

# First Alaskans Institute

Community Engagement Update  
Week of May 6, 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 - 5/06/2020:

### **\*Many of our communities still have restrictions in place\***

The City of Kotlik set a curfew for residents:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/122365277908218/permalink/1986142131530514/>

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

An unmanned barge, filled with gravel, is floating down the Kuskokwim River:

<https://www.kyuk.org/post/alaska-logistics-plans-retrieve-unmanned-barge-floating-down-kuskokwim-river?fbclid=IwAR363ZfLrgtdqk9AKuJsCJuigJT30eMKlqkeKwrP-bBYgl8r8n0dpNdp01E>

The Yukon River near Galena is slowly starting to move:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/kiyugalena/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1708786799262065&tn=-UC-R](https://www.facebook.com/pg/kiyugalena/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1708786799262065&tn=-UC-R)

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

Kotzebue holds parade for Class of 2020 after COVID-19 cancels graduation ceremony:

<http://kotz.org/2020/05/03/photos-kotzebue-holds-parade-for-class-of-2020-after-covid-19-cancels-graduation-ceremony/?fbclid=IwAR3XYmWasIA-ySWHBJWwIKPOZojisU1uE2rrRMuw8EXyAkAggyVrYiVen8SM>

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

**\*Calls for support and stories\***

Norton Sound Health Corp (in Nome) is seeking homemade mask donations to redistribute to community members in the region:

<https://www.facebook.com/NortonSoundHealthCorporation/posts/923091741472570>

Norton Sound Health Corporation is collecting stories from around the region via videos, photos and written testimonials to call attention to the need for serving the region's unserved communities without water and sewer. Deadline is May 8:

<https://www.facebook.com/NortonSoundHealthCorporation/posts/919683091813435>

Kawerak Social Science is seeking artists willing to create art for the Supernatural project:

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1004698576592453&id=203159750079677](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1004698576592453&id=203159750079677)

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

Sealaska Heritage Institute is hosting virtual Celebration 2020 from June 10-13. As a part of the event, they are incorporating a virtual Native Artist Market with no cost to participate. Apply at:

[https://sealaskaheritage.wufoo.com/forms/z1molqzz0c48r6a/?fbclid=IwAR01GtS2\\_Zob98bfEbAGWoBwW74JB1umLtBlqPsKX-RzrziyO5uNZr4nhI](https://sealaskaheritage.wufoo.com/forms/z1molqzz0c48r6a/?fbclid=IwAR01GtS2_Zob98bfEbAGWoBwW74JB1umLtBlqPsKX-RzrziyO5uNZr4nhI)

Each week during Mental Health Awareness Month in May, ANTHC is hosting a contest for those who participate in a mindfulness activity. This week's activity is breath count:

[https://anthc.org/mentalhealthawareness/?fbclid=IwAR1qqS\\_2pbBpxT1QrxmB4YuCxyNUaEFRqZousC498PJO1VXWD2DsL13h\\_4M](https://anthc.org/mentalhealthawareness/?fbclid=IwAR1qqS_2pbBpxT1QrxmB4YuCxyNUaEFRqZousC498PJO1VXWD2DsL13h_4M)

Kawerak is hosting a contest for the month of May (can enter daily) to uplift community members in the region following the health mandates:

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1000461657016145&id=203159750079677](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1000461657016145&id=203159750079677)

Molly of Denali gives Amber Keiffer a Mahsi' choo for making informational text that shows Iñupiatun words for parts of the body. They created a blank version for others to do the same in their languages: <https://bit.ly/3cMslUo>

The Registration for Coaches is open for the 2020-21 Iñupiaq Spelling Bee for Beginners:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-ao8gW1yrEVgBr9fRHAIO7G5-uEDtoZQOAKelbfXVtd0vXg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1YkET3JhE7a\\_rGdF9jBaVup4kMSN1ZC9IZlaqCCryuwsDUh2g21ZYKg](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-ao8gW1yrEVgBr9fRHAIO7G5-uEDtoZQOAKelbfXVtd0vXg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1YkET3JhE7a_rGdF9jBaVup4kMSN1ZC9IZlaqCCryuwsDUh2g21ZYKg)

The 2020 North Slope Wide Jamboree – “Coming Together Strengthening Our Communities” added a regalia contest: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263480371720930/>

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Doyon, Limited is hosting a social distancing contest for shareholders who share their hobbies:  
<https://www.facebook.com/doyonlimited/photos/a.173632839459/10159112604009460/?type=3&theater>

Tanana Chiefs Conference will be releasing new interviews from their Legacy of Our Elders Series every Friday online at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/257006562365727/>

Check out all of the masks and models from the Alaska Face Mask Fashion Show:  
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlaskaNativeGatheringPlace/permalink/865387910594386/?\\_tn=H-R](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlaskaNativeGatheringPlace/permalink/865387910594386/?_tn=H-R)

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

First Alaskans Institute Virtual Coffeetime for The People: Native Leaders Shaping Our World held on May 6 hosted by Gatgyedm Hana'ax Karla Booth (Ts'msyen) and La quen náay Liz Medicine Crow (Haida/Tlingit). Special guests included Alicyn Bahnke (Inupiaq), Zoe Okleasik (Inupiaq), Nanieezh Peter (Gwich'in/Diné), Quannah Chasing Horse Potts (Han Gwich'in/Oglala Lakota), Ch'aak'tí Shawaan Jackson-Gamble (Tsaagweidi of Kheexh Kwaan), Henrik Brandt (King Island Inupiaq), Kóot Xheech (Chookaneidí, Tlingit) and Naawéiyaa Tagaban (Tlingit/Cherokee):  
<https://youtu.be/G73iFiaxDEw>

**\*Other Community Happenings\***

AVCP released the May issue of the Qanemcit newsletter with updates from the YK Delta region:  
<https://www.avcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Canemcit--May-2020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Hyv5jOC7dZz2QL5JhDQtWI9WdgPwNXIKyTN1H33O9eyfXoLsCaWkdMak>

Calista Corporation Moves to Virtual Annual Meeting:  
<https://www.calistacorp.com/news/calista-moves-to-virtual-annual-meeting/>

The North Slope Borough School District announced a new superintendent – Pauline Siqupsiraq Harvey (Iñupiaq):  
[https://www.nsbds.org/news/district\\_news/2020\\_superintendent\\_selection\\_announcement](https://www.nsbds.org/news/district_news/2020_superintendent_selection_announcement)

North Slope Borough Mayor Harry Brower announced the offering of a \$300 credit for residential utility accounts in Utqiagvik:  
<https://www.facebook.com/HarryBrowerJr/photos/a.1693351754215493/2527188207498506/?type=3&theater>

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North Slope communities are busy harvesting in the spring whale hunt:

<https://sites.google.com/nsbsd.org/ipalookelementary/classes/inupiaq/kakianaag/3rd-grade-ilt?fbclid=IwAR1qIj5-aliH9zYiRrpNsczShEEdA3T25oIteNvYY7IOLBYqTJ7JzRSZ4VY>

Sealaska Heritage Institute is accepting proposals for a virtual three-day event, Our Cultural Landscape: Culturally Responsive Education Conference, on August 3-8. Presenters from early childhood, K-12, university and community educators are highly encouraged to submit proposals related to the following topics: Culturally Responsive Education, Equity in Education and Alaska Native Education. Review of proposals will begin on June 1, 2020:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTlyNullmCBLb0Muw0LVgvyM\\_Zs8pOYbalyihTvoU9aDmaHA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR14XHeUFa61k4rSDvidkUynbsD5HB9T6S0ZfmulQZpr938Qy3ekfZ2ul2k](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTlyNullmCBLb0Muw0LVgvyM_Zs8pOYbalyihTvoU9aDmaHA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR14XHeUFa61k4rSDvidkUynbsD5HB9T6S0ZfmulQZpr938Qy3ekfZ2ul2k)