2016, the National Institute of Justice reported that 56.1 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence and 90% experienced sexual violence by a non-Native perpetrator; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2017, the Alaska Department of Public Safety reported that 54 percent of Alaska’s sexual assault victims are Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS:** Amnesty International reported that “the USA is currently failing to act with due diligence to prevent, investigatE and punish sexual violence against Native American and Alaska Native women;” and
- WHEREAS:** The conduct involved in the recent case in which a defendant strangled a Native woman and ejaculated on her, the latter of which is not considered a sex offense under current Alaska law; and
- WHEREAS:** Changes to the Alaska statutes are needed to make the acts involved in the recent case a sex offense; and
- WHEREAS:** The Governor’s Office, the Criminal Justice Commission and the Legislature have indicated their intent to change the law to make these acts a sex offense with a longer sentence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AFN supports a review of the current state of Alaska sex offense statutes by the Criminal Justice Commission and changes to the Alaska Statutes that will make the acts and conduct involved in the recent case a sex offense; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2018 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN supports changes in the law that will make these acts a sex offense; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	ALASKA NATIVE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-11

- TITLE:** CALLING FOR AN OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF THE DISPARATE TREATMENT IN THE ALASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OF CASES INVOLVING ALASKA NATIVE OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 186 federally-recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 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 Justice Center (ANJC) was founded 25 years ago to address inequities in the justice system with regard to Alaska Native people, particularly the lax treatment of cases involving Alaska Native women; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2016, the National Institute of Justice reported that 56.1% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence and 90% experienced sexual violence by a non-Native perpetrator; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2017, the Alaska Department of Public Safety reported that 54% of Alaska’s sexual assault victims are Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS:** Amnesty International reported that “the USA is currently failing to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish sexual violence against Native American and Alaska Native women;” and
- WHEREAS:** Recent and historic cases indicate that Alaska justice system, including the Alaska Department of Public Safety, police agencies across the state, the Alaska Criminal Law Division, and the Alaska Court System, and Office of Victim’s Rights continue to allow cases involving Alaska Native victims to go uninvestigated or under-investigated and either unprosecuted or under-prosecuted; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native victims deserve the same level of attention in the criminal justice system as any other victim, regardless of their socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS: The levels of investigation, charging, bail, and sentencing have shown a disregard for the seriousness of sexual assault and violence against Alaska Native women, regardless of the legal limitations on charging the case as a sex offense; and

WHEREAS: There is no data on investigation, charging, bail, plea bargain and sentencing decisions where the offender is non-Native and the victim is Native; and

WHEREAS: There are demonstrated cases where the focus is strictly on the offender with a complete lack of consideration of the victim; and

WHEREAS: There are serious and significant questions about how the Alaska justice system, including, law enforcement, prosecutors, victims' rights advocates, and judges, assess and prosecute offenses committed by and against Alaska Native offenders and victims, particularly when the offender is non-Native and the victim is Native.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AFN is troubled by the investigation, charging, bail, and sentencing decisions in cases involving Alaska Native offenders and victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN does hereby calls on the Governor's Office to institute an external investigation into law enforcement case referral systems, prosecutorial charging calculations, and sentencing and plea agreement discretion exercised with regard to Native offenders and victims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN does hereby request that the Governor's Office include Alaska Native representatives as a vital component of any such investigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN does hereby call on the Alaska Judicial Council to commence a study of charging and sentencing disparities in cases involving non-Native offenders and Native victims in comparison to Native offenders and non-Native victims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN requests support for victims of crime to adequately respond to the charges involving them, regardless of their socio-economic status or culture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN strongly recommends that all law enforcement personnel in Alaska be required to participate in cultural humility and anti-racist training, that all law enforcement policies be revised to include equitable and effective response to sexual assault, that sexual abuse investigators be hired, and that MOAs be established with Tribes concerning effective response to sexual assault of Alaska Native citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN recommends that the law regarding sex offender registration be amended to extend the requirement to register from the current 15 year requirement to the lifetime of the offender; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	ALASKA NATIVE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-12

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY TO LEAD THE STATE OF ALASKA IN BREAKING THE BARRIER OF SILENCE AROUND CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ASSAULT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally-recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN has included “empowering the next generation by actively supporting and fostering collaboration across generations with opportunities to shape the future of the Native community” in its 2017-2022 Strategic plan. Adults are responsible for the safety of children; and
- WHEREAS:** Starting in 2002, over 300 childhood clergy sex abuse survivors in Alaska came forward. A resolution was presented and passed at AFN in 2005 with that acknowledgement. We know this is connected to our historical trauma and continues to affect our people today. The effects of this abuse has lifelong implications.

WHEREAS: The youth of Tanana, through the Tanana 4 H Club first came forward to the Alaska Federation of Natives in 2013 stating, that from their point of view the amount of sexual assault in communities is not changing and that without support for this issue, there would be no reduction in state-wide rates of suicide and drug and alcohol abuse; and

WHEREAS: In 2017 Alaska Children’s Advocacy Centers served 2,267 children, 47% of those children were Alaska Native, of which 66% were female and 34% male; and

WHEREAS: In 2017, the Alaska Department of Public Safety reported that 54% of Alaska’s sexual assault victims are Alaska Native or American Indian; and

WHEREAS: Response to sexual victimization of children in Alaska Native communities is complicated by significant challenges among them are inadequate tribal resources, limited community dialogue on the issue, victim and family reluctance to report and seek assistance, and difficulty in coordinating responses across tribal, local, state, and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault found that some victims of domestic violence and sexual assault experienced childhood sexual assault and used alcohol and drugs to self-medicate against childhood trauma and are found to be at increased risk of domestic violence, sexual assault, and suicide; and

WHEREAS: The crime of sexual assault against children in Alaska has been allowed to go unchecked for too long and the Alaska Native community must lead breaking the barrier of silence, respect and protect the victims who report, and seek justice while minimizing further trauma to victims; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Department of Justice created a 3% set-aside in the Crime Victims Fund receipts to establish the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program that Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations qualify for; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Children’s Alliance is a membership organization dedicated to helping Alaskan communities respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient – putting the needs of child victims and their families first. The Alaska Children’s Alliance provides training, support, technical assistance and leadership on a statewide level to local Child Advocacy Centers and to communities who wish to develop a multidisciplinary response to reports of child abuse and neglect, and is a useful resource for the Alaska Native Community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2018 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives requests AFN advocate for a dedicated tribal fund set aside from the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 similar to the Tribal Victims Services

