

I grew up listening to our local public radio station – KYUK – every morning before school. This was in the days before we had TV.

This is a habit I've carried on throughout my entire life. My wife and kids tease me for streaming KYUK over the Internet in the morning whenever I'm traveling outside of our region: Anchorage – Seattle – Hawaii – anywhere.

But this is how I stay in touch with what's going on at home while away.

In a region where wireless (cell & internet) communication is often unreliable or even non-existent KYUK public radio is still a critical information link throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Through KYUK nearly 20,000 residents of southwest Alaska have access to the latest news, weather, river reports, and countless other bits of information about our world, our country, our state, and our region.

I always tell people new to the region that one of the best ways to familiarize themselves is to listen to KYUK:

Listen to Birthday Line to see how connected we all are

Listen to the Tundra Drums to learn about local events that we attend

Listen to the local news to learn what's good and bad about our life here

Listen to Yuk to Yuk (Yupik Talk Show) to learn about what's important to the Real People and to understand their respectful communication style

Listen to Talk Line to learn about what's important to others – especially Bethel residents

Listen to Bethel Search River Reports to learn about travel conditions on our River and trails

Perhaps the most important service our public radio station provides is its tireless work to promote the Yupik culture and preservation of the Yupik language. There are many programs aired entirely in Yupik.

Throughout the decades KYUK has in fact, become a part of the region's culture.

Just look at the call sign letters.

I respectfully urge the Alaska State Legislature to continue funding public radio in our great state. It is still a critically needed service – even more so to Rural Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Leary  
Director of Development & Operations  
Native Village of Napaimute