

Rural Governance Commission

2013 Reconvening Collective Action Ideas

Please note these are a collection of thoughtful ideas and actions derived through a dialogue process of diverse and committed participants to achieve an end goal of Native and rural empowerment. Imagine what Alaska would look like if even half of these ideas came to pass. As presented, these ideas are not prioritized, they are not formal recommendations of this convening, and not all the participants may have agreed with one another on the best strategy to achieve the outcome. It is the hope of the hosts that these ideas are shared to inform the continuing dialogue, help inspire others, track the progress of autonomous organizations or individuals, coalesce the voices of the people who seek an empowered rural Alaska, catalyze further action, provide more cohesive movement-making on this issue, or set a bar for success:

- **Legal**

- Amend or delete ANCSA section 4.
- DOI mechanism/process for affirming Indian country in Alaska.
- Ensure comprehensive recognition of aboriginal hunting and fishing rights.
- Include Alaska in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- Move beyond “no Indian country.”
- Amend title 29 to recognize tribal entities.
- Adopt constitutional amendment to entrench Alaska Native subsistence rights.
- Establish statewide community justice body:
 - Utilize traditional structures and systems for modern governance;
 - Codify traditional laws so outsiders will recognize those laws.
- Expansion of tribal laws; assert jurisdiction and sovereign authority to protect our interests, e.g. coastal areas.
- Develop tribal education departments and codes (comprehensive content)
- Use co-managed systems to increase the “doing” in a Native led and Native knowledge based way.
- Accommodate and guarantee inter-generations rights, especially in relation to descendants.

- **Economic**

- Make financial resources available directly to tribes.
- Look at gaming as a source of revenue.
- Employment within federal agencies.
- Sales and use tax as revenue sources.

- **Cultural Empowerment**

- Create university partnerships to promote and implement training and educational programs in tribal governance and tribal justice.
- Revitalize cultural practices – such as dance, song...
- Fund language efforts.
- Recognize Alaska Native languages as official languages.
- Educational system that works for everyone.
- Healing from historic (and contemporary) trauma (especially our Elders full of sadness and anger).
- Getting Alaska Native history incorporated into Alaska history.
- Historic preservation through recording – writing our own books, posting YouTube videos, etc.
- Inventory what is going on and share best practices, find out what’s already done, and build capacity for information sharing.

- Create a tool box.
- **Political**
 - Indigenize organizations and governmental entities.
 - Elect Native people.
 - Create new congress of Alaska tribes (like NCAI).
 - Identify and work with our allies in state government.
 - Revisit Millennium Accord principles and initiate discussions on state-tribal relations and ensure promulgation, codification, and entrenched outcome:
 - Initiate dialogue to establish tribal-state relations, including possible adoption of agreement in principle recognizing status and authority of tribes in all areas, including tribal justice, policing, management, etc.
 - State apology to people.
 - State and boroughs to recognize tribes.
 - Review best practices and success stories in areas of institutional collaboration and cooperation (e.g. NWAB and tribes).
 - Establish statewide tribal organizations.
 - Increase capacity and development to all other rights including economic well-being.
 - Creation of an Arctic and coastal/maritime commission with majority tribal membership.
 - Lack of LIOs in communities and difficulties in communicating with state governments.