Set-Aside Program that would provide funding for tribes and tribal organizations to

- Establish culturally relevant community training on reporting sexual violence in rural Alaska and how to respond to children who come forward;
- Education to communities to prevent alienation of children who report an incident and the associated mental and physical health risks associated with alienation;
- Education to communities to prevent alienation of children who report an incident and the associated mental and physical health risks associated with alienation;
- Mental health support to known predators; and
- Coaching for community leaders on showing trauma-informed awareness and compassion for the children who are victims of sexual assault; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that AFN urges communities and the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety, including the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, work together in partnership with municipalities, tribes, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Crime Victims, the Alaska Children’s Center, the Alaska Children’s Alliance, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault as well as other appropriate organizations to utilize the dedicated fund to establish safe reporting practices and provide for a culture that protects victims; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE KIKIKTAGRUK INUPIAQ CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED



# EDUCATION



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-13

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING TRIBAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUTURE TRIBAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal consortiums; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native and American Indian Tribal governments and the United States Government have chartered 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) to ensure that quality based post-secondary education is culturally grounded and accessible in our 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:** The 1992 Annual Convention of AFN passed an Alaska Native Education Council submitted resolution (92-21) supporting work towards establishing “Tribal College(s) in Alaska that will take into consideration the needs, the mission and vision of Alaska Natives in meeting higher education needs of rural and Alaska Natives”; and
- WHEREAS:** The 1995 Annual Convention of AFN passed an Alaska Native Foundation, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, and Alaska Native College submitted resolution (95-12) supporting “the continuing development of the Alaska Native College and other Tribal Colleges that take into consideration the needs, mission and vision of Alaska Natives in meeting higher education needs in the state;” and

WHEREAS: A strong Tribal post-secondary education system helps support the many previous AFN resolutions supporting language and culture preservation such as the 2009 resolution submitted by Cook Inlet Tribal Council (09-31) which advocates for “the urgent necessity of raising a new generation of Alaska Native people who are strong, know who they are, where they come from, and where they are going, equipped with the education and skills needed for successful and productive lives;” and

WHEREAS: The 2010 Annual Convention of AFN passed a Tanana Chiefs Conference submitted resolution (10-27) encouraging “the University of Alaska, Alaska Pacific University and other institutions of higher education to partner more closely with the Tribes, regional corporations, village corporations, municipalities, and boroughs of Alaska and their Tribal College governing boards, and actively support their effort to become accredited Tribal institutions of higher education;” and

WHEREAS: The Kawerak Elders Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of Kawerak, Inc., representing the 20 Tribal Governments of the Bering Strait Region, has expressed strong interest in the creation of a Tribal College for the Bering Strait Region; and

WHEREAS: Iḷisaḡvik College was founded in 1995 and established as Alaska’s only Tribal college in 2005 based on this need for Indigenous education systems and pedagogies in our Alaska Native and rural communities; and

WHEREAS: There is a commitment from Alaska Pacific University towards this mission, as well as support of Tribal education and Alaska Native and Indigenous studies and programming from the University of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Working together will only result in a stronger Tribal post-secondary education system that benefits all of Alaska and our Alaska Native and rural communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports Tribal post-secondary education, Alaska Native and Indigenous studies programs at the University of Alaska and the establishment of future Tribal colleges, universities and institutions of higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports and recognizes future facilities needs to realize and meet these goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports the establishment of a statewide advocacy organization inclusive of all levels of education for all the Tribes of

Alaska to form an organized voice and participation in the development and implementation of Tribal, Federal and State education regulations, policies, and programs.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:

ILISAĠVIK COLLEGE  
ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY  
KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-14

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF RESTORATION OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION FUNDING FOR ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS
- WHEREAS:** The communities in Alaska have successfully contracted Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) K-8<sup>th</sup> grade programs through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975; and
- WHEREAS:** Our Alaskan communities are reviving the language and culture programs from 1980-1985 in education program equally with the English Language, Mathematics and Science program; and
- WHEREAS:** The Native communities in 1980 finally had the authority to hire and fire its educational staff instead of giving advice to the Bureau of Indian Affairs staff; and
- WHEREAS:** The community schools established an agreement with the State Operated Schools with the meals and gym use; and
- WHEREAS:** The late Senator Ted Stevens cut the funding off in 1985 citing that the State of Alaska has the Constitutional obligation to educate and has enough funding due to all the oil production in the North Slope for generations to come; and
- WHEREAS:** Although we objected to have the funding for the Indigenous children to be cut off from the State of Alaska, citing that the United States of America has the Trust Obligation to educate each indigenous child; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska through legislative action funded the BIA schools in the communities to be renovated to meet the State of Alaska building codes; and
- WHEREAS:** The available data shows that many of our enrolled students rural communities suffer disproportionately low achievement scores, and educational attainment levels, and graduation rates; and
- WHEREAS:** This educational deficit severely damages the communities and the public at large, socially, culturally, and economically. Our communities are at risk, that is why our tribe and the State have an interest in helping our students; and
- WHEREAS:** Prior to the first contact with the white settlers, the Indigenous Peoples had complete control of the education of their citizens. Since the founding of the United States of America, federal law and policy had transferred governance of

Indigenous education, meaning primary and actual authority for formal western education from tribal to federal to state sovereigns; and

WHEREAS: Since the development of BIA Education was defunded in 1985 in Alaska, the control of our schools are under the State of Alaska's authority, without concurrent authority; and

WHEREAS: There is a great need for the Tribes to exercise our Sovereignty over education to improve teaching and learning for our indigenous students in our schools; and

WHEREAS: There is a great need for positive political relationships between federal, state, and tribal governments in Alaska to achieve success and self-image in our schools.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States of America, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Education restore funding for the Indigenous students in Alaska to provide quality education in formal partnerships between the Federal, State and Tribal Governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress, through a restoration Act fulfill their trust obligation to adequately fund each school in Alaska to improve and to be effective once again to make sure each child succeeds in its educational endeavors.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED

# **LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-15

- TITLE:** CALLING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA TO PASS STRICTER REGULATIONS REGARDING CRUISE SHIP AND FOREIGN VESSELS WASTE DISCHARGE WITHIN ALASKAN WATERWAYS AND THAT THE US COAST GUARD ENFORCE ALL LAWS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 185 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 11 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 visitor industry in Alaska, including cruise ship passengers, has grown steadily over the last decade, and that growth is projected to continue in 2019; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2013, Governor Parnell signed a bill relaxing state standards for cruise ship wastewater discharge and yet our laws still remain more restrictive than our Canadian neighbors where no standards exist for grey water and untreated sewages; and
- WHEREAS:** It has been reported in 2017 and 2018 that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation processed coastal water samples which tested positive for fecal waste contamination, exceeding State water quality standards; and
- WHEREAS:** Every year, Alaska Natives subsist on wild animals, fish and plants from the ocean, as they have for thousands of years; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives' traditional lifestyle and subsistence activities constitute a way of being and relating to the world, and thus comprise an essential component of Alaska Native identities and cultures; and
- WHEREAS:** Fecal contaminated coastal water threatens human health and safety by endangering vital subsistence uses of wild and renewable resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Reports on fecal contaminated coastal water threaten the hard-earned reputation of the commercial seafood industry that is crucial to the Alaskan

economy; and

WHEREAS: Fecal contaminated coastal water threatens the pristine beauty and abundance of Alaskan waterways which tourists are drawn to.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN requests the State of Alaska adopt greater restrictions on cruise ships and all foreign vessels' wastewater dumping within Alaskan coastal waterways including banning all discharge in sensitive areas, strengthening inspection and enforcement systems, and to provide funding for independent testing on coastal waters for contaminants;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the State of Alaska call on Canadian governments to harmonize Canadian regulations with Alaska's standards.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-16

- TITLE:** CALLING ON AFN TO WORK WITH THE ALASKA GASLINE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (AGDC) TO ENSURE COOPERATION BETWEEN ALASKA NATIVES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ECONOMIC INTERESTS TO PROVIDE TO AGDC SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO ADVANCE AGDC’S WORK
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (hereinafter “AFN”) is a body of members of full sovereign nations and Alaska’s economic interests; and
- WHEREAS:** The AFN is a distinct entity representing Alaska’s rich ethnic and cultural groups and interests in dealing with critical issues of public policy and government; and
- WHEREAS:** AGDC is developing the Alaska natural gas pipeline and LNG export project “Project” as defined in AS 31.25.005(5) to provide a future economic benefit to the State of Alaska, and the Native community through the commercialization of stranded North Slope gas resources, lower energy costs and meaningful employment opportunities to all Alaskans, and overall improvement in the Alaskan economy; and
- WHEREAS:** AGDC intends to procure, or cause to be procured, services, labor, products, and natural resources from qualified businesses located throughout Alaska, including organizations owned by Alaska Natives, regional corporations, village corporations, tribal organizations and municipal organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** AGDC intends to encourage the hiring of qualified residents from throughout Alaska for management, engineering, construction, operations, maintenance, and other positions for the design, construction and operation of the Alaska natural gas pipeline and LNG Project; and
- WHEREAS:** AGDC intends to seek rights-of-way from Alaska Native land owners which will impact the cultural and traditional practices, and economic development for Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN is informed of the provisions of the SB138 and the articles of the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Alaska’s mandate for the “Alaskans First” provision of the statute, understanding there are many rural communities in the State where it is not economically feasible to transport gas for local use; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN acknowledges the intent behind the creation of AS 37.05.610 by the Alaska State Legislature in forming the Alaska Affordable Energy Fund is to “maximize

the benefit of the people of the State” for those not directly along the project route to apply for future rural energy infrastructure projects in the future; and

WHEREAS: AFN has a deep rich history of members who have advocated for the responsible stewardship of land, natural resources and critical economic issues as it pertains to public policy and collaboration with government entities in order to best highlight capabilities that can be used to advance the Alaska natural gas pipeline and LNG export project; and

WHEREAS: AFN supports AGDC’s effort to develop the Alaska natural gas pipeline and LNG export project and desires to share in the economic benefits of the project through services, employment, and other means as it pertains to Alaska’s economy and the AFN delegation’s interests in promoting the cultural, economic and political voice for the entire Alaska Native community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the continued work of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) to ensure cooperation between Alaska’s First People and AGDC in determining how the greater Alaska Native community’s subject matter expertise, talent capabilities, labor force, and subsidiary or affiliate companies can be used to support the development requirements necessary to advance AGDC’s work and build the Alaska natural gas pipeline and LNG export project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Alaska Federation of Natives encourages AGDC to continue its cooperation and engagement with Alaska Natives and to employ and engage Alaska Native subject matter expertise, talent, capabilities, workforce, and subsidiary or affiliate companies to advance AGDC’s work and build the Alaska natural gas pipeline and LNG export project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Alaska Federation of Natives encourages AGDC to continue its cooperation and engagement with Alaska Native landowners and tribes, to provide fair and equitable compensation for the use of their lands, to protect encumbered lands from trespass, and to restore any impacted lands to their natural state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN calls for the provisions of the five off-takes for Alaska energy, and for the use of Alaskans as provided for in the development of the Alaska Stand-Alone Pipeline (ASAP project) also be provided for in the development of the AGDC ADLNG project, and that AGDC works with landowners and tribes to assist in identifying placement of the oftakes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN with advocate for ANC and tribal participation in the development of regulations which would manage the Alaska Affordable Energy Fund, to ensure rural Alaskans and tribal communities benefit equitably from the Alaska gas line.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie E. Kitka".

