

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-56

TITLE: DECLARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

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

WHEREAS: We the indigenous youth and future leaders of Alaska are concerned for the survival of our future generations, ways of life, traditional lands, intact ecosystems, emotional, spiritual, and mental well-being due to Climate Change; and

WHEREAS: Our indigenous lands and waters are warming at twice the rate as the rest of the world. Many communities across the state face hardships directly correlated with Climate Change, such as the extreme warming temperatures which melt the permafrost, causing mass erosion, resulting in the relocation of entire communities along with devastating the natural habitats of our animal and plant relatives. These impacts have disrupted indigenous seasonal hunting and gathering traditions; and

WHEREAS: In recent years we have lost community members due to unpredictable and unsafe ice conditions, have seen the die off and disease of seals, salmon, migratory birds, shellfish, whales, polar bears, and recognize that these are also our relatives; and

WHEREAS: We, the Alaska Native youth, are asking our tribal leaders to consider, as is traditional, the future of their grandchildren and the generations to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives will reinstate a climate action leadership task force within the Alaska Federation of Natives to advance indigenous voices and advocate for strong climate policies that will ensure the survival of future generations and to declare a state of emergency on Climate Change.

SUBMITTED BY: The participants of the 2019 First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference.

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-57

TITLE: WILD SALMON AND CLEAN WATER PROTECTION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

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

WHEREAS: Water was always treated with the utmost respect, and traditional and customary foods requires careful cultural stewardship and protection of indigenous environmental and natural resources; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's indigenous peoples have relied on clean water; the health of our water is the most important issue in protecting our wild salmon and the entire ecosystem; and

WHEREAS: Our spiritual connection to the land, air, sea and resources which are abound; gives our people purpose and identity which is more than just water and food, it provides the ability to harvest resources from nature which gives each person, family, and community a reason to live in the areas we have inhabited for millennia.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives agree that the future of the generations yet to come hinge upon actions taken today by tribal, state and federal leaders to protect the health of our waters and wild salmon therefore any current or future regulation, statute change, or new statute must meet this standard of protecting our traditional Native ways of living and will use the tribal consultation to do so.

SUBMITTED BY: The participants of the 2019 First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference.

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-58

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ESTABLISHING DREAM CENTERS IN EACH VILLAGE TO CREATE A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO SLEEP
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders & 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 such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Students need help with having a safe environment where they could go to get enough sleep and feel safe which impacts their ability to learn and thrive; and
- WHEREAS:** Due to overcrowded housing and negative social surroundings many students come to school without getting the 9-12 hours of sleep for 6 to 12 year-old children and 8-10 hours of sleep for 13 to 18-year-old children as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics; and
- WHEREAS:** Funding for tribal health and social service not-for-profits is obtained through partnerships with tribes and that funding can be used to help tribes establish Dream Centers or another safe place to sleep in each community for children 6-18 years-old.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon the tribal health and social service not-for-profit organizations to help communities with the problem of designating and staffing a dream house or appropriate safe house for children in each community.

SUBMITTED BY: The participants of the 2019 First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference.

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-59

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO REQUIRE ONE YEAR OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND INCLUDE ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS LANGUAGES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & 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 such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska recognizes all Alaska Native languages as official languages and sets the mandatory curriculum for all Alaskan school through the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; and

WHEREAS: A student's knowledge of the Alaska Native language relevant to their area fosters pride in their identity and promotes a sense of belonging at school and in their community and communities do not currently have adequate access to Alaska Native language education; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native languages relevant to each school or area can be taught alongside education and treated as an equal in importance to all other subjects; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request of the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development implement a one-year foreign language requirement for graduation from all Alaska high school that includes Alaska Native languages.

SUBMITTED BY: The participants of the 2019 First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference.

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-60

TITLE: REQUESTING SUPPORT FIVE FOCUS AREAS IN ALASKA – COMPACTING FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) FUNDS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & 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 such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth is the largest 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 Convention is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and,

WHEREAS: Tribes in Alaska support funding for five Tribal focus areas in Alaska for Compacting of Bureau of Indian Educational (BIE) funds; and

WHEREAS: Kenaitze Indian Tribe supports the five Tribal focus areas in Alaska, who are in need of educational funding, to enhance educational opportunities for Tribes in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: the Kenaitze Indian Tribal Council supports the five (5) Tribal focus areas which include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Tlingit and Haida

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the five (5) Tribal focus areas which include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Southeast Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution once accepted by the participants, be transmitted to NCAI to support the five focus areas in Alaska – Compacting for Bureau of Indian Education Funds for the five (5) Tribal focus areas which include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Southeast Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: The participants of the 2019 First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference.

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-61

TITLE: CALLING ON ELECTED OFFICIALS, FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO RESPECT TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TO INCORPORATE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND SOLUTIONS IN ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

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 such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: Climate warming is creating a burden to our future generations that are facing the consequences of inaction. Alaska Native communities are facing major spiritual, emotional, physical, economic and cultural consequences from the increasing harm caused by climate warming and the transport, release, and exposures to harmful contaminants such as mercury and persistent organic pollutants. The massive die offs of seabirds and marine mammals, shrinking sea ice and permafrost, increasing storm surges, wildfires and other consequences of climate change are endangering our cultures, our way of life and survival as Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native voices and guidance are often missing from discussions and decisions related to climate change and contaminants, their effects upon our communities' health and wellbeing, and solutions to solve these crises; and

WHEREAS: Article 18 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) declares that "*Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights...as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions;*" and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon elected officials, state and federal agencies to meet their obligations to incorporate tribal government priorities when addressing the climate crisis and to fully include tribes in discussions and decisions toward solutions and a rapid shift to a just, equitable, and pollution-free energy future. This is necessary to ensure the protection of our way of life, our traditional foods, our cultures, our health and well-being, and future generations.

SUBMITTED BY: The participants of the 2019 First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference.

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
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TITLE: UPDATE ALASKA HISTORY CURRICULUM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

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

WHEREAS: Required statewide Alaskan History classes currently do not include oral history from regional Elders or support from Regional Corporations and Tribes; and

WHEREAS: The Alaskan Board of Education currently does not give students the opportunity to acquire authentic information about their cultures and to build pride in who they are and where they are from; and

WHEREAS: A more accurate curriculum would include each Tribes' traditional ways, history, and beliefs from each region's perspective so all students could be more culturally sensitive to Alaska's past and future, and so all students in Alaska have access to more factual information.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives agree to advocate for rightful representation in Alaska history and to the Regional Corporations, Tribal entities, and the Alaskan Board of Education for their adoption and support.

SUBMITTED BY: The participants of the 2019 First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference.

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATION: