



Alaska Native 101

House Committee on Tribal Affairs
AK Legislature

Presented by

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Overview

This presentation will enhance knowledge and understanding about Alaska Native history, contemporary issues, and layers of governance to help decision makers better understand their responsibilities and opportunities towards strengthening relationships and working with the Alaska Native community.





What all Alaskans need to know

- 10,000 + years of stewardship
- Geographic Intelligence
- Distinct cultures
- Similar values, but not monolithic





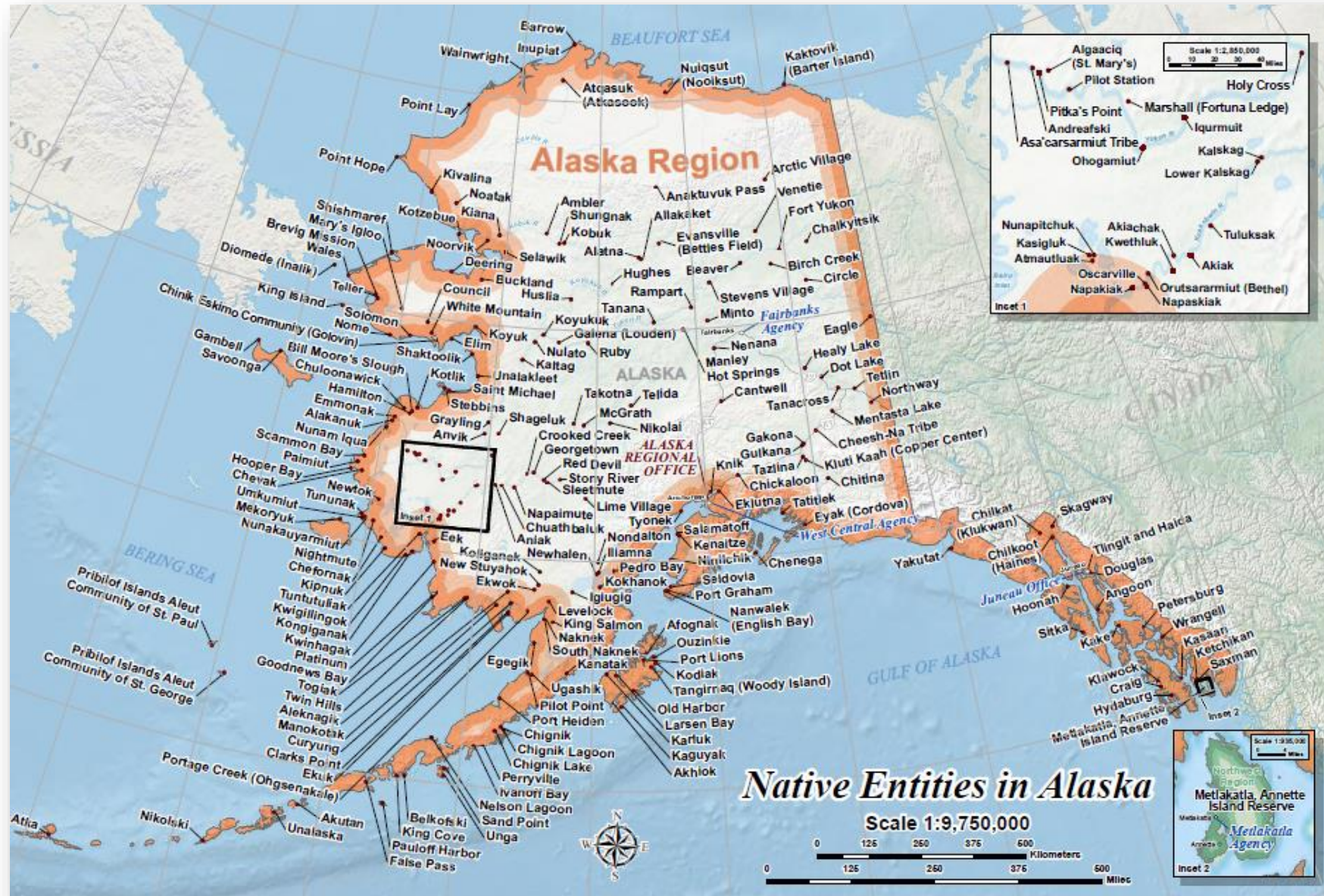
3 Sovereigns

- Tribal
- State
- Federal



229 Federally Recognized Tribes in Alaska

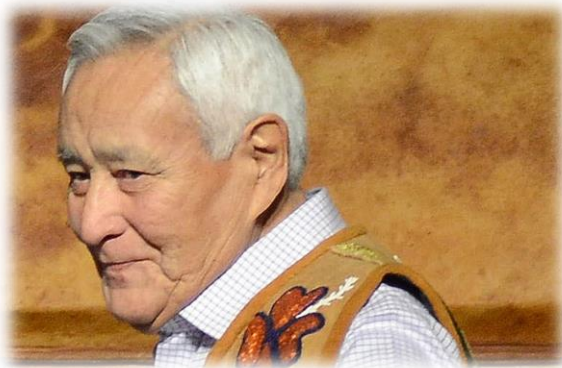
almost 1/2 of all Tribes in USA





We know who we are

People with traditional values and knowledge on how to govern, in modern contexts



*In memory of
Roy S. Ewan
(Ahtna)
Kluti-Kaah*



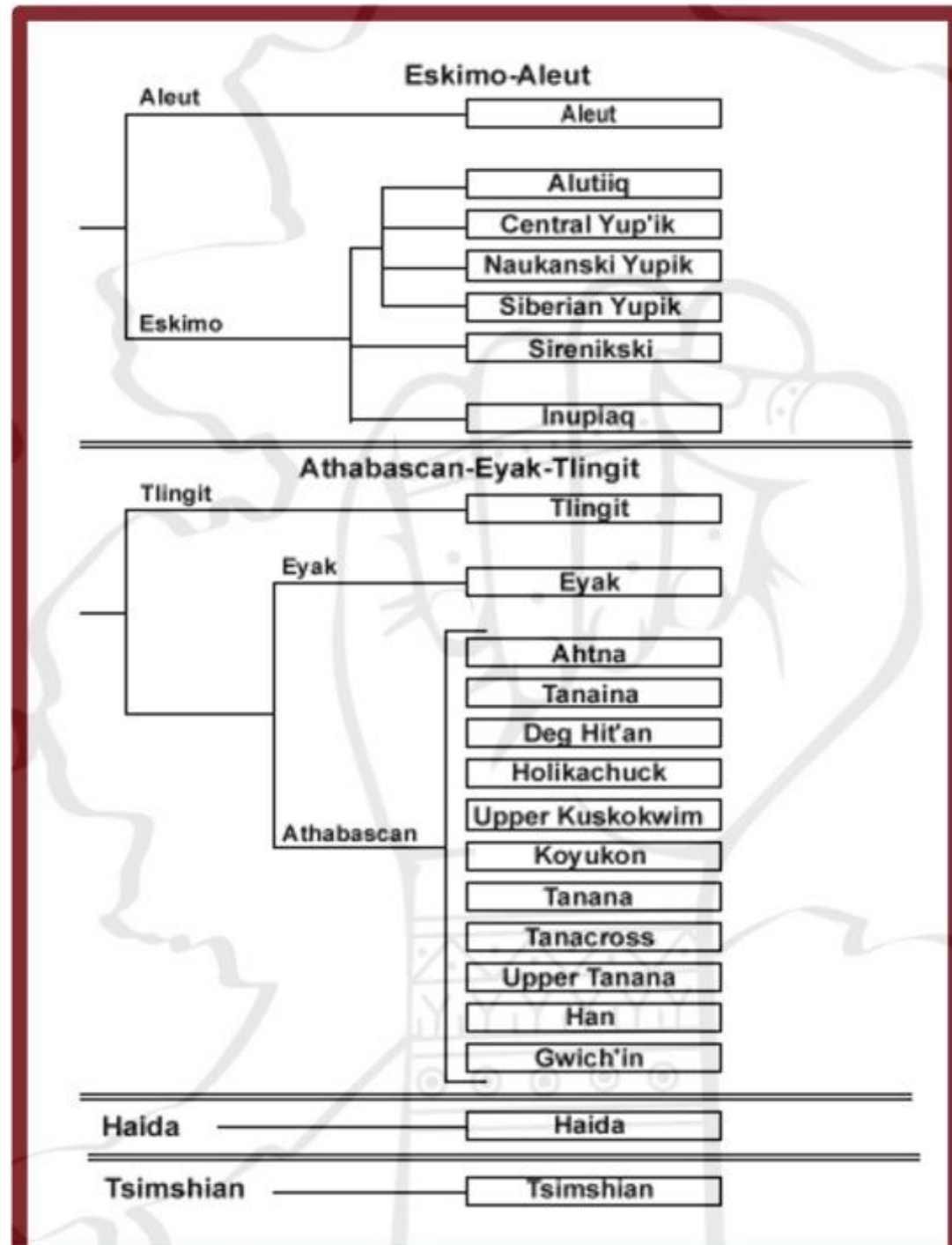
*In memory of
Byron Mallott
(Tlingit)
Yakutat*



