



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
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President's Weekly Update 2.4.21

White House Engagement

I have had the distinct honor of engaging with the Biden Administration on several occasions. More recently, I was asked to sit in on a roundtable discussion on the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Last week, White House Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator Mitch Landrieu and other White House officials hosted the virtual roundtables with tribal leaders to discuss how the Administration will deliver for tribal communities and build a better America by implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Landrieu also joined Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland in a series of tribal consultations at the Department of the Interior to receive input and recommendations from tribal leaders on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. I used this opportunity to push for respect for tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Our tribes know what is best for our communities and I underscored this in my comments during the tribal consultation. I also emphasized the need for basic access to safe and reliable transportation, with specific mention of the Alaska Marine Highway System, reliable high-speed internet in our communities and investment in broadband projects. For a briefing from the White House on this meeting, [click here](#).

The White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNA) hosted the first session for tribal leaders to provide comments to two of the WHCNA's committees and engage with high-level federal officials from several federal agencies. The first half of the session focused on the implementation of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) with the WHCNA Committee on Economic Development, Energy and Infrastructure. During the second half of the engagement session, the WHCNA Committee on Public Safety and Justice focused on the implementation of the [Executive Order](#) on improving public safety and criminal justice for Native Americans and addressing the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people.

Rescue Small Business Relief Program

Today Tlingit & Haida relaunched the Rescue Small Business Relief program to provide another round of critical relief to eligible tribal citizen small business owners who have been economically impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. The direct relief assistance program is funded under the Tribe's American Rescue Plan Act funds and provides up to \$5,000 in relief assistance.

In 2021, the Rescue Small Business Relief program provided relief assistance to more than 440 small businesses, which infused more than \$2.1 million into communities where tribal citizens own and operate small businesses.

All tribal citizens who are U.S. citizens, own a small business and reside in the United States are eligible to apply, including those who previously received funding under the 2021 Rescue Small

Business Relief program. To learn more about this direct relief assistance program, visit our website: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/news/rescue/rescuesbg.htm.

A virtual Lunchtime Chat will be held next Thursday to share more information on the Rescue Small Business Relief program. Tune in to Tlingit & Haida's [Facebook page](#) over the lunch hour on February 10, 2022 to learn more about this program.

Community Advocacy Survey

Tlingit & Haida's Community Advocacy program is conducting a survey to improve access to culturally-responsive services for children and Elders. Sharing your experience is one of the most powerful ways to advocate for better services in your community. We need your help to learn more about what resources are available in your community and identify any service gaps.

If you have experienced any of the following, please share your experience with us and complete the short survey: Abandonment • Domestic Violence • Financial Exploitation • Intimidation • Mental Suffering from an Addiction or Other Drug-Related Crisis • Neglect • Sexual Abuse • Trauma from Residential Boarding School Experience • Victimization from Opioid/Drug Crisis

Take the Survey: www.tinyurl.com/CommunityAdvocacySurvey

The survey is entirely confidential, and you will not be asked to provide details of your experience. Upon completing the survey, you will have the option to provide your name and contact information to be entered into a drawing to win a \$20 gift card as a small token of appreciation.

For questions or more information on Tlingit & Haida's Community Advocacy program or the survey, please email Community_advocacy@ccthita-nsn.gov.

Delegate Elections

Coordination of Tlingit & Haida's Delegate elections is well underway. The general election of Delegates to the Tribal Assembly will be held in each of Tlingit & Haida's 21 registered communities in March 2022.

Delegates serve a two-year term and are representatives of their community and the governing body of Tlingit & Haida while Tribal Assembly is in session.

117 Tlingit & Haida Delegates:

Anchorage (11) • Angoon (2) • Craig (2) • Haines (3) • Hoonah (3) • Hydaburg (2) • Juneau (27) • Kake (2) • Kasaan (1) • Ketchikan (8) • Klawock (3) • Klukwan (1) • Metlakatla (2) • Pelican (1) • Petersburg (2) • San Francisco (5) • Saxman (1) • Seattle (29) • Sitka (7) • Wrangell (3) • Yakutat (2)

The Delegate nomination period for Anchorage, Juneau and Seattle has closed; however, all other communities are still accepting Declarations of Intent to Serve forms from tribal citizens who wish to declare

their candidacy and run for Delegate. An official list of Delegate candidates will be posted on February 12, 2022 following the close of nominations at 4:30PM (AKST) on Saturday, February 5, 2022.

A report of all declarations of intent to serve forms that have been received to date can be viewed on our Elections page: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/government/elections/forms.

Delegate Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a tribal citizen of Tlingit & Haida and 18 years of age or older by March 17, 2022.
- Must be on the official voting list for the community.
- Must complete a Declaration of Intent to Serve form (www.tinyurl.com/7965wy3c)
- Must not have been an employee of Tlingit & Haida within sixty (60) days (January 16, 2022) of the date of the Delegate Elections (March 17, 2022).

For questions on the Delegate elections, please contact Tlingit & Haida's elections coordinator at 907.463.7144 or elections@ccthita-nsn.gov.

87th Annual Tribal Assembly Moved to Virtual Format

In a special meeting held on January 21st, Tlingit & Haida's Executive Council voted to move the annual Tribal Assembly from an in-person event to a virtual format due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Under their constitutional authority, the Executive Council made their decision after a full discussion and a presentation on Tribal Assembly scenarios and mitigation strategies was received from Public Safety Director and Tribal Emergency Operations Center (TEOC) Incident Commander Jason Wilson.

The 87th Annual Tribal Assembly will convene on April 20, 2022 as previously scheduled. At the direction of the Executive Council, the Tribal Assembly will take place over three days with committee meetings to be held leading up to Tribal Assembly so Delegates can fulfill their duties to govern, conduct and manage the affairs and property of the Tribe. We hope you will tune in to Tlingit & Haida's Facebook page to watch the livestreamed event.