

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## REPRESENTATIVE ALAN DICK

HOUSE DISTRICT 6

Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Representative\_Alan\_Dick@legis.state.ak.us



(907) 465-4527  
1-800-491-4527  
(907) 465-2197 Fax

"STRONG VALUES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES"

Alatna  
Allakaket  
Alcan  
Aniak  
Anvik  
Arctic Village  
Beaver  
Beluga  
Bettles  
Birch Creek  
Boundary  
Central  
Chalkyitsik  
Chandalar  
Chandalar Lake  
Chicken  
Chistochina  
Chitina  
Chuathbaluk  
Circle  
Coldfoot Camp  
Copper Center  
Crooked Creek  
Deltana  
Dot Lake  
Dry Creek  
Eagle  
Eagle Village  
Evansville  
Flat  
Fort Greely  
Fort Yukon  
Fortuna Ledge  
Gakona  
Galena  
Georgetown  
Grayling  
Gulkana  
Healy Lake  
Holy Cross  
Hughes

### Sponsor Statement HB 254 Alaska Native Language & Advisory Council

Alaska Native Languages (ANL's) are threatened by extinction. The intent of HB 254 is to preserve and maintain these languages. Indigenous languages are the most critical components in preservation of cultural ideas and traditions and serve as the backbone of all cultural elements.

HB 254 establishes the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council to assess the state of ANL's and re-evaluate programs within the state and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature to provide for the cost-effective continuity of ANL's.

According to the Alaska Native Language Center's *Population and Speaker Statistics* published in 2007, only 22 percent of Alaska Natives statewide can speak their native language. More specifically, only 29 percent of the Eskimo Aleut population, less than two percent of the Tsimshian and Haida, and less than five percent of the Athabascan and Tlingit communities combined are fluent speakers. The Eyak language recently lost its last native fluent speaker. (Krauss, Michael E. 2007. Native languages of Alaska. In: *The Vanishing Voices of the Pacific Rim*).

The preservation and restoration of Alaska's important cultural heritage of Native Languages is one important component of our collective history. We are all richer for maintaining this vital knowledge.

Huslia  
Kaltag  
Kennicott  
Kenny Lake  
Koyukuk  
Lake Minchumina  
Lime Village  
Livengood  
Manley Hot Springs  
Marshall  
McCarthy  
McGrath  
Medfra  
Mentasta Lake  
Minto  
Nabesna  
Nenana  
Nikolai  
Northway  
Nulato  
Ophir  
Rampart  
Red Devil  
Ruby  
Russian Mission  
Shageluk  
Slana  
Sleetmute  
Stevens Village  
Stony River  
Takotna  
Tanacross  
Tanana  
Tazlina  
Telida  
Tetlin  
Tok  
Tonsina  
Tyonek  
Venetie  
Wiseman