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION COOK INLET REGION, INC. DOYON, LIMITED AHTNA, INC.
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-17

- TITLE:** CALLING FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON LANDS IN WHICH THE MILITARY HAS LEFT OR ABANDONED DEBRIS, INFRASTRUCTURE, OTHER WASTE AND CONTAMINATION THROUGHOUT RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 185 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community and AFN passed Resolution 15-23 Holding the Department of Defense and State and federal regulatory agencies and requesting the responsible, accountable, and long overdue clean up of formerly and currently used defense sites in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** the U.S. military over a period of decades has left infrastructure, debris, and hazardous wastes and contamination, such as including PCBs, lead, asbestos, pesticides, heavy metals, solvents, massive fuel spills, chemical warfare

materials, and radioactive waste, that still contaminates large areas of Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) and tribal lands; and

WHEREAS: Most of these sites have not been properly characterized as to the full nature and extent of contamination and effects on the health of fish, wildlife, and people and;

WHEREAS: Prescribed methods such as monitored natural attenuation are not acceptable or protective of our health and environment as they allow contamination to remain in place for decades to come. Other remediation methods are not proven to be effective for Northern and Arctic environments. Sites are often prematurely closed without proper oversight and Tribes are not party to the record of decisions; and

WHEREAS: Federal Agency reports to Congress in 2015, over 45 years following the signing of ANCSA, identified a minimum of 537 contaminated sites on ANC lands still in need of remediation and reclamation; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act details dedicated funds for the various branches of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense, specific to environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, and removal of unsafe buildings and debris incurred by Potential Responsible Parties; and

WHEREAS: The remnants and contaminants the military left behind above ground and buried underground in rural Alaska are a threat to the health, safety and welfare of nearby communities, potentially violating environmental laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS: Elders and other community leaders have shared their profound concerns and witnessed unusual cancers, thyroid problems, miscarriages, and other health disparities that they attribute to military contamination; and

WHEREAS: Some of the armed forces have agreed to test and remediate lands and water sources with ANCs and Tribal Governments, much of the testing and remediation work has not commenced or been completed to date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that, the U.S. Department of Defense require its armed forces to conduct soil, water, and other contaminant testing, to determine a plan of action with the necessary ANCs and Tribes; and, that the Department of Defense conduct meetings with ANCs and Tribes to determine the best course of action to address the materials and contamination left behind by the military in Alaska, including discussions on remediation or possible land

transfers or swaps for other ANCSA lands, based on the affected ANCs or Tribal needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must require full government-to-government participation with Tribes and that Tribes must be parties to the records of decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN calls upon the Congress, U.S. Department of Defense, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the State Department, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure swift and responsible cleanup of formerly and currently used defense sites in Alaska in order to protect the lands, waters, subsistence resources, and the health of Alaska Native peoples, all Alaskans, including future generations; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	UKPEAĠVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-18

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE UNIQUE NATURE OF ALASKA LANDS AND THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF WETLANDS ON ALASKA NATIVE-OWNED LANDS.
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 185 federally-recognized tribes, 153 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 fundamentally different from the rest of the United States geographically, ecologically, and hydrologically; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska includes approximately 63% of the nation's wetland ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS:** The Clean Water Act requires that development of wetland ecosystems require permitting under Section 404 the Clean Water Act; and
- WHEREAS:** Wetlands cover what is commonly estimated to be up to 50% of Alaska lands, while only covering 5% of the continental United States' land, resulting in a disproportionate impact on Alaskan landowners for compliance with Clean Water Act requirements; and
- WHEREAS:** Through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Alaska Native corporations were transferred and became private landowners of 46 million acres of land, much of which is considered wetlands under the Clean Water Act; and
- WHEREAS:** under the Clean Water Act, the federal government has a goal of "no net loss" of wetlands, which requires mitigation and compensation measures for many projects in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** in June 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) providing new, flexible guidance for implementing Section 404 permits in Alaska to account for Alaska's abundance of wetlands and its unique circumstances; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native landowners have the right to decide how to manage and preserve their lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN acknowledges the federal government is working toward a solution amenable to Alaska Native landowners, as evidenced by the June 2018 wetland mitigation MOA between the Army Corps and EPA, and urges preservation of Alaska Native self-determination as it relates to Alaska wetlands; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	OLGOONIK CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-19

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO CONTINUE ALLOWING ALASKA TRIBES TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST AND TO USE THE PROCEDURES OF THE ALASKA INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT
- WHEREAS:** On July 2, 2018 the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda, acting as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, sent companion "Tribal Leader" letters to Alaska tribes which 1) revoked a prior Solicitor's Opinion from January 2017 which had confirmed that Alaska tribes can take land into trust on the same basis as Lower 48 tribes; 2) asked whether sections of the Alaska Indian Reorganization Act of 1936 (the "Alaska IRA") that historically were used as an alternative for Alaska tribes to achieve federal recognition are "still relevant;" and 3) opened lengthy consultation periods on both issues that run through December 20, 2018; and
- WHEREAS:** The immediate effect of the letters was to stop implementation of land into trust in Alaska and to stop indefinitely any petitions for reorganization under the Alaska IRA, although in practice the BIA has not processed the latter for many years; and
- WHEREAS:** The letter regarding land-into-trust is disingenuous because it fails to mention that the Department of the Interior lost a federal lawsuit in 2013 over its previous failure to take land into trust in Alaska and because it falsely says the 2017 Solicitor's Opinion it revoked (the "M-Opinion") did not "fully discuss" the implication of legislation enacted after the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; and
- WHEREAS:** In fact the M-Opinion was extensively researched and cited prior legal opinions that specifically addressed the topics the July 2 letter claimed were not addressed, and it was supported by an extensive consultation process as well; and
- WHEREAS:** The letter regarding the Alaska IRA is mystifying because it seems to pre-suppose the BIA can simply disregard statutory law it concludes is too old or "no longer relevant;" and
- WHEREAS:** There has been little activity under either provision; tribes must own land before they can put it into trust and to date only one small parcel on Prince of

Wales Island has been taken into trust, and there are only two pending IRA applications, both of which have been pending without BIA action for many years; and

WHEREAS: One of the proposed IRA constitutions is from Knugnak Village in Olsonville, now within the municipality of Dillingham (application pending for 17 years); the other is the Quteckak Native Tribe in Seward (application pending for 25 years).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the Department of the Interior to immediately reinstate the prior 2017 "M-Opinion" and resume processing any land-into-trust applications that come forward; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution that it urges the Department of the Interior to immediately implement existing statutory law and process the long-pending and future IRA application.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-20

