



Alaska Natives 101

House Committee on Tribal Affairs
AK Legislature

Presented by:

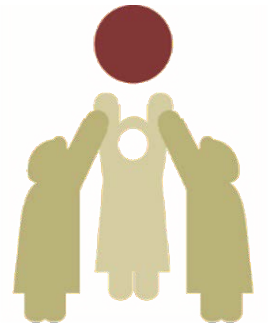
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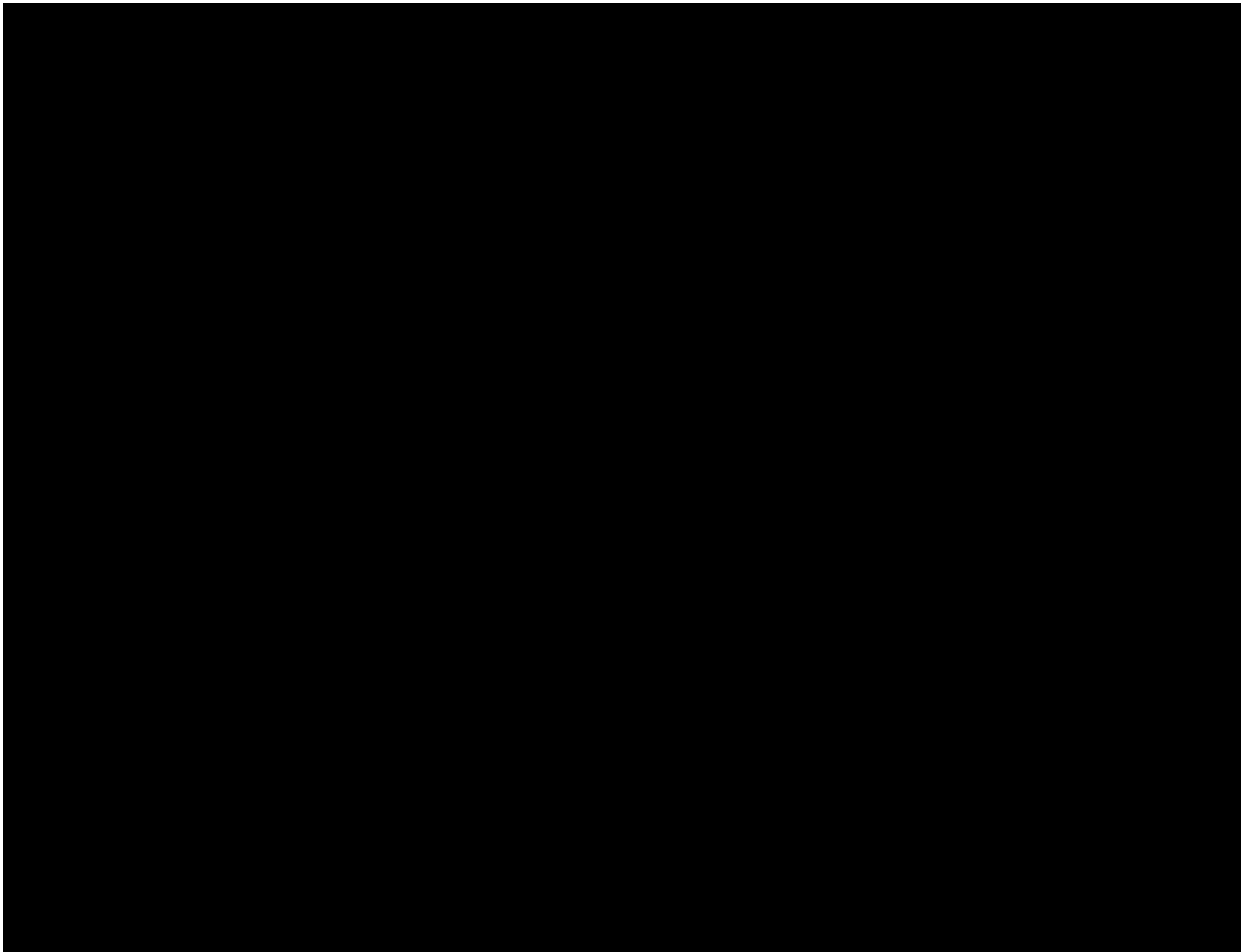
Overview

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.



Awareness





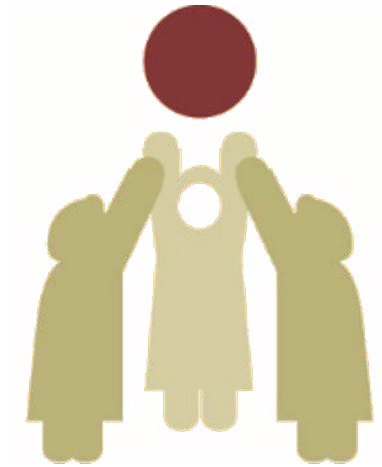
What all Alaskans need to know

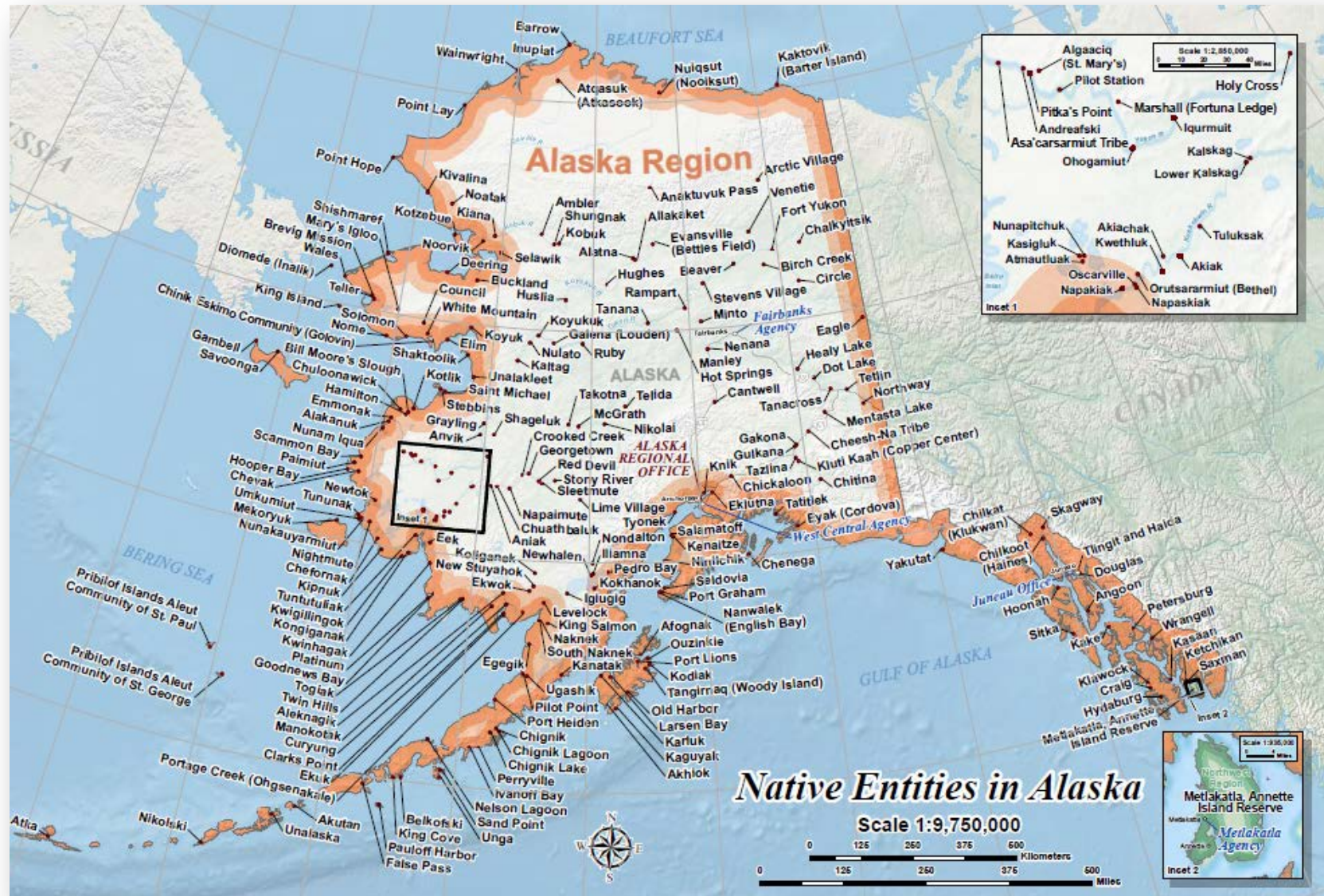
- 10,000 + years of stewardship
- Geographic Intelligence
- Distinct cultures
- Similar values, but not monolithic



3 Sovereigns

- Tribes
- State
- Federal





We know who we are

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



*In memory of Katie John
(Ahtna) Baltzulenta*



*In memory of Bryon
Mallott
(Tlingit) Yakutat*

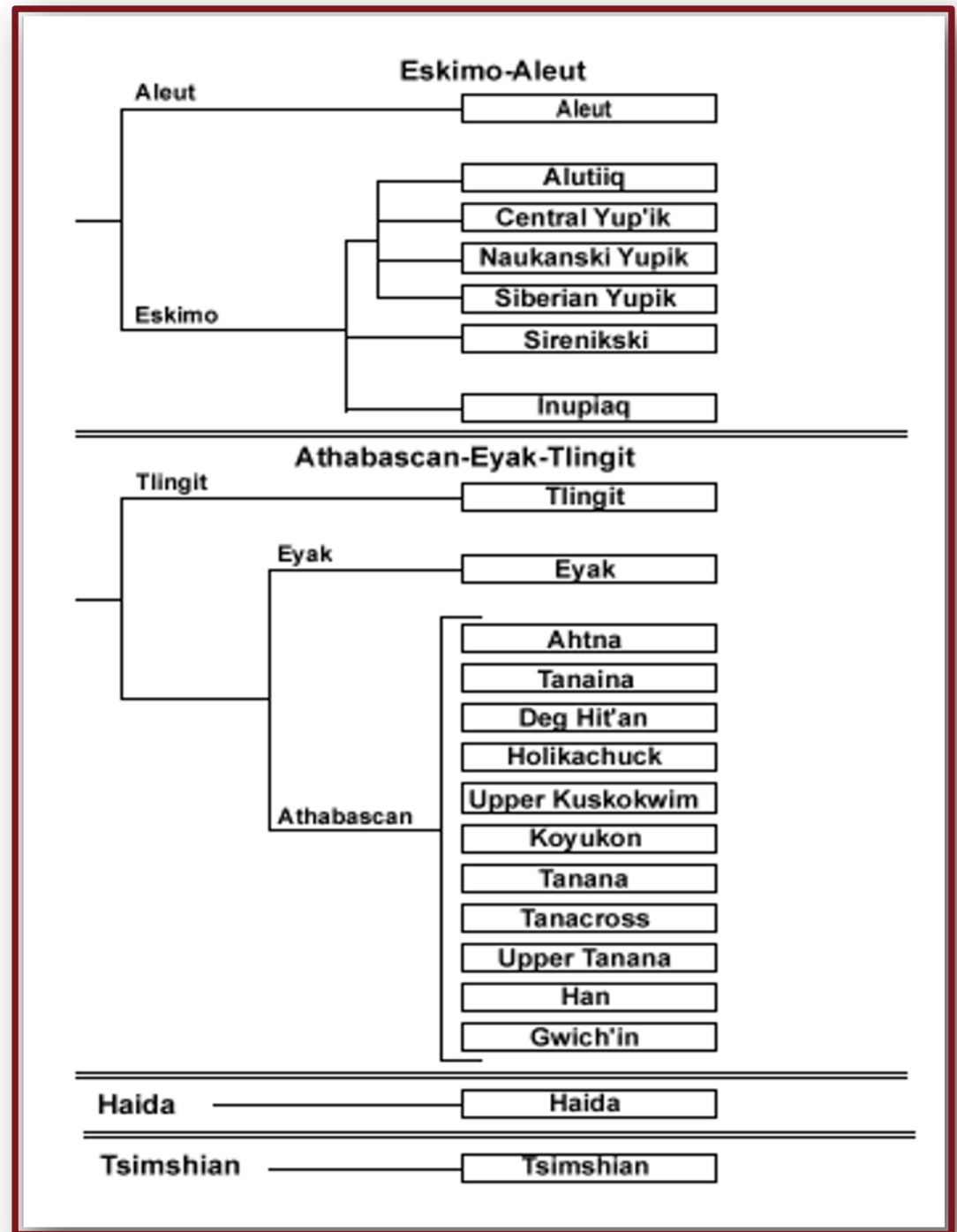


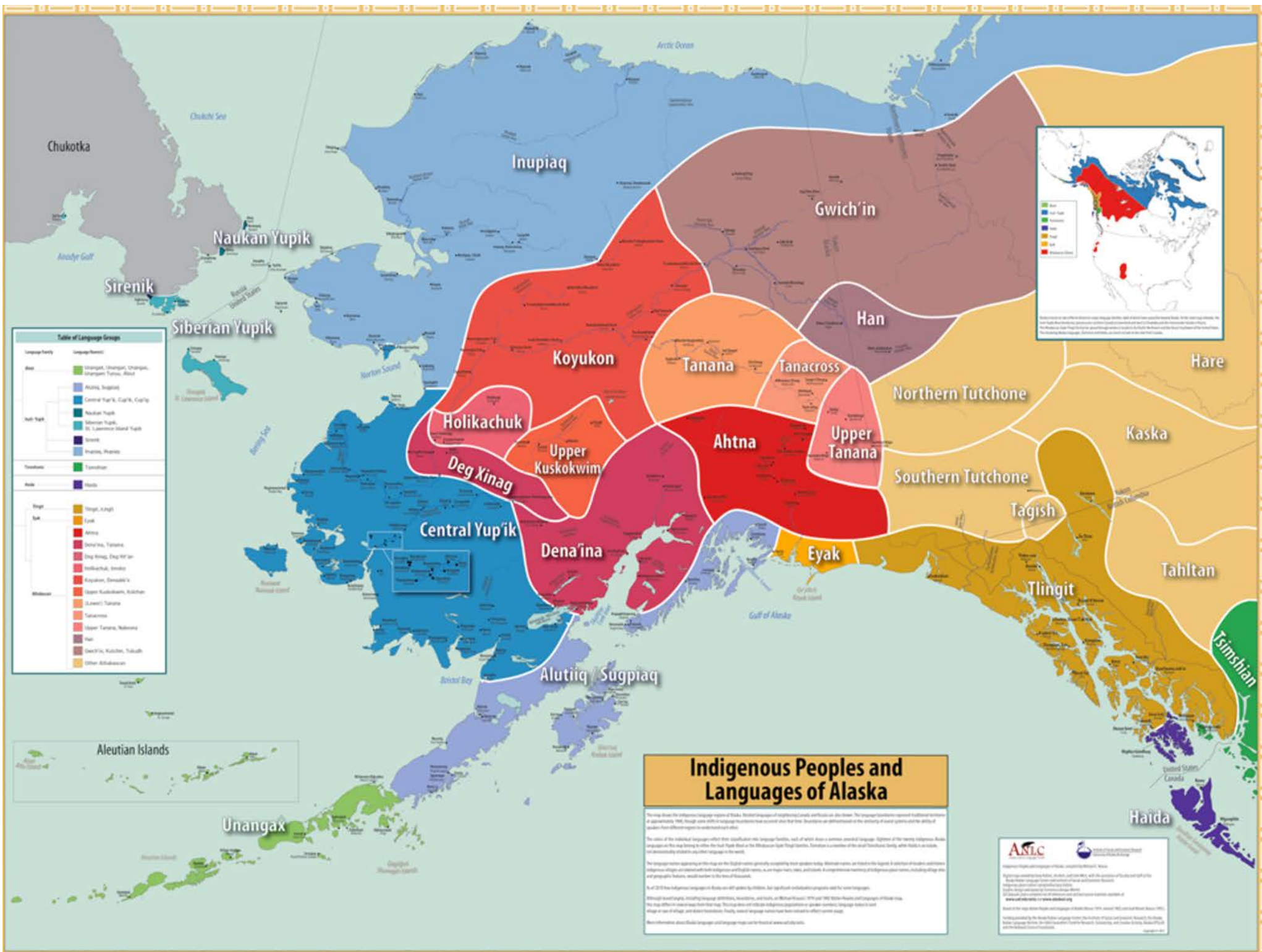
*In memory of Paul John
(Yup'ik) Toksook Bay*



Alaska Natives:

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





Our Relationship

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



Opportunities to Strengthen

- Consultation
- Compacting
- Contracting

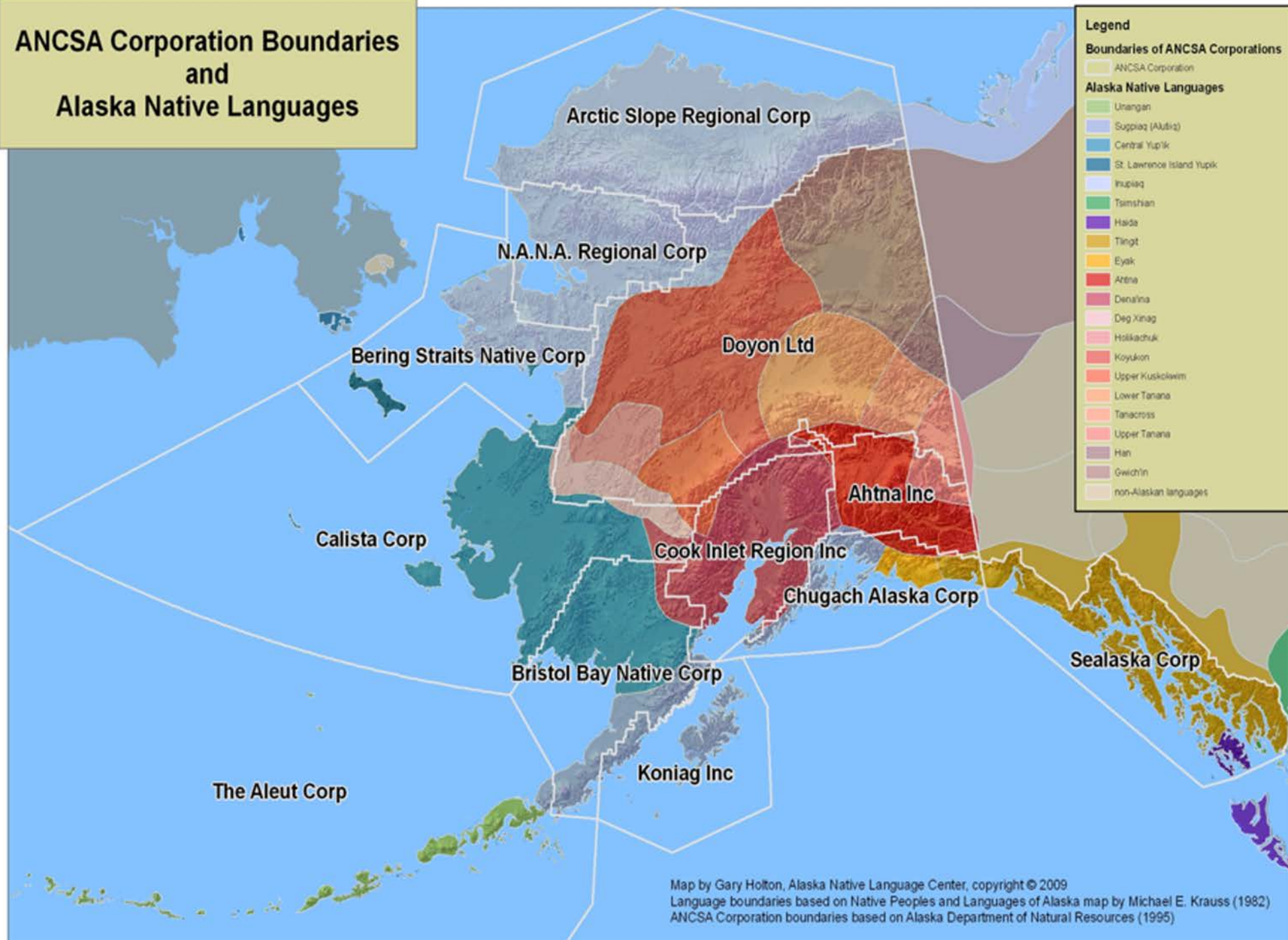


Types of Alaska Native Organizations

- 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



ANCSA Corporation Boundaries and Alaska Native Languages



Understanding the Organizations

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



Understanding the Layers

- Autonomous, Independent, and Inter-dependent
- Concurrent Community Care
- Outward Connections
- Relationships with Municipal Governments



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
- Village tribal courts hear civil and misdemeanor offenses, but State may dispute; State courts happy to pass cases over with no resources
- 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



OUR WAYS OF LIFE

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



Solutions for all Alaskans Exist

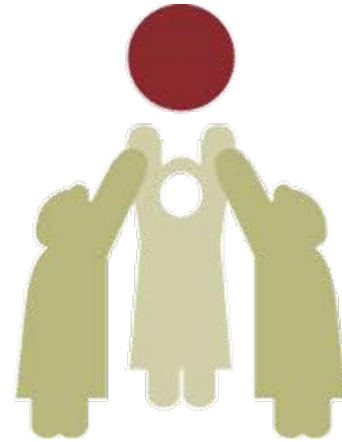
- Utilizing Self-Determination/Self-Governance
- Federal + State + Tribal Governments partnering
- Reimagining solutions with Tribes at the table



The key to working with Native peoples is building relationships, trust, respect, and recognition of self-determination.



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**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

