



2015 ANNUAL AFN CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS		
NUMBER	TITLE	CONVENTION ACTION
	SPECIAL RECOGNITION	
15-1	THANKING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA FOR VISITING RURAL ALASKA	Passed
	SUBSISTENCE	
15-2	CALL FOR ADVANCEMENT OF MEANINGFUL ALASKA NATIVE CO-MANAGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR ALL OF ALASKA	Passed
15-3	CALLING FOR AN EQUAL ROLE OF THE YUKON RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION IN UNIFIED MANAGEMENT FOR THE RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION OF YUKON RIVER KING SALMON	Passed
15-4	REQUESTING CHANGES TO THE MAGNUSON STEVENS ACT	Passed
15-5	ALASKA'S ABORIGINAL CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY AND PRIORITY RIGHT TO SUBSISTENCE HUNT, FISH, TRAP AND HARVEST	Passed
15-6	URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO INCLUDE LOSS OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES AS A DISASTER CATEGORY AND TO INSTITUTE FOOD SECURITY RELIEF WHEN ECONOMIC DISASTERS ARE DECLARED DUE TO LOW HARVEST OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES	Passed
15-7	REQUESTING STATE ACTION TO ADDRESS CONFLICTS BETWEEN VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND SPORTS HUNTERS AND TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL SUBSISTENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS	Passed
	HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE	
15-8	SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION SUPPLEMENTAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, THE SENIOR CITIZEN DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, AND THE WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM	Passed

	EDUCATION	
15-20	SUPPORTING RURAL SCHOOLS BY URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION BY OPPOSING SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION, CONTINUING AND INCREASING FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND PURSUING COST CUTTING MEASURES BY ELIMINATING UNFUNDED/UNDERFUNDED MANDATES	Passed
15-21	OPPOSE THE COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION'S IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARD 3.2 FOR ALASKA TEACHERS	Passed
15-22	OPPOSE ANY LEGISLATIVE ACTION THAT WOULD INCREASE THE MINIMUM ADJUSTED AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO BE FULLY FUNDED	Passed

	LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES	
15-23	HOLDING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATORY AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE AND REQUESTING THE RESPONSIBLE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND LONG OVERDUE CLEANUP OF FORMERLY AND CURRENTLY USED DEFENSE SITES IN ALASKA	Passed
15-24	URGING THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACT NOW TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS ON ALASKAN COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE COMMUNITY RESILIENCY	Passed
15-25	PROTECTING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND CULTURE IN ALASKA BY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES IMPLEMENT THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION (IJC) INVOLVEMENT AND SEEK THE CONSENT OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS IN ALL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ALASKA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND YUKON TERRITORIES	Passed

	ECONOMIC	
15-26	TO REQUIRE DEPENDABLE MAIL SERVICE AND TO CAUSE THE DESIGNATION OF NATIVE COMMUNITIES AS BYPASS MAIL POINTS	Passed

	ANSCA/TRIBAL	
15-27	SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF TRIBAL COURTS	Passed

15-28	URGING CONGRESS TO INCREASE SMALL AND NEEDY TRIBE FUNDING TO \$300,000 PER TRIBE	Passed
15-29	INCREASING THE SAFETY OF ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN	Passed
15-30	DISMISS THE AKIACHAK LITIGATION	Passed
15-31	NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENTS AND ISSUES INCLUDING THE REBURIAL OF ALASKA NATIVE HUMAN REMAINS WHOSE TRIBAL AFFILIATION IS UNKNOWN (CULTURALLY UNIDENTIFIABLE HUMAN REMAINS)	Passed
15-32	TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPUTY ASSISTANT FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION OF NATIVE AMERICANS	Passed

OTHER		
15-33	IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND REINVESTMENT IN ALASKA	Passed
15-34	AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL EXHIBIT AT THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL ON THE NATIONAL MALL IN WASHINGTON, DC	Passed
15-35	URGING THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO INCLUDE COASTAL ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES IN ARCTIC TRANSPORTATION PLANNING	Passed
15-36	SUPPORTING ALASKA'S CURRENT SYSTEM OF SELECTION AND RETENTION OF STATE COURT JUDGES	Passed
15-37	SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION	Passed
15-38	SUPPORT FOR THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDENT VOTER REGISTRATION 2016 BALLOT INITIATIVE	Passed
15-39	SUPPORTING VILLAGE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS	Passed
15-40	URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION AMENDING THE ALASKA NATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS ALLOTMENT ACT TO ALLOW DESERVING VETERANS TO OBTAIN ALLOTMENTS OF VACANT LAND WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA AND TO REOPEN AND LEGISLATIVELY APPROVE ALLOTMENTS IN THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST	Passed
15-41	IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA'S POWER COST EQUALIZATION PROGRAM AND OPPOSITION TO ANY AND ALL EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE THE FUNDING FORMULA BY ANY AND ALL STATE AGENCIES SEEKING TO CAPITALIZE ENERGY PROJECTS UTILIZING THE PCE ENDOWMENT FUND	Passed



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 15-29**

TITLE: INCREASING THE SAFETY OF ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS we, the members of AFN, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Native nations, rights and benefits secured and to which we are entitled consistent with the federal trust responsibility and government-to-government relations, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of Alaska Native tribes and people, to defend centuries old Native customs and traditions that have survived contact with foreign governments, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of Native people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native peoples honor, respect, and hold women sacred; retain our inherent right to live according to our life-affirming customs and traditions which regulates respectful boundaries for all of our relationships; and

WHEREAS Alaska is home to 229 (or 40%) of federally recognized tribes; one Native village-based women's shelter, the Emmonak Women's Shelter, operating since 1979; one tribal nonprofit domestic violence and sexual assault coalition, the Yup'ik Women's Coalition operating since 2006; and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, a nonprofit dedicated to ending violence against women; and only 78 villages are served by state law enforcement who need culturally appropriate training on how to work with tribes and Native peoples; and

WHEREAS the federal government has a trust responsibility to Alaska Native tribes and should consult with Alaska Native tribes on violence against Native women; and

WHEREAS the findings, including the statistics from Chapter 2 of the Indian Law and Order Commission Report released November 2013, entitled Reforming Justice for Alaska Natives: The Time Is Now, provide compelling justification for immediate implementation of the Report's recommendations; and

WHEREAS the Commission Report statistics include the following: Alaska Natives are disproportionately affected by crime, and these effects are felt most strongly in Native communities, including Alaska Native women over-represented in the domestic violence victim population by 250%, Native women represent 47 percent

of reported rapes or at least seven times the non-Native rate, and in Native villages, reported rates of domestic violence are up to 10 times higher than the rest of the United States; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native villages suffer disproportionately from crimes rooted in a disruption of Native customs and traditions, which is evident with the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence, alcohol/substance abuse, suicide, homicide, teen pregnancy, removal and separation of children from their families, and diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and cirrhosis of the liver; and

WHEREAS the rates of missing and murdered Alaska Native women and women and girls have been ignored by the current health and justice systems and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS given the high rates of crimes and other issues, an equitable formula set aside for Alaska Native tribal governments is required of federal and state resources for tribes to develop, implement and sustain local, culturally relevant solutions to immediately and comprehensively address the health, safety and welfare of its members and hold offenders accountable; and

WHEREAS the federal government and the state of Alaska have not allocated resources equitably to Alaska Native tribes, especially those in rural, remote, off-road communities, including, but not limited to, funding under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Victims of Crime Act. In fact, federal and state laws, policies, and practices have limited tribal government's authority to protect and ensure the health and wellbeing of our citizens; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska Attorney General Craig Richards has recently issued clarification that the state must comply with Section 2265 of the VAWA addressing full faith and credit of protection orders, that does not require state registration of orders for state recognition and enforcement purposes; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska needs assistance to implement meaningful government to government consultation per the 2013 amendments to VAWA requiring the state to consult and coordinate with all 229 Alaska Native tribes in the development of the state's Stop Violence Against Women Formula Grant Implementation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that the United States recognize and immediately respond to the human crisis confronting Alaska Native women due to the laws and policies that have left Alaska Native women vulnerable to perpetrators of rape, domestic violence, murder, sex trafficking, and hate crimes by providing Alaska Native women the same protections under the VAWA as other women in the United States specifically:

1. Monitor state compliance with the VAWA Full Faith and Credit, 18 U.S.C. §2265, and assist with entering Alaska Native village protection orders into the National Protection Order Registry;
2. Provide technical assistance to the state of Alaska to comply with VAWA 2013 to meaningfully consult with Alaska Native Villages in the development of the state

- implementation plan required for the state to annually receive formula grant funds from OVW and coordinate with tribes in the implementation of the state plan; and
3. Open an Alaska Office on Violence Against Women to provide the same access for the 229 Alaska Native villages as Indian tribes within the lower forty-eight states to ensure equitable access of critical resources to Alaska tribes, and ensure meaningful access to Alaska Natives who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) and challenged by consistent Internet access.
 4. Provide Alaska Native women the same protections under the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act as other victims of domestic violence in the United States specifically:
 5. Provide separate annual, non-competitive formula funding specifically to Alaska Native tribes for life-saving services for advocacy, shelter and victim services calculated using population numbers of the Tribe's choice either current numbers used by the FVPSA Office or individual village tribal enrollment;
 6. Provide formula grant program support to a regional domestic violence resource center, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to Increase the Safety of Native Women, as provided under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act of 2010 to serve as a dedicated nonprofit organization to work with tribal governments, allied nonprofit organizations, and government agencies; and
 7. Provide resources for the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to work in partnership with the AFN to organize a Unity Meeting to Increase the Safety of Alaska Native Women annually and prior to the AFN Annual Convention beginning with the 2016 Convention.
 8. The Alaska Federation of Natives will work with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to host an annual Unity Meeting to Increase the Safety of Alaska Native Women and prior to the Annual Convention beginning in 2016
 9. The Alaska Federation of Natives will work with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to establish a Task Force dedicated to addressing the emerging issues preventing the safety of Alaska Native Women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

SUBMITTED BY:	ANVIK TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka
President