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE PHASE OUT OF HEAVY FUEL OIL IN ARCTIC SHIPPING
- WHEREAS:** Bristol Bay and the Alaska Peninsula are celebrated for their pristine quality, bountiful fisheries, and exceptional ecological diversity; and
- WHEREAS:** Villages in the region have a deep cultural reliance on the harvesting and sharing of marine resources for subsistence. Alaska Native peoples benefited from these waters for thousands of years. Traditional practices tie families together through knowledge sharing from one generation to the next; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bering Sea forms one of the most productive high-latitude seas, sustaining traditional communities, and a world-class commercial seafood industry. All told, the marine ecosystem support more than 450 species of fish, crustaceans, and mollusks, including red king crab, Tanner crab, Pacific halibut, herring, Pollock, Pacific cod, flatfish, sablefish, and all five species of salmon. These fish depend on a healthy population of plankton and other lower-trophic level species for food, including at the sea-surface; and
- WHEREAS:** Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea hosts a diversity of marine mammal species, including Pacific Walrus, spotted and harbor seals, and sixteen whale species. Numerous marine mammal species utilize icepacks between Bristol Bay and the Arctic for resting, rearing, and feeding, and migration. Pacific walrus males aggregate and haul out on islands and capes in Bristol Bay, traveling from the Arctic. Many species of seals haul out on beaches to molt; and
- WHEREAS:** The protection of the world-renowned wildlife in Bristol Bay and the Arctic, including fisheries and marine mammals, and the ecosystem which sustains them, is in the highest public interest; and
- WHEREAS:** Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) is one of the dirtiest fuels on Earth, is created from the leftovers of crude oil that has been stripped of its lighter components, and is the most common fuel used by the international shipping industry; and
- WHEREAS:** Due to climate change, there is projected to be increased large vessel traffic in the Arctic and Bering Sea; and
- WHEREAS:** HFO related spills have been known to occur around the world. Most recently, there have been HFO accidents in the North Sea, Sea of Japan and off Kodiak Island in 2017 and 2018. An HFO spill would be very damaging

to the marine environment, particularly in the cold waters of the Arctic and Bering Sea; and

WHEREAS: Compared to other marine fuels, HFO produces much higher emissions of harmful air pollutants, including sulphur oxide, nitrogen oxide, and particulate matter such as black carbon (soot), and that these emissions pose a substantial risk to life; and

WHEREAS: A HFO spill in the Arctic and Bering Sea would harm subsistence resources, threatening food security, cultural practices, and local economies; and

WHEREAS: HFO has been banned for vessels operating in Antarctic waters since 2011, and the International Maritime Organization has begun discussions in April 2018 on a ban on HFO in the Arctic. The Inuit Circumpolar Council called for a phase out on HFO in the Arctic in their Utqiagvik Declaration of July 2018, and the Government of Greenland expressed support for an HFO ban in September 2018.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN strongly supports a phase out on the use and carriage as fuel of heavy fuel oil in Arctic and Bering Sea waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges other stakeholders and decision-makers to work together to strongly urge the international community to develop a phase out on the use and carriage of HFO in the Arctic as quickly as possible; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED

# ECONOMIC



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-22

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO USE A PRUDENT MIX OF REVENUE SOURCES TO BALANCE THE STATE BUDGET WITHOUT MAJOR CUTS TO STATE SERVICES OR FURTHER REDUCTIONS TO THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska fiscal situation remains dire because of declining oil revenues, the failure to expand alternative revenue sources, and the depletion of state savings reserves; and
- WHEREAS:** Oil revenues provided an average of 84% of unrestricted state revenues from 1980 to 2015, but by 2017 had fallen to less than \$1 billion annually while the state budget (including Permanent Fund Dividends) is in excess of \$6 billion; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska's budget has exceeded its revenues each year since FY 2013, and the budget gap has been made up primarily by dipping into state savings, the Constitutional Budget Reserve; and
- WHEREAS:** The Constitutional Budget Reserve is down to less than \$2 billion and is not a long term solution for balancing the budget in future years; and
- WHEREAS:** If budget deficits continue and the Constitutional Budget Reserve is exhausted, the Alaska State Legislature may turn to liquidating the \$1 billion Power Cost Equalization Endowment Fund, devastating the sustainability of scores of rural communities in the state; and
- WHEREAS:** The Legislature has already significantly cut the budgets of most state agencies and slashed the capital budget, and further cuts will negatively impact critical public services, particularly in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** For the FY 2019 budget, for the first time the Legislature used earnings from the Permanent Fund to balance the state budget, using about \$1.7 billion for that purpose, while setting the Permanent Fund Dividend amount at \$1,600 per person costing about \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS: According to the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, as of June 30, 2018 the permanent fund had assets of \$64.9 billion and had experienced a 5-year rate of return of 8.91%, while the Permanent Fund's portfolio advisors forecast a 6.5% rate of return over the next 10 years; such earnings strongly suggest that withdrawals from the Permanent Fund at the rate that occurred in FY 2019 are sustainable; and

WHEREAS: AFN believes that using earnings of permanent fund for state government operations is reasonable and fully consistent with the original intent of the permanent fund; and

WHEREAS: The Permanent Fund Dividend program is also critically important to rural Alaska families and should be protected.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature, for FY 2020 and subsequent years, to avoid major cuts to state services, including existing rural Alaska services and programs, and to ensure the longevity of the permanent fund dividend for future generations, and to balance the budget by using a prudent mix of permanent fund earnings and new revenues.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED

# **ANCSA/TRIBAL**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-23

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TERMINATION, AND SUPPORTING CONTINUATION, OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS' CERTIFICATE OF DEGREE OF INDIAN BLOOD PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has been issuing Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) to Alaska Natives and American Indians since the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act enrollment process was completed; and
- WHEREAS:** A CDIB certifies an individual is of Alaska Native and/or American Indian descent; and
- WHEREAS:** Such certification is required for numerous federal-based assistance programs, including healthcare, housing, education, and subsistence activities; and
- WHEREAS:** In Alaska, a significant number of Alaska Natives and American Indians are not enrolled to a tribe and thus do not have other options to obtain a CDIB; and
- WHEREAS:** The CDIBs have long been considered an alternative form of proof of eligibility for programs serving Alaska Natives, and are still sometimes used in determining eligibility for tribal membership; and
- WHEREAS:** On September 12, 2018 Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., the Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") in Alaska, sent a "Tribal Leader" letter to Alaska tribes to the effect that the BIA is considering terminating its Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood ("CDIB) program, and soliciting input from the tribes on this issue; and
- WHEREAS:** The funding for the CDIB office was never considered 100% "inherently federal" and is subject to a tribal shares determination; and
- WHEREAS:** When Self-Governance Compacts were first negotiated in the 1990s, Compacting organizations intentionally left our tribal share of the CDIB office at the BIA so that it could continue providing this service at the statewide level, and the BIA should honor those commitments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN encourages the BIA to continue issuing CDIBs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED t if the BIA closes or reduces the size of CDIB operations, the funding saved should be allocated to the tribes and tribal consortia on a tribal share basis; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION, EYAK CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTIONS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-24