*In memory of
Paul John
(Yup'ik)
Toksook Bay*

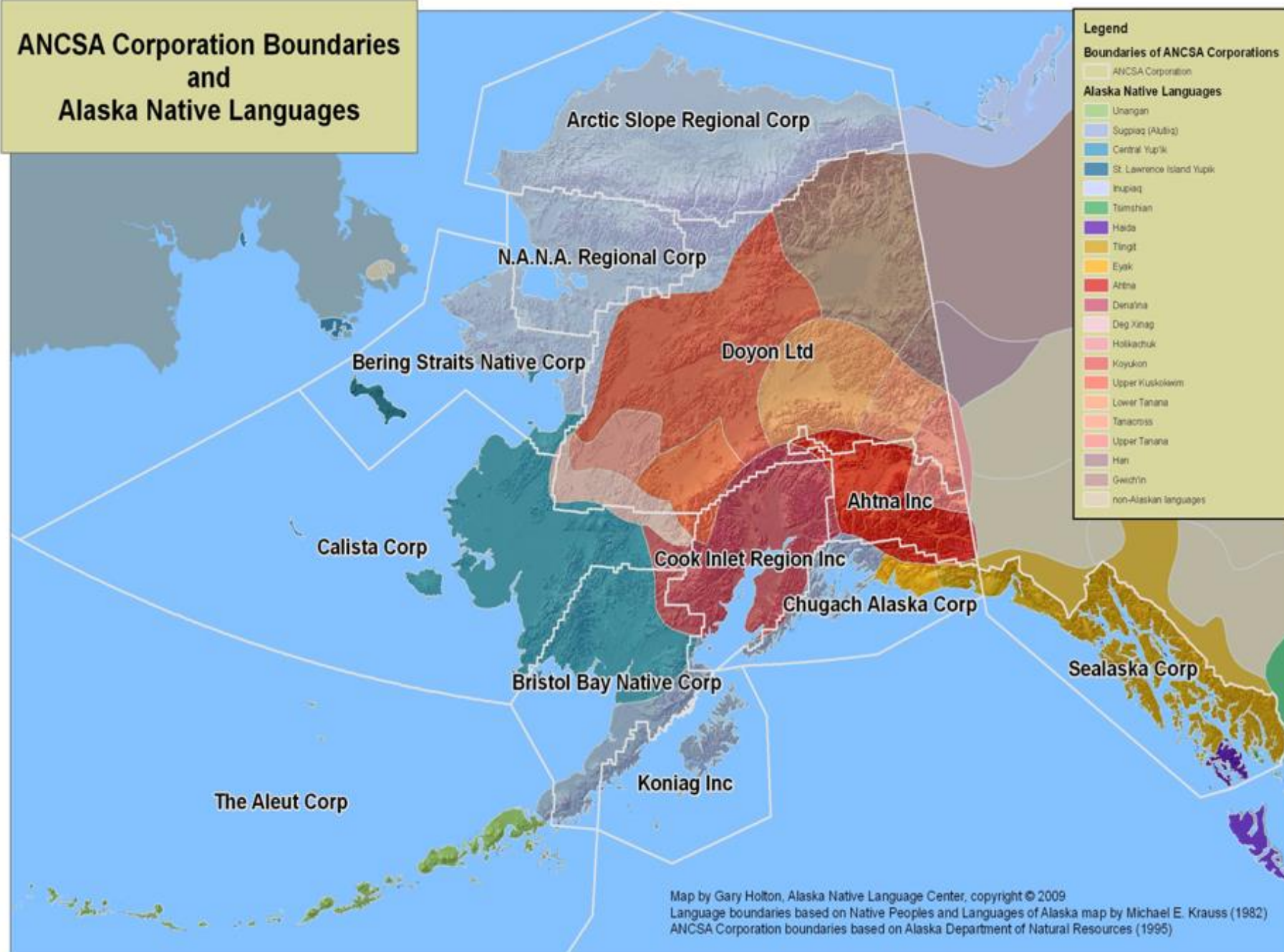
Alaska Natives

- 20+ distinct cultural groups and languages
- 19.5% of the state's population, fastest growing





ANCSA Corporation Boundaries and Alaska Native Languages





Our Relationship

Government-to-government relationship is based on the political **not racial** status of American Indian and Alaska Native people.



