



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Executive Council of the Central Council
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 22-12

Title: Continued Commitment to Our Languages

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 33,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the indigenous languages of our people carry thousands of years of history, knowledge, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, learning our indigenous languages connects us to our heritage and is an expression of sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council's (ANLPAC) 2022 Biennial Report to the Governor and Legislature states the Lingít Yoo X'atángi (Tlingit language) currently has 10 highly proficient, first language speakers and 20 highly proficient second language learners in Alaska, Xaad Kíl (Haida language) currently has 1 highly proficient first language speaker in Alaska and 4 highly proficient, second language speakers in Alaska, and Sm'algyax (Coast Tsimshian language) currently has 1 highly proficient first-language speaker in Alaska and 6 highly proficient, second language speakers in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida has affirmed its commitment over the years to our Southeast indigenous languages – Lingít Yoo X'atángi, Xaad Kíl, and Sm'algyax – with the adoption of resolutions stating such commitment; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Tlingit & Haida adopted Resolution TA / 14-15: Formation of a Central Council Language Department; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida adopted Resolution EC / 14-08: Support for the Native Language Immersion Bill; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida adopted Resolution TA/ 15-24, Passage of Statute 08: Establishment of Tribal Schools and Acceptance of Haa Yoo X'atángi Kúdi Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida has strived to fulfill its commitment by applying for funding “to address the great need to preserve the languages of the people of Southeast Alaska” (see EC / 16-69); and

WHEREAS, ANLPAC asserts that “Language Nests (for young children) and language immersion schools are the most powerful means of teaching a language.”; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida applied for and was awarded an Administration for Native Americans Esther Martinez Immersion Initiative grant to establish and begin operations of a Lingít Immersion Language Nest, Haa Yoo X’antángi Kúdi; and

WHEREAS, Haa Yoo X’antángi Kúdi is the only Lingít Immersion Language Nest that serves children ages 3-5 years old, with the goal of offering 500 hours of Lingít language immersion annually; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby reaffirms that Tlingit & Haida is committed to reversing language shift and revitalizing our Southeast languages in the name of sovereignty, cultural resources, and traditional values; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska commits and prioritizes the continued growth and stability of Tlingit & Haida language programs such as Haa Yoo X’antángi Kúdi to ensure our indigenous languages exist permanently on the land of our grandparents.

ADOPTED this 31st day of March 2022, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 4 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 2 absences.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe