



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
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President's Weekly Update 1.14.21

Wáasá iyatee, Gasing.uu dang Giidang! I hope this message finds you well. Last week I rolled out my first weekly update, and I'm excited to share this week's update. Again, this is just a glimpse into work that Tlingit & Haida has going on. To stay up to date on our work, events, and programs, make sure to follow us on Facebook! I hope you have a great & safe weekend. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Community & Behavioral Services Division

Our communities have experienced tremendous loss over the last two years. There has been a gap in behavioral health services in our region which has only been compounded by the growing opioid epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic. Our communities have not been able to grieve together like we need and our people have been struggling with the isolation caused by the ongoing pandemic. Tlingit & Haida has made it a priority to address this issue for our tribal citizens by establishing a Community & Behavioral Services Division. Dr. Tina Woods has been leading this effort and is a licensed Clinical Psychologist with a Ph.D. in Clinical-Community Psychology. Through her and her team's hard work, Tlingit & Haida has been expanding programming around prevention, treatment, and recovery and providing direct clinical care to tribal citizens. The new division now has five licensed clinicians and four behavioral health aides to provide support to tribal citizens and their families. Visit our Community & Behavioral Services Healing Center website for more information on services available: <https://cbs.ccthita-nsn.gov>.

Rescue Small Business Relief Program

Our Rescue Small Business Relief program closed out the first round of small business support on December 31st. The program provided grant funding to 376 tribal citizen small business owners which is a 133% increase from our 2020 CARES Small Business Grant program. Over \$1.42 million in funding was distributed to tribal citizen small businesses in Alaska and the Lower 48 (22 states). There is not a single business sector that hasn't been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we are committed to helping our tribal citizens come out stronger on the other side. The Rescue Small Business Relief program is expected to reopen in February. An official announcement will be made soon.

Southeast Alaska Tribal Fish & Game Advisory Board

On December 17, 2021, Tlingit & Haida's Executive Council adopted resolution [EC 21-71, Formation of the Southeast Alaska Tribal Fish & Game Advisory Board](#). For far too long, decisions have been made on fish and game policies without our people having a seat at the table. Tlingit & Haida has committed staff and resources to convene Southeast Alaska tribal leaders to address fish and game issues impacting our region. A Southeast Alaska Tribal Fish & Game Advisory Board will allow Southeast Alaska tribes to unify and amplify their voices regarding our ways of life and facilitate the coordination of large-scale projects across the region. Tlingit & Haida will work with Southeast Alaska tribal leadership to designate a representative from each community to sit on the advisory board. Preserving and protecting our ways of

life is vital to our continued existence. Practicing our way of life is sovereignty - utilizing thousands of years of ancestral knowledge and stewarding the resources so that generations have access. The U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture are hosting two tribal consultations on Federal subsistence policy ([see notice](#)) on January 20th and 21st. I encourage all tribal leaders to submit comments before the deadline of February 15, 2022.