

First Alaskans Institute

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
2021 ANNUAL ELDERS AND YOUTH
RESOLUTION 21-03

TITLE: Bringing Our Children Home from Carlisle Indian Industrial Training School

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: The bodies of 13 children from Alaska Native villages have been discovered at or near Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Currently the remains of two children, our Alaska Native Ancestors, are being returned to Alaska, one to the Pribilofs and one to Ketchikan; and

WHEREAS: The return of these Ancestral remains to their home origins will begin a path of healing from inter-generational trauma for our living and future generations and families, and this effort will be stronger because of the inter-generational guidance, support, and involvement of Alaska Native Elders and Youth; and

WHEREAS: The Army Corps of Engineers has funding available to assist with the process of returning the remains, and the children and their home villages have been identified by the Carlisle Indian Industrial Boarding School with the help of Alaska Native peoples.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the participants of the 2021 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference support the efforts to bring our children home from their boarding school experience and return their remains to their families, homes, and/or Tribes with the funding from the Army Corps of Engineers and other relevant entities.

Submitted by: Robert Sam, Tlingit, Sitka, Alaska

CONFERENCE ACTION: PASSED ON OCT. 20, 2021