

# First Alaskans Institute

Community Engagement Update  
Week of April 29, 2020

As a statewide Native nonprofit, our FAI team is very connected to our home communities, regions, and our statewide Native family. During one of our weekly virtual team meetings, we share community engagement updates on various happenings in our communities to help guide our work. In an effort to share our knowledge harvest - recognizing this is not a comprehensive overview of all current Alaska Native news - here are some of the updates that were shared:

## Community Updates - 4/29/2020:

**\*Many of our communities and businesses continue to be impacted by the pandemic\***

New pandemic rules in place for Alaska fishermen and their vessels: <https://www.adn.com/business-economy/2020/04/28/strict-new-pandemic-rules-are-in-place-for-alaska-fishermen-and-their-vessels/>

Valdez exempts fishermen from self-quarantine mandate:

[http://www.newsminer.com/news/local\\_news/valdez-exempts-fishermen-from-self-quarantine-mandate/article\\_8e6011e2-89ca-11ea-b6e9-0fd924a5947b.html](http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/valdez-exempts-fishermen-from-self-quarantine-mandate/article_8e6011e2-89ca-11ea-b6e9-0fd924a5947b.html)

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation announced furlough and layoffs: <https://www.ykhc.org/furlough-lay-off-announcement/>

Ravn's Bankruptcy Leaves Medical Transport Vacuum During COVID-19 Pandemic:

<https://www.kyuk.org/post/ravns-bankruptcy-leaves-medical-transport-vacuum-during-covid-19-pandemic>

**\*Many Tribes have begun receiving CARES Act funding to help their communities\***

Venetie: <https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Alaska-Venetie-tribal-government-prepares-for-CARES-Act-funds-570029001.html>

**\*Spring breakup is steadily moving North\***

'It was so dynamic': Tripod falls Monday in Nenana Ice Classic:

<https://www.ktva.com/story/42060714/it-was-so-dynamic-tripod-falls-monday-in-nenana-ice-classic>

**\*Our communities are coming together to uplift Graduates and our Youth\***

If you have any questions, updates or suggestions, please send them to [info@firstalaskans.org](mailto:info@firstalaskans.org). Quyanaqpak!

Alaska Area High School adopt a senior 2020:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/741102846293827/about/>

Virtual Indigenous Commencement: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/789975061494796/about/>

North Slope whaling crew holds graduation ceremony on ice:

[http://www.thearcticsouder.com/article/2017north\\_slope\\_whaling\\_crew\\_holds\\_graduation](http://www.thearcticsouder.com/article/2017north_slope_whaling_crew_holds_graduation)

Tanana Chiefs Conference honoring graduates video project:

<https://www.facebook.com/TananaChiefsConference/photos/a.235737939833988/3715509451856802/?type=3&theater>

Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat sharing pictures of graduates:

[https://www.facebook.com/VoiceoftheArctic/posts/734707853732291?\\_tn=-R](https://www.facebook.com/VoiceoftheArctic/posts/734707853732291?_tn=-R)

Sponsoring 38 graduating high school seniors from the seven outlying North Slope villages:

<https://www.facebook.com/inuuraq.moss/posts/3001625343193236>

For Wainwright kindergartner, picture day brings wave of emotions during coronavirus pandemic:

<https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Kindergarteners-picture-day-brings-both-joy-sadness-during-coronavirus-pandemic-569881081.html?fbclid=IwAR3uJV4rwOo3QeeRkxpFhI2hYNgzNsYuKoEEOJkX-Gh7uUrkm2jxkxBsSgg>

**\*Many of our regions (and Canada family) have come up with creative ways to keep us connected through the physical distancing necessary to keep our people and communities safe\***

2020 North Slope Wide Jamboree – “Coming Together Strengthening Our Communities” added more contests Throat Signing and Nigliq Calling: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263480371720930/>

The Alaska Face Mask Fashion Show, an artistic showcase and a competition, will be held on May 6:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/263911661678456/>

First American Art Magazine worked shared a virtual display of "Masked Heroes: Facial Coverings by Native American Artists" with 72 Indigenous artists who participated:

<http://firstamericanartmagazine.com/masks/>

The Filipino-Athabaskan David family conducted an informal research study of Anchorage mask-wearing and shared their findings, “Who’s best about wearing masks in public?”