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Opportunities to Strengthen

- Consultation
- Compacting
- Contracting





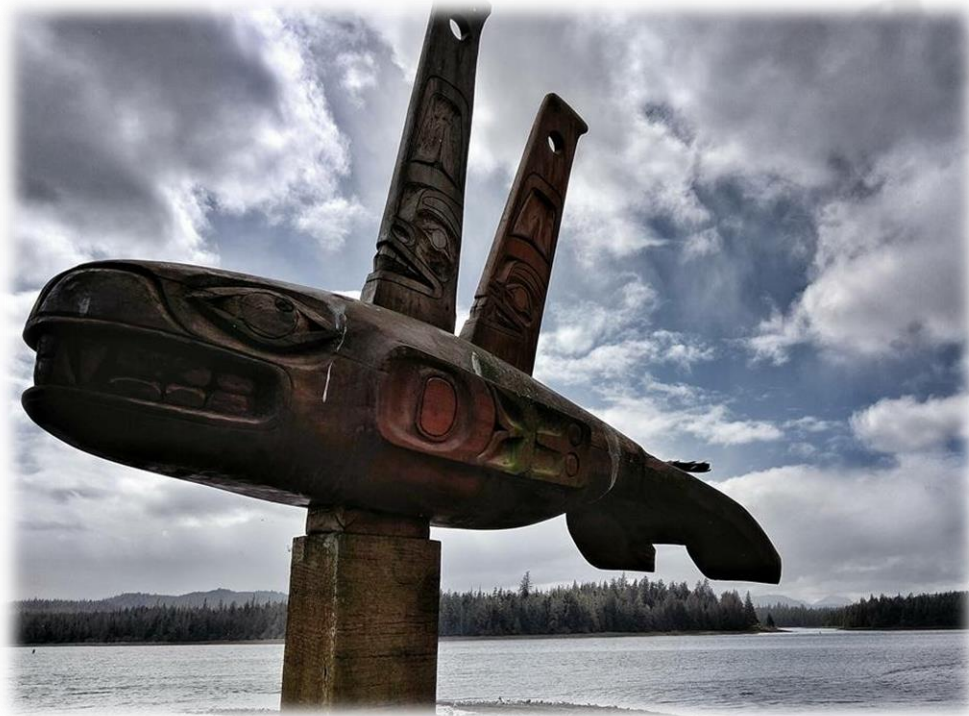
Understanding the Organizations

- Tribes
- Alaska Native Corporations
- Regional Non-Profits
- Other Alaska Native Entities





Understanding the Layers



- Concurrent Community Care
- Outward Connections
- Tribal Government versus Municipal Government





Types of Alaska Native Organizations

- 229 Tribal Governments
- 12 ANCSA Regional Corporations
- ~195 ANCSA Village Corporations
- 12 Regional Native Non-Profit Associations/Consortiums
- 7 Statewide Native Non-Profit Organizations
- ~50 Cultural and Heritage Centers/Museums
- 5 Marine Mammal Commissions
- Alaska Native Bird Co-Management Council
- 1 Indian Reservation – Metlakatla



PL 280



- PL 280 - state to exercise federal authority concurrently with Tribes over some aspects of criminal and civil jurisdiction
- Unwillingness by state to recognize Tribes' concurrent jurisdiction, => frequent litigation
- State = bulk of law enforcement and dollars, but provides inequitable service to the communities they assert jurisdiction over
- Villages tribal courts hear civil and misdemeanor offenses, but State may dispute
- 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act had beneficial provisions for Alaska tribes, but were eliminated due to a State complaint and Congress members unwilling to create an "Alaska earmark"





Alaska Law Enforcement



- Alaska State Troopers
- VPOs/TPOs (Village/Tribal Police Officers)
- VPSOs (Village Public Safety Officers)





Our Ways of Life

“Hunger knows no law... what we struggle to get through is our hunger in our minds, spirit and souls. That’s what happens when we aren’t able to get out on the lands and water, to harvest for all of our sustenance. Hunger in our stomach, mind, body and soul. When our people are oppressed and restricted in our ways of life, it creates a void, a hurt that our Ancestors went through.”

-Protecting Our Ways of Life Summit 2020

SDZ





Our Ways of Life

- Caretakers for thousands of years with an abundance
- Not a 'special interest' or 'stakeholder' group
- Federal and State wildlife management





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**The key to working with Native people is
building
relationships, trust, respect, and
recognition of
Self-Determination and Self-Governance.**





DO ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE GET FREE MEDICAL CARE*?



And other frequently
asked questions
about Alaska Native
issues and cultures



**No, they paid in advance. Read more inside.*

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE / ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

<https://dot.alaska.gov/tribalrelations/documents/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Booklet.pdf>

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First Alaskans



Institute

Chin'an, 'Awa'ahdah, Dogedinh, Enaa Baasee', Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, Igamsiqanaghalek, Masasee, Mahsi', Nt'oyaxsism, Qağaasskung, Quyana, Quyanaasinaq, Quyanaqpak, Tsen'anh, Tsin'aen, Tsin'ee, Tsen'ii, Thank You

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