

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
2017 ANNUAL ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 17-01

Passed at 2017 Elders & Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives

TITLE: Support the Federally Recognized Tribes of Alaska and the State of Alaska entering into a government-to-government compact agreement that allows Tribal governments to authorize, oversee, and operate kindergarten through high school public instruction.

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and Youth representing all Alaska Native cultures and language groups;

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and Youth for cultural learning and knowledge transmission, bring people together to form and nurture statewide relationships, empower the voice of participants as leaders right now, and put forward solutions to challenges faced by the participants and their home communities in order to enhance, strengthen, and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS: The indigenous peoples of Alaska have unique distinct way of life which includes, but is not limited to, language, culture, and educational models; and

WHEREAS: The lack of culturally accurate and relevant public instruction and a history of forced assimilation has wreaked havoc on our people and the relationship with our non-indigenous neighbors; and

WHEREAS: The Sovereign Tribal Nations within the State of Alaska have been denied the right to operate and oversee public instruction for the citizens and neighbors residing in our customary lands as is our historical and customary practice; and

WHEREAS: Our historical and customary education models allow for oversight of curriculum, education protocols, instruction time frame, transportation, location, evaluation methods, instructor selection and credentialing, quality assurance, and provide the resources necessary to achieve our education outcomes, all while adjusting to an ever-changing world. The Sovereign Tribal Nations within the State of Alaska have not been allowed ownership of our education system as is our historical and customary practice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that we support entering into a government-to-government Tribal-State compact agreement that addresses and meets Tribal Governments and the Superintendent of Public Instruction's duty and obligation to oversee all matters required to provide a basic education for public instruction from grades kindergarten through high school, at public expense; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a compact agreement be made based on equal funds that are allocated and distributed to Tribal operated public instruction at the same rate that funds are allocated and distributed for State of Alaska public instruction; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tribal operated public instruction is available to any student and student enrollment will be based on non-discrimination; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tribal governments are not obligated to operate and oversee public instruction, and this compact agreement does not limit a Tribal citizen from choosing where their students enroll; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution, once accepted by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans institute Elders & Youth Conference, be transmitted to the Alaska Federation of Natives

Submitted by: The Kenaitze Indian Tribe Dena'ina Language and Culture Revitalization Project

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
2017 ANNUAL ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 17-02

Passed at 2017 Elders & Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives

TITLE: Change the 1/4 blood quantum for hunting sea otters to lineal descent

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing all Alaska Native cultures and language groups; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural learning and knowledge transmission, bring people together to form and nurture statewide relationships, empower the voice of participants as leaders right now, and put forward solutions to challenges faced by the participants and their home communities in order to enhance, strengthen, and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS: The Sea Otter overpopulation is decimating the shell fish populations; and

WHEREAS: Current regulations prevent many Alaska Natives and the future generations from harvesting sea otters as their ancestors have done in the past; and

WHEREAS: Opportunities for economic development, traditional arts, and culture have been impacted by regulations making some unqualified to hunt due to being less than $\frac{1}{4}$ Alaska Native; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that action be made to change the blood quantum requirement to tribal members; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution, once accepted by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference, be transmitted to be transmitted to the Alaska Federation of Natives to take all the necessary steps to implement this resolution immediately.

Submitted by: Wrangell

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
2017 ANNUAL ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 17-03

Passed at 2017 Elders & Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives

TITLE: Addressing Equity In Education for Rural Communities

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing all Alaska Native cultures and language groups; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural learning and knowledge transmission, bring people together to form and nurture statewide relationships, empower the voice of participants as leaders right now, and put forward solutions to challenges faced by the participants and their home communities in order to enhance, strengthen, and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska students are not having their basic education needs met; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska students are at a disadvantage because of unreliable and/or lack of access to technology, equipment, internet, and an in person qualified teachers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that Alaska has qualified teachers in all rural schools; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State will complete annual reports on the number of unfilled teacher positions in rural Alaska by the school; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska eliminate VTC [video conferencing] as the rural education delivery system.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution, once accepted by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference, be transmitted to State of Alaska.

Submitted by: Kodiak Region

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
2017 ANNUAL ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 17-04

Passed at 2017 Elders & Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives

TITLE: A Commitment to Natural Disaster Preparedness in our Communities

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elder and youth representing all Alaska Native cultures and language groups; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural learning and knowledge transmission, bring people together to form and nurture statewide relationships, empower the voice of participants and their home communities in order to enhance, strengthen, and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS: All communities in our state are at risk from natural disasters, whether it be an earthquake, tsunami, flood, forest fire, landslide, or some other unforeseeable event. Climate change has made these types of events more common as our environment changes.

