



ALASKA COMMISSION ON RURAL GOVERNANCE & EMPOWERMENT

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*Deceased

COMMISSION STAFF

Mike Irwin
Veronica Slajer

A CALL TO RECONVENE

12:00pm – 6:00pm on Friday, December 6th
9:30am – 4:00pm on Saturday, December 7th
Alaska Native Heritage Center

“This journey... is fueled by hope and faith in good and responsive government, by an understanding and respect of Alaska society, and by the innate aspirations and vision of rural peoples themselves.” - Final Commission Report to the Governor (June 1999)

It’s hard to believe that fifteen years have passed since the formation of the original 22-member Commission on Rural Governance and Empowerment by the State of Alaska. Co-chaired by Robert Keith of Elim and Byron Mallott of Juneau, the Commission convened over the course of a year to research and formulate recommendations on the state government’s official policy toward federally recognized tribes in Alaska and examined how state, local and regional governance takes place in Alaska. Sadly, the recommendations that were thoroughly researched and articulated within the final report could have been written today – clearly, rural governance and empowerment is unfinished business in Alaska.

As challenges continue to spike and swell between rural, local and state governments, there has never been a more perfect time to reconvene and revitalize the work of this Commission.

To address the current landscape of governance within our state, the Rural Governance Commission and invited friends will gather for an intensive intergenerational work session beginning with lunch together on Friday, December 6th and all day Saturday, December 7th, at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.

This special two-day gathering will be hosted by the First Alaskans Institute, a statewide Native nonprofit organization known for their role as a catalyst and convener of critical conversations in the community. They will utilize their indigenous hosting approach to engage all participants in a retrospective space to capture lessons learned since the

original Commission convening and spark meaningful discourse to strategize a collective vision to further advance this critical work.

This invitation is for you as an engaged advocate for these issues in our community; as such, it is non-transferrable. Please join us – your perspective, ideas and experience are an important part of guiding this work through the current and future landscape of empowering equity for all Alaskans through a strategy based on respect and collective responsibility.

Please RSVP by Monday, December 2nd to ruralgov@northstargrp.com – for additional information, please contact Mara Kimmel at (907) 350-0786. We hope to see you there!