- TITLE:** REQUESTING INCREASED AND STEADY FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE LAND CONVEYANCES REQUIRED BY THE ALASKA NATIVE ALLOTMENT ACT, THE ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT, AND THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the Secretary of the Interior’s designated survey and land transfer agent; and
- WHEREAS:** The BLM’s Alaska Land Transfer program administers the transfer of lands under the Alaska Native Allotment Act, the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA); and
- WHEREAS:** The Native Allotment Act, the Alaska Statehood Act, and ANCSA require the Federal government to convey more than 150 million acres of land to state and private ownership; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (ALTAA) was enacted in 2004 to finalize the conveyance of those lands; and
- WHEREAS:** The ALTAA provides that the conveyances were to be completed by 2009; and
- WHEREAS:** The ALTAA authorizes “to be appropriated such funds as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act;” and
- WHEREAS:** The BLM is required to convey and/or patent more than 8 million additional acres of land to complete its obligation under ANCSA; and
- WHEREAS:** The BLM is required to convey and/or patent more than 38 million additional acres of land to complete its obligation under the Alaska Statehood Act; and
- WHEREAS:** The BLM has 260 Native Allotment Applications pending adjudication under the Native Allotment Act; and
- WHEREAS:** Without an increase and steady funding, it is estimated that it will take an additional 50 years to complete the required land transfers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the delegates to the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN supports prioritized increased and steady funding, in FY 2019 and subsequent years to complete the conveyances required by the Native Allotment Act, the Alaska Statehood Act, and ANCSA; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	EYAK CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-25

- TITLE:** MAKE PERMANENT THE GOVERNOR’S TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (GTAC)
- WHEREAS:** Alaska has the largest proportion of Native people of any state; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native interests need to be considered at a statewide policy level; and
- WHEREAS:** The Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council (GTAC) provides a mechanism to engage Alaska Native communities on matters of significance (e.g., policy matters, socio-economic, subsistence, etc.); and
- WHEREAS:** The Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council (GTAC) has been established and has been working effectively with numerous state agencies that address significant policy issues for the state and Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The current Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council was established by Executive Order and would require a bill to be passed by the Alaska State Legislature to establish it as a permanent forum.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature and Governor of Alaska to permanently establish the Governor’s Tribal Advisory Council (GTAC); and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AFN urges the Governor and State Legislature to consult with Tribal leaders to define roles, responsibilities, and regional representation of the GTAC; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AFN urges the Governor and State Legislature to retain the Governor’s authority to appoint Tribal representatives from across the state to the GTAC; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AFN calls for the expansion of GTAC to a twelve-member body that is representative of the entire state of Alaska’s Native peoples; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:

KONIAG

COMMITTEE ACTION:

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-26

- TITLE:** SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW LEGISLATION THAT STRENGTHENS PUBLIC LAW 102-477 PROGRAMMING BY EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND TYPES OF FUNDING IN AN INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally-recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992, as amended by the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017, has proven to be an exceptional success in making existing federal programming more effective in meeting the employment, training, education and welfare reform needs of Tribes and Tribal Organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** This workforce initiative substantially reduces the administrative cost and time to manage integrated programs, promotes efficiency, and expands ability to provide services; and
- WHEREAS:** This workforce initiative promotes increasing the cooperation and coordination of federal agencies with regard to Tribes and Tribal Organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** This workforce initiative fully embodies the concepts of Tribal Self-Governance and Self-Determination found in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and
- WHEREAS:** 65 contractors and compactors, representing 264 Tribes and Tribal Organizations, have successfully adopted this mechanism in the administration of Tribal employment, training, education and welfare reform programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations run 17 of the 61 programs and include 217 of the 264 Tribes and Tribal Organizations in the P.L. 102-477 program; and

- WHEREAS: The P.L. 102-477 program received one of the highest Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) rating in the Department of the Interior Indian Affairs by the Office of Management and Budget; and
- WHEREAS: Despite the record of Tribal success with P.L. 102-477, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has historically and continues to resist, without appropriate Tribal consultation, to fully participate in the P.L. 102-477 Initiative as amended in 2017, including postponing adding new programs to existing plans or starting new plans; and
- WHEREAS: Tribes and Tribal Organizations have been forced to withdraw their proposed P.L. 102-477 plans because DHHS denies or significantly delays approval to the detriment of Tribal employment and training programs; and
- WHEREAS: Congress passed, and the President signed, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017, which expanded the number of federal departments from four to twelve, streamlined and clarified the approval process, and expanded the types of funding including competitive and discretionary funding for which Tribes qualify because they are Native programs to be included in these consolidated plans to fully realize the potential of this important tool for Self-Determination; and
- WHEREAS: The Department of Education is an identified federal partner according to the law, but has not entered into agreements as required by the law; and
- WHEREAS: The attempts by federal agencies to undermine the intent of the new legislation, and the will of Congress, damages Indian Self-Governance and Self-Determination, the P.L. 102-477 demonstration project and the concept of Tribal program integration; and
- WHEREAS: P.L. 102-477, as amended, provides a better return on investment, as funds spent through a P.L. 102-477 Plan have a higher rate of successfully resulting in employment and are spent more efficiently to provide a broader breadth of services; and
- WHEREAS: P.L. 102-477, as amended, reduces the administrative burdens associated with monitoring tribal programs by encouraging cooperation between agencies and reducing duplicative reporting; and
- WHEREAS: P.L. 102-477, as amended, requires detailed reporting under the parameters laid out in P.L. 102-477 and the tribe's P.L. 102-477 Plan, which means each integrated program receives major program review and auditing more often; and
- WHEREAS: P.L. 102-477, as amended, minimizes rigid bureaucratic barriers to success by providing explicit statutory authority to waive impractical statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirements associated with each program integrated into a P.L. 102-477 Plan; and

