

Agenda

First Alaskans Institute

Rural Governance & Empowerment Gathering December 6 - 7, 2013 Alaska Native Heritage Center

Friday, December 6th

12:00pm LUNCH

Opening Circle

Welcome

Agreements

RGC Context

Commissioner Circles

Reflections

Closing Circle

Gallery Walk

RECEPTION

Saturday, December 7th

9:00am

BREAKFAST

Opening Circle

Welcome

Agreements

Affinity Strategizing LUNCH

Affinity Strategizing (cont.)

Collective Visioning

Call to Action

Closing Circle

Suggested Pre-Reading:

- Rural Governance Commission Final Report to the Governor
 - http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/RGC/RGC_Final_6_99.pdf
- Indian Law & Order Commission - Alaska Chapter
 - http://www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc/report/files/Chapter_2_Alaska.pdf
- Alaska Native Policy Center Fast Facts: *Compiled Data on the Alaska Native Population, Alaska Native Population and the 2010 Census*
 - <http://www.firstalaskans.org/index.cfm?section=Alaska-Native-Policy-Center&page=Fast-Facts>

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2014 RGC Reconvening Dialogue Agreements

- In every chair, a leader
- All ideas are valid, go below the surface
 - “And” not “or”
- Listen to understand, speak to be understood
 - Speak with care for others, listen deeply
- Our collective time / work
 - Value each other
- Safe space means-
 - non-attribution in writing or discussion
 - kindness
- Our value of humor
- Care for each other and self
- Be present and engaged
 - You are responsible for your experience here
- Removest Thou “Hats”
- Differences illuminate, divisiveness suffocates
- Rigorous curiosity + critique to enhance
 - Seek common ground
- You are an expert
 - Your experience is your truth
- Concerns? Speak with a Host

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.