[https://www.adn.com/opinions/2020/04/27/whos-best-about-wearing-masks-in-public/?fbclid=IwAR3bn8t5nF0wFoaXto6MNYftCcVdD3Zxn\\_TRxV780-vyUJ2XilEWtSTPpdQ](https://www.adn.com/opinions/2020/04/27/whos-best-about-wearing-masks-in-public/?fbclid=IwAR3bn8t5nF0wFoaXto6MNYftCcVdD3Zxn_TRxV780-vyUJ2XilEWtSTPpdQ)

Niintsyaa, a biannual Gwich'in gathering, was cancelled for the first time since 1988 due to COVID-19:

[https://cabinradio.ca/35532/news/politics/a-very-difficult-decision-as-gwichin-gathering-is-called-off/?fbclid=IwAR2Eh31xX3TFvHgIyqIK5fEGL2dlqRoWfp\\_-oN8Dxm9MlnNisU0a90I637A](https://cabinradio.ca/35532/news/politics/a-very-difficult-decision-as-gwichin-gathering-is-called-off/?fbclid=IwAR2Eh31xX3TFvHgIyqIK5fEGL2dlqRoWfp_-oN8Dxm9MlnNisU0a90I637A)

Voices of the Arctic Iñupiat encourages social distancing like the qavvik (bear):

<https://www.facebook.com/VoiceoftheArctic/posts/719762821893461>

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**\*Our people and organizations all over the state are making virtual space for cultural sharing, storytelling, connectedness and learning\***

Virtual Coffee Time For the People: Our Global Whānau (Family) – An Aotearoa + Alaska Visit on April 26 (Alaska time) and April 27 (New Zealand time) hosted by La quen náay La quen náay Liz Medicine Crow (Haida/Tlingit) and Ayyu Qassataq (Iñupiaq). Bentham Ohia (Te Ati Awa, Ngati Pukenga), Kate Cherrington (Ngati Hiine, Ngati Wai), Lee Ann Muntz (Ngati Koroki Kahukura, Waikato Tainui) and Craig Muntz (Fijian) Komene Kururangi (Ngati Ranginui, Whakatohea) joined us from Aotearoa. Jessica Black (Gwich'in), Chalyee Éesh Richard Peterson (Kaagwaantaan), Kaaxúxgu Joe Nelson (Tlingit/Eyak) and 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak Barbara Blake (Haida/Tlingit/Ahtna) joined us from Alaska. Quyanaqpak to our whānau from Aotearoa and Alaska for joining us: <https://youtu.be/xRGWnJr7BS4>

UAA the ANIROP and CAMA-i Room shared a video of how to stretch seal skin fur:  
<https://www.facebook.com/camai.room/videos/10100891423093413/>

Arlo Davis shares traditional fish gill net-making knowledge he learned from his grandparents:  
<https://youtu.be/ge4oSHsTA0w>

Alaska Native Heritage Center hosted Sugpiaq Storytelling with Hanna Sholl of Kodiak:  
[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=519015732312611&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=519015732312611&ref=watch_permalink)

Doyon Foundation has been sharing daily language translations for COVID-19 prevention and cultural practices. “We’re doing it for our people,” was translated:  
<https://www.facebook.com/doyonfoundation/photos/a.197257080287151/3187802584565904/?type=3&theater>

Native Peoples Movement is hosting a free Online Women's Self-Defense Seminar & Techniques Skill Share on May 2: <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/online-womens-self-defense-sem/551553722099280/>

**\*Other Community Happenings\***

The Anchorage Assembly passed a Native Land Acknowledgement resolution into Anchorage Assembly Meetings:  
<https://www.facebook.com/anchorageassemblyAQD/photos/a.299490344168476/657952791655561/?type=3&theater>

Foraker Group COVID-19 Response webinar series II: <https://www.forakergroup.org/covid/>

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