WHEREAS: Many of our communities are so rural that, in the event of a natural disaster, our people, our infants and elders, could be without shelter or supplies for hours or days. Weather conditions in our state are often so extreme that the risk of loss of life would be unacceptably increased by our lack of preparation.

WHEREAS: Federal and State funding for projects that decrease these risks and increase self-sufficiency in the event of such emergencies is and/or should be available.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that our people make a commitment to creating an emergency disaster plan for their individual communities and take steps to familiarize all community members with that plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

Our communities seek out funding to assess risks, create emergency supply and shelter caches in a safe place, and take whatever steps are necessary to increase our self-sufficiency and decrease risk of loss of life in the event of a crisis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution, once accepted by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference, be transmitted to our tribal governments, state legislature, relevant federal agencies, and relevant local bodies and entities.

Submitted by: Old Harbor, Kodiak Region

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
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RESOLUTION 17-05

Passed at 2017 Elders & Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives

TITLE: LGBTQ Rights

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing all Alaska Native cultures and language groups; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural learning and knowledge transmission, bring people together to form and nurture statewide relationships, empower the voice of participants as leaders right now, and put forward solutions to challenges faced by the participants and their home communities in order to enhance, strengthen, and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS: LGBTQ have some of the highest suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS: 320 million are in the USA and 22 million are LGBTQ; and

WHEREAS: None of our people should feel as though they don't have a place in our culture; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that we want LGBTQ to feel accepted and happy and that they have a place in our communities, and we commit to educate our people; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our communities commit to educating about LGBTQ struggles and pronouns, names and love; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution, once accepted by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference, be transmitted to suicide prevention programs, ANTHC, other health providers.

Submitted by: Southcentral

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
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RESOLUTION 17-06

Passed at 2017 Elders & Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives

TITLE: ANCSA dividend tax exemption adjusted for inflation

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing all Alaska Native cultures and language groups; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural learning and knowledge transmission, bring people together to form and nurture statewide relationships, empower the voice of participants as leaders right now, and put forward solutions to challenges faced by the participants and their home communities in order to enhance, strengthen, and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS: The ANCSA act of 1971 provides for a \$2,000 per year exemption of dividends received from being counted as income by the IRS and;

WHEREAS: Federal Programs are adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS: The ANCSA dividends income exemption has not been adjusted for inflation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that we request the Federal Government to adjust for inflation this \$2,000 per year dividend income exemption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution, once accepted by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference, be transmitted to AFN main assembly.

Submitted by: Southeast region

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
2017 ANNUAL ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION 17-07

Passed at 2017 Elders & Youth Conference and Alaska Federation of Natives

- TITLE:** **Alaska Native Rights to Native Food from Coastal and River Systems**
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing all Alaska Native cultures and language groups; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural learning and knowledge transmission, bring people together to form and nurture statewide relationships, empower the voice of participants as leaders right now, and put forward solutions to challenges faced by the participants and their home communities in order to enhance, strengthen, and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of Alaska Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have depended on renewable resources from waters in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** All fish, plants, mammals, clams that are naturally in our waters have feed Alaska Natives for Centuries; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes have harvested from the waters year round to feed themselves and the Alaska population is growing at a very high rate and competition for these resources is growing and agencies that regulate those resources don't always pass laws that includes Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Commercial fishing for species such as salmon is fished mostly by outsiders, and many of our young People don't possess limited entry permits. We urge the delegation to seek measures to ensure that Alaska Natives can secure permits through Federal action to support a cash Economy and fish in their Native communities through tribal council permits issued to their membership; and
- WHEREAS:** Commercial fishing is impacting subsistence foods by incidentally catching by-catch which Alaska Natives rely on such as salmon, halibut and herring and the bounty of the waters has sustained the Alaska Native people are hundreds of years.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that we urge all Native organizations and tribes to attain rights to resources that Alaska Natives rely on for food and cash economy; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that our rights be researched through the Federal Government so that these resources can be allocated to Alaska Native Tribes as soon as possible,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution, once accepted by the participants of the 2017 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference, be transmitted to AFN general assembly.

Submitted by: Clarks Point Village Council