WHEREAS: P.L. 102-477, as amended, maintains upfront control for agencies operating programs a tribe requests to integrate into a P.L. 102-477 Plan by permitting such agencies to approve the tribe's participation in the program in the first place, approve any waiver requests associated with the P.L. 102-477 Plan, and consult with Interior on overall approval of the P.L. 102-477 Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AFN does hereby strongly urge the Trump Administration to fully implement the new legislation, including ordering the DHHS, DOE, and other federal agencies to agree to and sign the MOU that fully embraces the letter and intent of the new legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN supports the legislative amendments of the P.L. 102-477, which expands the number of departments from four to twelve, expands the types of funding to include any funding for which tribes and tribal organizations are "eligible solely or in part due to their status as tribes" including competitive and discretionary funding and makes clear that programs to be included in the plan are at the discretion of the tribe or tribal organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2018 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN requests that the White House support the greatest flexibility possible in implementing the new law; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED

**OTHER**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-27

- TITLE:** ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 ANCSA village corporations, 12 ANCSA regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal consortiums; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native Community; and
- WHEREAS:** The 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress passed Public Law 103-384, "Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994;" and
- WHEREAS:** The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) has been charged by Congress when to establish a National Native American Veterans' Memorial on its soil to give "all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States;" and
- WHEREAS:** Native Americans, including the Alaska Natives, serve and have served in the U.S. Armed Forces in every major military conflict since the Revolutionary War and in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native peoples contributed to the defense of American soil in Alaska during World War II by volunteering to serve in the Alaska Territorial Guard that was established in 1942.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) that AFN endorses and supports the design and construction of the National Native American Veterans Memorial on NMAI site.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: WAYNE DON, BOARD CHAIR, NIMA CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-28

- 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 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 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 culture, 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 over 105,516 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 25,064 Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** ALSC has been a strong ally of the Alaska Native community for over 50 years. The majority of ALSC's clients are Alaska Native as is its governing board; and
- WHEREAS:** Several regional nonprofits including Bristol Bay Native Association, the 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, Kotzebue and Nome; 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 Orutsarmiut 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 only a fraction of what it was 34 years ago; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for fiscal year (FY) 2019, approved by Governor Walker, in the amount of \$450,000, 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 7,380 people living in over 185 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 2018 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 2020 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.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:

COOK INLET REGION, INC

COMMITTEE ACTION:

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-29

- TITLE:** URGING THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF CENSUS BUREAU DATA COLLECTIONS IN ALASKA THROUGH SUFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, FUNDING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPLETE COUNT COMMISSION FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 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:** United States Census Bureau data collections are fundamental to our country's democratic process because they are used to determine apportionment in the U.S. House of Representatives, redraw state legislative boundaries, and redraw the political subdivisions of local governments; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal government allocates over \$675 billion annually based upon Census Bureau data, including more than \$3.2 billion within Alaska each year, providing critical funding to build and repair roads and bridges, operate our healthcare and education systems, provide nutrition assistance to low-income children and families, develop and operate affordable housing, support our foster care system, and much more; and
- WHEREAS:** Census Bureau data is used to enforce state and federal laws, including civil rights laws, voting rights requirements, and the obligation of financial institutions to serve minority populations; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes, governments, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and universities use Census Bureau data in their planning efforts and to develop critical public policy recommendations; and
- WHEREAS:** Underfunding Census Bureau data collections significantly increases the risk that Alaskans, and especially Alaska Natives, will go uncounted and jeopardizes the accuracy of Census Bureau data collections, including the 2020 Decennial Census and the annual American Community Survey; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan communities, particularly those with a high proportion of Alaska Natives, are among the most difficult in the nation to count accurately due to challenges such as geographical location and language barriers; and

WHEREAS: Tribal governments will lose federal funding for each Alaska Native person who goes uncounted in the 2020 Census both from funding that is a direct result of the Census data and from secondary sources that utilize the data for formula disbursements; and

WHEREAS: The additional consequences of undercounting Alaska Native persons include: inequitable redistricting, decreased federal funding that exacerbates Alaska's fiscal situation, reductions in essential services like infrastructure repairs, decreased funding for education and programs that make up Alaska's social safety net, improper enforcement of laws that protect vulnerable populations, and less accurate data available to tribes and tribal organizations to effectively plan for the future; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Census Bureau requires an appropriation of no less than \$4.735 billion for FY 2019 in order to properly administer its various programs and to implement new, more efficient information technology systems and data collection methods that will reduce the risk of an undercount in Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS: Sufficient federal appropriations will allow the U.S. Census Bureau to increase its capacity and improve response rates, especially among hard-to-count populations, by hiring more partnership staff and increasing the number of Area Census Offices; and

WHEREAS: Insufficient federal appropriations for Census Bureau data collections will require personnel from multiple state agencies, particularly the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, to engage directly with the U.S. Census Bureau on a frequent and ongoing basis to evaluate and recommend strategies to enhance the accuracy of Census Bureau data collections in Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN recognizes the critical importance of accurate U.S. Census Bureau data to all Alaskans, as well as the unique challenges of Census data collection in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the United States Congress to appropriate sufficient federal resources to maintain or improve the accuracy of Census Bureau data collections in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Legislature to prioritize the allocation of state resources to the departments and agencies responsible for coordinating with the U.S. Census Bureau in order to enhance the accuracy of Census Bureau data for Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the Governor to establish a State Complete Count Commission in Alaska to improve stakeholder engagement and coordination and to encourage statewide participation in the 2020 Census; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:

COMMITTEE ACTION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION

PASSED

# **ELDERS & YOUTH**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-30

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION MANDATING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP AND REQUIRE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND REGIONALLY SPECIFIC ALASKA HISTORY STUDIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Students in Alaska currently are deprived of indigenous cultures and language in their regions; and
- WHEREAS:** Students in Alaska currently aren't encouraged enough to find value in their culture and traditional ways of life; and
- WHEREAS:** Teachers often times come to Alaska and are placed in classrooms to teach Alaska history without prior knowledge or proper training in Alaska's diverse history; and
- WHEREAS:** Prejudice against Alaska Natives is exacerbated by a lack of accurate education about Alaska Native cultures; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native students often times believe there are more services and programs for ethnic groups that come into Alaska versus the indigenous population of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** If school districts were required to develop place based accurate curriculum that included input from local elders and tribal organizations, students in Alaska could learn more about their culture and embrace their traditional ways of life; and
- WHEREAS:** Indigenous students throughout Alaska have expressed dissatisfaction with the current way their own cultures are taught, and have expressed a desire/demanded that their education better represent their cultures within their regions and across the state.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., urge the Alaska State Board of Education to mandate that local school districts require ½ a semester of Alaska history from the indigenous perspective and ½ of a semester of region specific history and government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Board of Education mandates that teachers require Alaska Native history and culture training prior to teaching any classes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local school districts are required to develop this curriculum through input from local elders, tribal/Native organizations, and youth; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that local school districts encourage Type M certified local instructors to teach region specific and Alaska history classes.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-31

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO STAND TOGETHER AGAINST E-CIGARETTES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; and

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

WHEREAS: Not much is known about vaporizing (vaping) and its health implications; and

WHEREAS: Many teens struggle with vaping; and

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

WHEREAS: Some vapes are the equivalent of 30 cigarettes.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we call for restrictions on e-cigarettes and more education on the importance of vaping; and

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: 2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

COMMITTEE ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION  
PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-32

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEW ILISAGVIK COLLEGE CAMPUS PROJECT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; and

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

WHEREAS: We acknowledge that Iḷisaḡvik College (“the College”) has provided post-secondary academic, vocational and technical education aimed at meeting the workplace needs since 1986; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS: Having a new campus closer to town will be beneficial for students to access

community resources and the college will be built to accommodate more students from across Alaska; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., support Iḷisaḡvik College on the New Iḷisaḡvik College Campus Project. This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-33

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

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; and

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

WHEREAS: Eating more traditional foods and less western foods (salt, sugar, flour, fast foods) is best for mental health; and

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

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

WHEREAS: What we put into our bodies will reflect to the world.

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

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:

2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

COMMITTEE ACTION:

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-34

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

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; and

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

**WHEREAS:** It is the responsibility of the Anchorage School District's Title VII Indian Education Native Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Anchorage School District (ASD) regarding modifications, reforms, or development of elementary and secondary school programs, services, policy or other efforts that serve Alaska Native and American Indian students; and

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

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

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

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

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

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that all school districts in Alaska write policies

and/or administrative regulations for graduation attire that includes allowing for Alaska Native and American Indian students to wear traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie E. Kitka'.

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-35

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, TRIBES, AND CORPORATIONS TO EMBRACE AND RESPECT ELDERS BY ENGAGING THEM IN ACTIVITIES, FORUMS, AND IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY WHERE THEY CAN SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Elders are and need to continue to be upheld, respected, and engaged because of their role as transmitters of knowledge to the next generation and as authority figures who support their communities by guiding decisions and behavior while anchored in traditional values; and
- WHEREAS:** Elders have knowledge valuable to many matters pertaining to the health, well-being, and functioning of communities including, but not limited to language, subsistence, supporting public safety, addressing conflict, and other experiences that will help youth, adults, and communities to be stronger; and
- WHEREAS:** Organizations can consider different mechanisms to engage Elders in their traditional role such as official advisors to Boards or Councils, offering advice to professionals engaged in public safety and search and rescue, scholars providing guidance on perpetuation and continuation of language and culture; and
- WHEREAS:** Inclusion of Elders in this role is a modern adaptation of how communities can respect, uphold, and engage Elders; and
- WHEREAS:** Engaging Elders in activities, forums, and in an advisory capacity to organizations to share their wisdom and knowledge will strengthen Alaska Native communities and help develop leadership in the next generation.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the participants of the Delegates of the 2018 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., to encourage Alaska Native Communities, Organizations, Tribes, and Corporations to engage Elders in the many ways they can use their wisdom and knowledge.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:

COMMITTEE ACTION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION

PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-36

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION FROM ALASKA NATIVE ELDERNS AND YOUTH URGING ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2015, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) EpiCenter reported that 11.6% of Alaska Native high school students reported binge drinking; and
- WHEREAS:** The ANTHC EpiCenter reported that in 2015 13.2% Alaska Native high school students reported abusing prescription drugs; and
- WHEREAS:** From 2010 to 2014, one in five Alaska Natives aged 18 and older reported binge drinking; and
- WHEREAS:** Substance abuse results in long-lasting negative physical, mental, and emotional effects including but not limited to increased risk of illness and infection, heart, lung, and brain damage, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, unintentional pregnancies, and is a contributor to adverse childhood experiences which impact the long-term health of individuals; and
- WHEREAS:** Pregnant women under the influence of drugs or alcohol increase the risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; and
- WHEREAS:** The leading cause of birth defects and mental retardation is the use of substances by women who are pregnant; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribal Health organizations are equipped to educate members of the Alaska Native community about the risk factors of substance abuse at any age to the physical and mental health of individuals and families, and the impacts substance abuse has on community; and

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

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives adopted resolution 15-12 A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS IN RURAL ALASKA and there is a sense of urgency in rural Alaska to establish these treatment centers.

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

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 18-37

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL SUICIDE PREVENTION SOLUTIONS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and Tribal Consortiums; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native communities experience suicide mortality at a rate of 40.9 deaths per 100,000 population and is the fourth leading cause of death for Alaska Natives as reported in the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Statewide Data: Suicide Mortality updated on February 2, 2017; and
- WHEREAS:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2011 that Alaska Native and American Indian people experience the highest rates of suicide of all racial and ethnic groups; and
- WHEREAS:** The statewide suicide rate for Alaska Native people has decreased by 11.9 percent according to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium data, but the rate of suicide is still the highest in the nation and requires urgent attention to build resilience to prevent suicide; and
- WHEREAS:** The causes of suicide can vary and include, but are not limited to feelings of shame, bullying, cyber-bullying, little to no access to opportunities, class inequity, despair, mental health challenges, sexual assault, substance abuse, etc.; and
- WHEREAS:** People affected by these factors and causes need support access to resources that can increase their resilience before becoming suicidal; and
- WHEREAS:** Individuals can make a difference by taking action to support people at risk by addressing bullying, not shaming people when they make a mistake, role modeling appropriate behavior, embracing sharing with people who may have less or need assistance, and many other ways; and

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

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

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

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



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY:	2018 ELDERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	RECOMMEND SEND TO CONVENTION FOR CONSIDERATION
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED