



# Kenaitze Indian Tribe

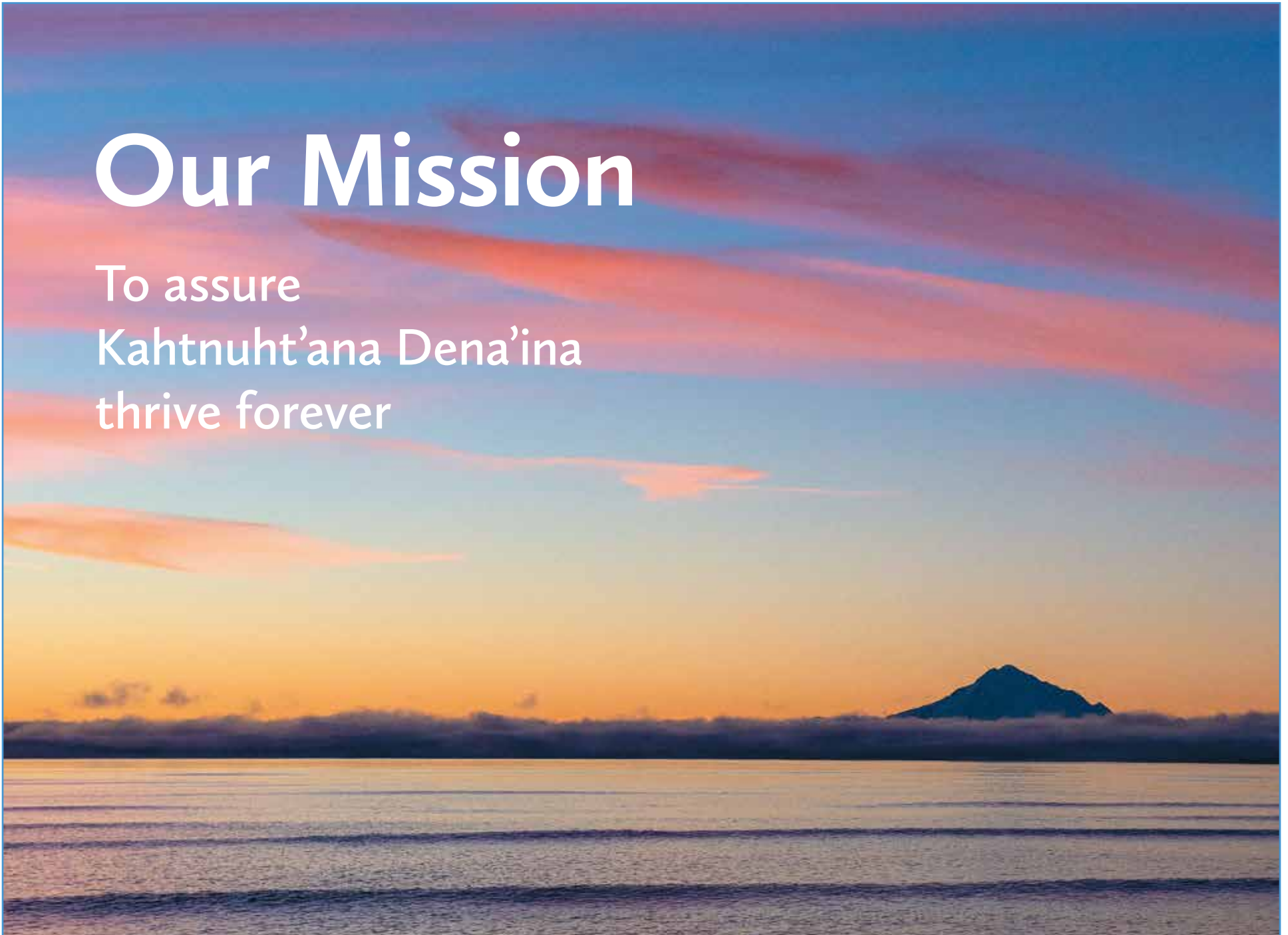
## Annual Report

2019



# Our Mission

To assure  
Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina  
thrive forever



# About the Kenaitze Indian Tribe

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe was federally recognized as a sovereign, independent nation in 1971 under the Indian Reorganization Act as amended for Alaska. Today, we have more than 1,600 Tribal Members who live across the Kenai Peninsula and beyond. We employ about 300 full-time and part-time employees.

The Tribe delivers a variety of programs and services that promote the wellness of our people and the community. In 2014, we opened the 52,000-square-foot Dena'ina Wellness Center, a fully integrated health care

facility. In 2016, we opened the 6,500-square-foot Tyotkas Elder Center within walking distance of the Dena'ina Wellness Center and our Tribal Court. The Dena'ina Wellness Center Campus grew in 2018 with the addition of the Ch'k'denlyah yuyeh Greenhouse.

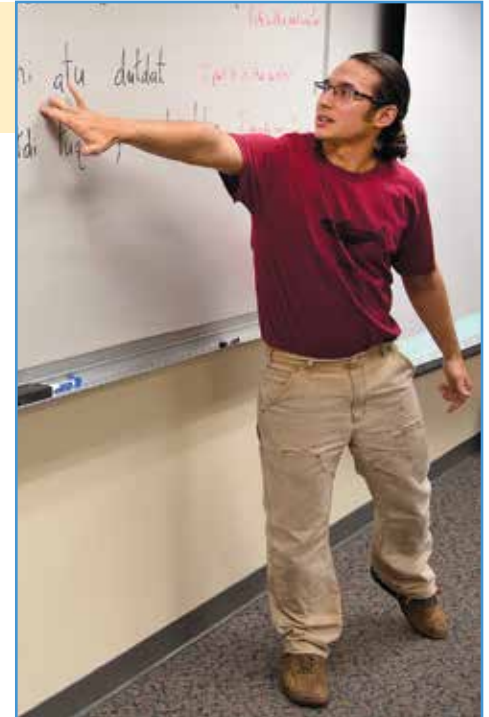
We also operate an Early Childhood Center, the Yaghanen Youth Program, social services, family services, and education and career training.

At our Annual General Membership Meeting in October, we elect members to the Tribal Council to serve staggered terms. The

seven-member Tribal Council governs the Tribe in accordance with our constitution, by-laws, ordinances and resolutions. It also appoints a Chief Judge to oversee Tribal Court and uphold Tribal laws and hires an Executive Director of Health Systems and an Executive Director of Tribal Administration to manage the day-to-day operations of the Tribe.

Our funding comes from federal, state and private grants, as well as third-party revenue generated by our health care programs.

Our Tribe is more than buildings and programs; it is our people, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina. It has been thousands of years since the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina first inhabited Yaghanen, the good land. Our mission, to assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever, continues to guide us in all that we do.



## About the Cover



This year, the Tribal Council updated the Tribe's official seal. Among the biggest changes is the addition of the Kenai River and Cook Inlet to the design — important for the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina, the Kenai River People.

The updated seal retains the symbols of Mount Redoubt, snowshoes, and the splashing salmon, first used in the Tribe's original flag in 1972 and incorporated into the Tribal Court seal after the court was established in 1986.



# Meet the Tribal Council

Seven Tribal Council Members govern the Tribe in accordance with the Tribe's constitution, by-laws, ordinances and resolutions. Council Members are elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting in October. The Tribal Council holds regular meetings open to Tribal Members. Dates and times are posted to the Tribe's website.



**Wayne D. Wilson Jr.**  
Chair



**Bernadine Atchison**  
Vice-Chair



**Diana L. Zirul**  
Secretary



**Clinton Lageson**  
Treasurer



**Liisia Blizzard**  
Council Member



**Mary Ann Mills**  
Council Member



**Sharon Isaak**  
Council Member

# From the Tribal Council Chair



The Tribe had another amazing year. There have been so many great accomplishments this year and I'd like recap a few of our biggest achievements.

One of our most exciting accomplishments is that Tribe is 100 percent debt-free. The Tribe is in an extremely good financial situation, which has created many different opportunities that will benefit our people for years to come.

Henu Community Wellness Court, a joint jurisdiction court operated by the Tribe and the state of Alaska, had its first graduates last fall in Tribal Member Eli Darien and Alaska Native Dale Vaughn.

In January, the Tribe had an election to remove the Secretary of Interior from the election process, which will allow our Tribal Members to make our own decisions on constitutional changes in the future.

One of the more exciting things the Tribal Council had the opportunity to work on this winter was the update of the Tribe's seal and logo. There were many different variations of the logo and seal, and the Council felt we needed to have one logo and one seal. The Council also believed that the seal needed to include water since we are Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina, the Kenai River People.

In late January, the Council held a facility planning session. The Council decided that with so much growth, it was time to focus on the future of Tribe and its facility needs. For the past 20 years the Tribe has been working hard to provide educational opportunities for our people. The Council has believed the educational system should be centrally located, with all programs on the same campus. The Tribe purchased property in town near the National Guard armory. Education campus construction will begin in early spring of 2020.

Another change has been to remodel Toyon Villa to have Na'ini Family and Social Services located there. Behavioral Health will move into the Na'ini building, which will free up space in the Dena'ina Wellness Center for future growth. The Tribe also purchased the Beluga Lookout property on the bluff in Old Town Kenai for future expansion.

One of the things the Council is most proud of is implementing a living wage for entry-level employees. The wage starts entry-level employees at \$16.01, which is something everyone is very excited about because we want all our people to be able to support themselves and their families.

The Tribe celebrated the 30th year of the educational fishery. The season started off on a positive note with a ribbon cutting for the new harvest shop. Jake Kooly has poured his heart and soul into making our fishery the best it can be. Although the fishery opened a month and half late, he and his crew worked hard to make sure everyone was able to fish and learn more about the fishery. One thing we can all be thankful for is that we had a summer of a lifetime and plenty of fish.

For many years now, the Council has been trying to provide the best medical care possible. For the first time, the Tribe has a full-time doctor, pediatrician, and two nurse practitioners, with another doctor coming in early October. We are super excited about the quality care that Dena'ina Wellness Center staff will be able to provide and the potential growth in some of the services that we offer.

Over the past year, the Council and staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that all the moving parts that make the Tribe successful keep moving forward and in the right direction, so that present and future Tribal Members will prosper.

The Council and staff will continue to work hard to make sure the Tribe continues to be successful. We are all very excited about the projects for the upcoming year and all the expanded services that will be offered.

The Council also encourages all Tribal Members to continue to be more active in all the things the Tribe has to offer. As our mission statement says, we all will work hard "To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever."

Thank you everyone for all your support.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. Wilson Jr.

Council Chair

# Tribal Council Engagement

Members of the Tribal Council participate in regional, state and national organizations in support of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's mission, vision and values.

Attendance at conferences provides training, education and resources that help to assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever. Participation in state and national organizations provides opportunities to advocate on issues affecting the Tribe, as well as the nationwide tribal community.

## **Alaska Federation of Natives**

The Alaska Federation of Natives is one of the largest Native organizations in Alaska. AFN's mission is to "enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community."

All members of the Tribal Council serve as delegates to AFN's Annual Convention. The Council also appoints Tribal Members to serve at the Elders and Youth Conference which precedes the convention. Through the Tribe's involvement impacts include:

- Advocacy for Kenaitze Indian Tribe and all Alaska Native people with respect to federal, state and local laws.
- Establishing the Cook Inlet Tribal Fisheries meeting to ensure food sovereignty through our educational fishery as we continue to pursue a permanent fishery.

## **Alaska Native Health Board**

The Alaska Native Health Board serves as

the statewide voice and advocacy organization for health needs of Alaska Native people with emphasis on the importance of self-determination in health care services. ANHB's advocacy encourages wellness in Native communities through recommendations for policy change on a state and federal level.

The Tribal Council appointed two Council Members, Diana L. Zirul and Mary Ann Mills, to serve on ANHB. The Tribe's representatives have further been appointed by ANHB to serve on national and state entities. Through the Tribe's involvement impacts include:

- Preservation of the trust responsibility with the federal government for health care services to ensure that funding agreements with IHS are honored.
- Preservation and growth of third-party billing such as Medicare, Medicaid and other commercial insurance to increase funding for health care services provided by the Tribe.
- Preservation of the Tribe's diabetes program with a focus on continued growth of this program.
- Preservation of the Tribe's suicide prevention program.
- Increased behavioral health funding and funding for alternative treatment for those with substance use disorders.
- Communication with other Tribes from across of the nation to ensure that Tribal

priorities are addressed by IHS and our Congressional delegation.

- Preservation of recruitment and retention funding for the Tribe's health care professionals.

## **Alaska Pacific University**

The Tribal Council nominated Mary Ann Mills to serve on Alaska Pacific University's Council of Elders. The Tribe recently partnered with APU to present a conference on Drug Addiction and Addictive Disorders with Carl Dawson, a noted expert in the field.

## **Cook Inlet Tribal Council**

Cook Inlet Tribal Council collaborates with the eight federally recognized tribes within the Cook Inlet region in order to strengthen program and social services for the region's tribal communities. CITC provides social, educational and employment services to Alaska Native and American Indian people.

The Tribal Council appointed Wayne D. Wilson Jr., to serve on the CITC Board. Through the Tribe's involvement impacts include:

- Educational services with culture-based in-school, after-school and camp programs.
- Outpatient, residential, detox, housing and re-entry services.
- Life and parenting skills classes to strengthen families.
- Employment and training services.
- Clare Swan Early Learning Center offering

basic childcare to working families.

- Alaska Native Justice Center services to address the needs of those interacting with the justice system.

#### **Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area Board**

Bernadine Atchison was appointed by the Council to the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area Board. KMTA builds community partnerships for protection and preservation of historic and cultural resources in the area, which includes the K'Beq' Cultural Heritage Site. Grants are available through KMTA that could be used to improve the K'Beq' site.

#### **National Congress of American Indians**

The National Congress of American Indians serves as a forum for unified policy development among tribal governments to advance “tribal governance and treaty rights” and to gain consensus on national issues that impact tribal sovereignty.

All members of the Tribal Council serve as delegates to the NCAI Annual Conference. The Alaska Tribal Caucus elected Clinton Lageson to serve as the Alternate Regional Vice President to represent the Alaska area on the NCAI Board of Directors.

During an NCAI event in Washington, D.C., Mary Ann Mills testified at hearings on the opioid epidemic and its effects in Alaska. While in Washington, Mary Ann Mills, Clinton Lageson and Wayne D. Wilson Jr. visited with U.S. Senators and Representatives to discuss issues important to the Tribe.

#### **National Indian Education Association**

The National Indian Education Associa-

tion's mission is to advance comprehensive, culture-based educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians while promoting educational sovereignty and supporting use of traditional knowledge and language.

The Tribal Council supported the successful candidacy of Bernadine Atchison to serve on the NIEA Board of Directors. Through the Tribe's involvement impacts include:

- Input at the federal level on education legislation that affects tribal communities nationwide.
- Information, training and resources on laws in place to protect Indian education.
- Resources to help the Tribe develop a school curriculum to teach Dena'ina history, culture and language, including information on potential grant funding.

#### **Tikahtnu Forum**

The Tikahtnu Forum was created to bring the Cook Inlet villages, tribes and CIRI with its family of companies together to share ideas and foster collaboration.

The Tribal Council appointed Wayne D. Wilson Jr., Clinton Lageson and Diana L. Zirul, to serve at the Tikahtnu Forum. Through the Tribe's involvement impacts include:

- Establishment of a Tribal Conservation District to work toward moose and fish habitat preservation.
- Sharing of ideas for improvement of behavioral health services.
- Sharing of economic development ideas such as the impact of the Alaska LNG Project on tribes.

#### **Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance Annual Conference**

Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance Commission members attended a TERO Annual Conference to network with other tribes and vendors. TERO training and workshops provide insight and education that will benefit Tribal Members, such as ways to provide more job opportunities, enhance the Tribe's internship program, establish on-the-job training programs and succession planning within the Tribe, and find partners to train Tribal Members for a variety of work skills.

#### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services charged with improving the quality of treatment and services to reduce community impacts resulting from substance abuse and mental illnesses.

Bernadine Atchison and Mary Ann Mills attended the SAMHSA conference in Palm Springs, California. Following their testimony, the Tribe was able to secure significant grant funding for Tribal programs.

#### **Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact**

Bernadine Atchison has represented the Tribe in Alaska Child Welfare Compact negotiations to develop a partnership with the state of Alaska. The compact ensures that children and families who end up in the Office of Children's Services system have the protection of the Tribe, and that Indian Child Welfare Act regulations are being enforced.



# Committees and Commissions

The Tribe maintains several standing commissions and committees to help inform and guide decisions made by the Tribal Council. Commissions and committees are led by a chairperson and made up of members of Tribal Council and Tribal Members. Tribal Members are encouraged to apply for committee and commission positions throughout the year. Typically, committees and commissions meet once a month. Meetings are held in Kenai and are announced on the Tribe's website. For additional information, please contact Tribal Member Services at 907-335-7200.

## **Constitution Committee**

Liisia Blizzard, Chair  
Clinton Lageson  
Wayne D. Wilson Jr.  
Rita Smagge  
James Segura  
Mary Ann Mills  
Elsie Maillelle  
Sharon Isaak  
Ronette Stanton

## **Enrollment Committee**

Liisia Blizzard, Chair  
Katheryn Rodgers  
Bernice Crandall  
Clinton Lageson  
Linda Ross  
Evelyn Boulette  
Elsie Maillelle

## **Election Board**

Phyllis Bookey, Chair  
Bernice Crandall  
Ronette Stanton  
Katheryn Rodgers, Alternate

## **Elders Committee**

Mary Ann Mills, Chair  
Phyllis Bookey  
Sharon Isaak  
Mary Lou Bottorff  
Rita Smagge  
Tom Stroman  
Harriet Seibert  
Betty Porter, Honorary  
Lifelong Member

## **Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina**

### **Health Board**

Diana L. Zirul, Chair  
Mary Ann Mills, Vice Chair  
Clinton Lageson, Treasurer  
Wayne D. Wilson Jr.  
Harriet Seibert  
Evelyn Boulette  
Maria Sweppy

## **Hunting, Fishing and Gathering Commission**

James Segura, Chair, Honorary  
Lifelong Member  
Liisia Blizzard  
Elsie Maillelle  
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman  
Kaarlo Wik  
Clinton Lageson  
Bonnie Juliussen Gibbs  
Mary Ann Mills, Honorary Life-  
long Member  
Bernadine Atchison, Honorary  
Lifelong Member  
Clare Swan, Honorary Life-  
long Member

## **Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance Commission**

Bernadine Atchison, Chair  
Clinton Lageson  
Wayne D. Wilson Jr.  
Mary Ann Mills  
Virginia Wolf

## **Court Code Committee**

Mary Ann Mills, Chair  
Liisia Blizzard  
Bernice Crandall  
Clinton Lageson  
Bernadine Atchison

## **Education Committee**

Bernadine Atchison, Chair  
Mary Ann Mills  
Rita Smagge  
Ben Baldwin  
Sondra Stuart  
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman  
Nadia Walluk, Youth Member

## **Finance Committee**

Clinton Lageson, Chair  
Ben Baldwin  
Diana L. Zirul  
Sharon Isaak  
Ronette Stanton  
Wayne D. Wilson Jr.  
Linda Ross



**Land Committee**

Clinton Lageson, Chair  
 Wayne D. Wilson Jr.  
 Elsie Maillelle  
 Kaarlo Wik  
 Sharon Isaak  
 Mary Ann Mills  
 Vernon Stanford

**Traditional Healing Committee**

Jennifer Showalter  
 Yeoman, Chair  
 Bobby Oskolkoff  
 Jon Ross  
 Linda Ross  
 Mary Lou Bottorff  
 Elsie Maillelle

**Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity**

James O. Segura, Chair  
 Rita Smagge, Vice Chair  
 Clinton Lageson,  
 Secretary Treasurer  
 Chris Monfor  
 Kaarlo Wik  
 Rosalie Tepp  
 Jennifer Showalter Yeoman

**Research and Review Board**

Bernadine Atchison, Chair  
 Clinton Lageson  
 Elizabeth Atchison  
 Norma Johnson

**Kenaitze Early Childhood Center/  
Head Start Policy Council**

Amber Douglas, Chair,  
 Salmon Room  
 Kiersten Consiel, Vice Chair,  
 Raven Room  
 Amanda Painter, Secretary,  
 Otter Room  
 Stacey Segura, Moose Room  
 Dani Bailey, Salmon Room  
 Shovaughnna Wilson, Ra-  
 ven Alternate  
 Ashley Poulin, Otter Room  
 Erin Smith, Otter Alternate  
 Tracy Duran, Otter Alternate  
 Selena Hargrove, Eagle Room  
 Madison Walgenbach,  
 Eagle Room  
 Alycia Backstrom, Eagle Alternate  
 Randee Wood, Squirrel Room  
 Sandi Semaken, Squirrel Room  
 Kathy Calloway, Commu-  
 nity Member  
 Melissa Larson, Commu-  
 nity Member  
 Liisia Blizzard, Tribal Coun-  
 cil Liaison  
 Bernadine Atchison, Tribal  
 Council Liaison Alternate

**Policies, Ordinances and  
Procedures Committee**

Diana L. Zirul, Chair  
 Clinton Lageson  
 Wayne D. Wilson Jr.  
 Bernadine Atchison  
 Liisia Blizzard

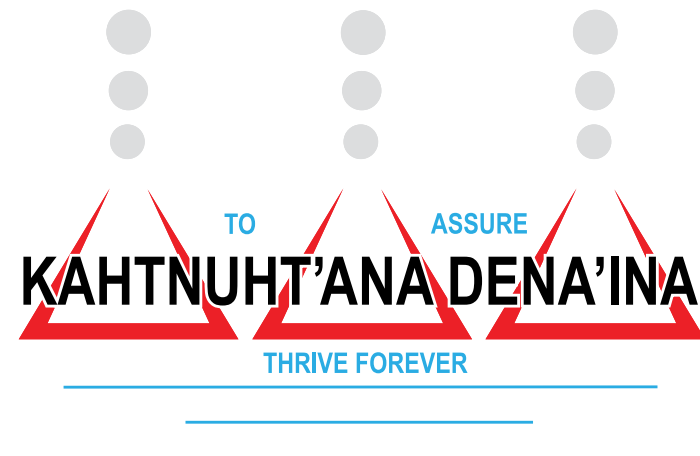
**Judicial Review Board**

Bernadine Atchison  
 Clinton Lageson  
 Mary Ann Mills  
 Liisia Blizzard

**Kenaitze Indian Tribe Logo**

In addition to redesigning the Tribal seal, the Tribal Council also looked at the many logos in use across the Tribe's programs. One of the Council's goals is to have each program easily identified as a Kenaitze Indian Tribe program.

The Council worked with the Tribe's graphic designer to update the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina logo, which depicts three volcanoes. The updated logo also includes three blue horizontal lines, symbolizing water, and the Tribe's mission statement, "To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever." The new logo, based on a symbol used by the Kahtnuht'ana for generations, will be used across all of the Tribe's programs on clothing and other items.



# Dene' Philosophy of Care

We value an approach to service that places our un'ina, those who come to us, at the center. Our Dene' Philosophy of Care takes a whole-person approach toward wellness – addressing physical, spiritual, emotional and social health as contributing factors to overall well-being.

## Dena'ina Wellness Center

The Dena'ina Wellness Center is a fully integrated health care facility offering a holistic approach to care. Our un'ina – those who come to us – receive access to medical, dental, behavioral health, chemical dependency, wellness, physical therapy, pharmacy support, optometry and traditional healing – all beneath one roof. The building also features a gym, classroom space and educational kitchen. Alaska Native and American Indian people gain access to all services, while programs that receive state funding – primarily behavioral health – are open to the entire community.

The 52,000-square-foot facility opened in 2014 on the site of an early Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina village in Old Town Kenai.

## Family and Social Services

At our Na'ini building in Old Town Kenai, we serve some of

the most vulnerable members of the community. Our social services include child care, a food cache, energy assistance, burial assistance, and emergency help. Our family services include sexual assault and domestic violence support, child protection, adult protection, foster care, family preservation and Indian Child Welfare Act services. The program supports the Tribe's traditional value of family – honoring and sustaining health and happiness of family as a first responsibility.

## Educational Fishery

We operate an educational fishery through a permit issued by the state of Alaska. The fishery generally opens each year with a celebration; this year's opening was delayed until June 16. Tribal Members wishing to fish can schedule time at the net, and many fish are given to Elders and others who can no

longer fish for themselves. Members of the Salamatof Tribe also fish the net.

The fishery gives us more than just subsistence and food security. It preserves the culture and traditions established by early Dena'ina people, bringing us together and creating a sense of unity. It represents the resiliency of our people

## Tyotkas Elder Center

Honor and respect for Elders, who provide abundant wisdom and guidance, is important to us. Our Elders program is administered at the Tyotkas Elder Center. We offer a daily lunch service, caregiver support, transportation, home visits, abuse and neglect prevention, advocacy, exercise, field trips, and more. To promote independent living, we also provide information and resources to family members who care for parents, grandparents or older relatives.



## **Housing Assistance**

Our Housing Assistance Program offers a variety of services, including emergency housing, sanding and snowplowing, student housing, transitional housing, and more. We also manage rental units in Kenai that are available to qualified individuals.

## **Tribal Court**

Established in 1986, our Tribal Court ensures the efficient and fair administration of justice while honoring the Tribe's customs, history, traditions and experiences. Hearings are conducted in a culturally appropriate manner with a panel of judges, including at least one Tribal Elder, or through a collaborative circle process. The court hears a wide range of cases, including child protection and custody, domestic violence, Tribal adoption, voluntary relinquishment and involuntary termination of parent rights, and conservatorship and guardianship. The court also administers the joint-jurisdiction Henu' Community Wellness Court with the Alaska Court System and Yaghalich Tinitun Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court, both of which serve people facing legal trouble stemming from substance use.

## **Tribal Member Services**

Our Tribal Member Services Department assists Tribal Members with enrollment, records, the educational fishery, and more. We work closely with government agencies to ensure the best interests of our people are represented. Tribal Member Services also offers administrative support to the Tribal Council and the Tribe's committees and commissions.

## **K'Beq' Interpretive Site**

Kenaitze ancestors, recognizing the abundance of fish and natural resources across Yaghanen, the good land, settled along the banks of its rivers. One of those areas was Sqilantnu in present-day Cooper Landing, where we operate the K'Beq' Interpretive Site. K'Beq' offers a depiction of Dena'ina history, customs and traditions through informational displays. The site, which includes a gift shop, is open four days a week from June to September. We manage K'Beq' in partnership with the Chugach National Forest.

## **Education and Training**

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe provides education and career training opportunities from birth to adulthood.

Ch'anikna – love for children – is one of the Tribe's most important values. At our Early Childhood Center, we emphasize family support and involvement, healthy choices and traditional Dena'ina culture. The center's no-fee services, which include a home-based Early Head Start, Head Start, after-school and summer programs, are open to Native and non-Native children regardless of household income. We offer students dental and health screenings, nutrition services and many culturally appropriate activities.

The Yaghanen Youth Program is where youth come to develop life skills, learn culture, make friends and stay on track academically. Yaghanen – meaning "safe space" – is a prevention and early intervention program open to pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade students. Students can participate in dance, drum and traditional sports, among other opportunities.

We teach archery, healthy eating habits and highlight the risks of using drugs and alcohol. The program also offers study hall and

tutoring during the school year and camps during summer.

Our Education and Career Training program supports the traditional Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina value of education – passing down cultural knowledge and traditions and supporting formal education. The program assists Tribal Members and other Alaska Native and American Indian people as they pursue higher education and career advancement, offering scholarships, job training and placement, internships, and more.

## **Ts'ilq'u Circle**

The Ts'ilq'u Circle, meaning "coming together as one," is a place where people come to have important or difficult discussions in a good way. Many participants are teenagers facing legal trouble who are referred from the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice or the State of Alaska Court System. The Circle gives them a chance to work with family, friends and community members on a plan to make amends for their offense.

The Circle also is available to employees, families and other groups. It is administered at the Tribal Courthouse.

# Health Systems

## Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board Chair



Naqantugheduk, the tide has indeed turned since the Indian Health Services Joint Venture construction funding was awarded to the Tribe in 2011 and the Dena'ina Wellness Center opened its doors in April of 2014. Last summer, the Tribal Council authorized the Center's construction loan pay-off totaling \$9.5 million, which afforded a \$3.8 million savings in the interest that would have been paid over the next 16 years. This year, the Tribe celebrated the Center's fifth anniversary with a barbecue following the Quarterly Membership meeting in July.

The Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board was established by the Tribal Council to assist in advising the Tribal Council on health, wellness and behavioral health issues at the Dena'ina Wellness Center. Health Board Members include Diana L. Zirul, Chair; Mary Ann Mills, Wayne D. Wilson Jr., Clinton Lageson, Evelyn Boulette, Harriet Seibert and Maria Sweppy.

In January, the Tribal Council developed a long-term master facility plan for the Tribe's

entire campus with an eye on how to best utilize the existing facilities on our campus. As a result, Na'ini Family and Social Services were relocated to Toyon Villa this past month and Behavioral Health services will be relocating to the old Na'ini building in the coming year which will allow for further expansion of services. The Behavioral Health program has seen consistent growth over the past five years, including an increase of 24 percent from FY18 to FY19, necessitating the need for more space.

Perhaps one of the most significant accomplishments during this past year is the better than expected amount of third-party revenues as a result of redesigning the workflow and billing practices. In recognition that IHS funding did not meet the needs for tribal health care, the federal government authorized, through the Affordable Care Act, tribes to bill Medicare, Medicaid and other third-party insurances for health care

services. This increase in funding equals increased services which means improvement of the health and well-being of the Tribe's un'ina. It is expected that these revenues will continue to grow as services are expanded.

In the past year, the Tribal Council and the Health Board were successful in recruiting three new primary care providers who joined Heather Callum, M.D., our pediatrician, and Andrew Furhman, Nurse Practitioner. The Primary Care department now has five full-time providers which include Robert Mitchell, D.O., Medical Director; Heather Callum, M.D.; Stuart Marcotte, D.O.; Andrew Furhman, Nurse Practitioner; and Marion Ruth, Nurse Practitioner.

Each bring areas of expertise that complement one another which

means that we are anticipating the services we provide

will expand accordingly. All providers are on a five-day schedule, Monday through Friday, with the exception of Andrew Furhman, who is scheduled Tuesday through Saturday for walk-in appointments.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center has demonstrated high quality care for un'ina, exceeding

# 72%

of un'ina at the Dena'ina  
Wellness Center have  
good control of their  
diabetes



Indian Health Service averages on 14 measures of quality. Among the highlights:

- 72 percent of un'ina at the Dena'ina Wellness Center have good control of their diabetes, compared to 36 percent for other Alaska tribal health organizations.
- 9.7 percent of Dena'ina Wellness Center un'ina use tobacco, compared with 12.4 percent at other Alaska tribal health organizations.
- 56 percent of un'ina at the Dena'ina Wellness Center are controlling their high blood pressure, compared with 42 percent of patients at other Alaska tribal health organizations.

In Wellness, the addition of a full-time Greenhouse Coordinator has led to increased production and utilization of the Ch'k'denlyah yuyeh Greenhouse. Through August, more than 560 pounds of produce had been distributed to Elders, Na'ini, and for Wellness workshops.

The Health Board and Tribal Council have been working with the administrative team and providers in expanding hours of service, and we are pleased to announce that beginning in October the Dena'ina Wellness Center will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. The team is also working on the redesign of the space at the Center in order to evaluate further expansion of all of the services. The Council and Health Board welcomes input from Tribal Members as we move forward.

Respectfully,

Diana L. Zirul

Chair, Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board



Twyla Bentley has her blood pressure checked by Penny Gottsche, CMA, during a health fair at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

**9.7%** of Dena'ina Wellness Center un'ina use tobacco, compared with 12.4 % at other Alaska tribal health organizations.

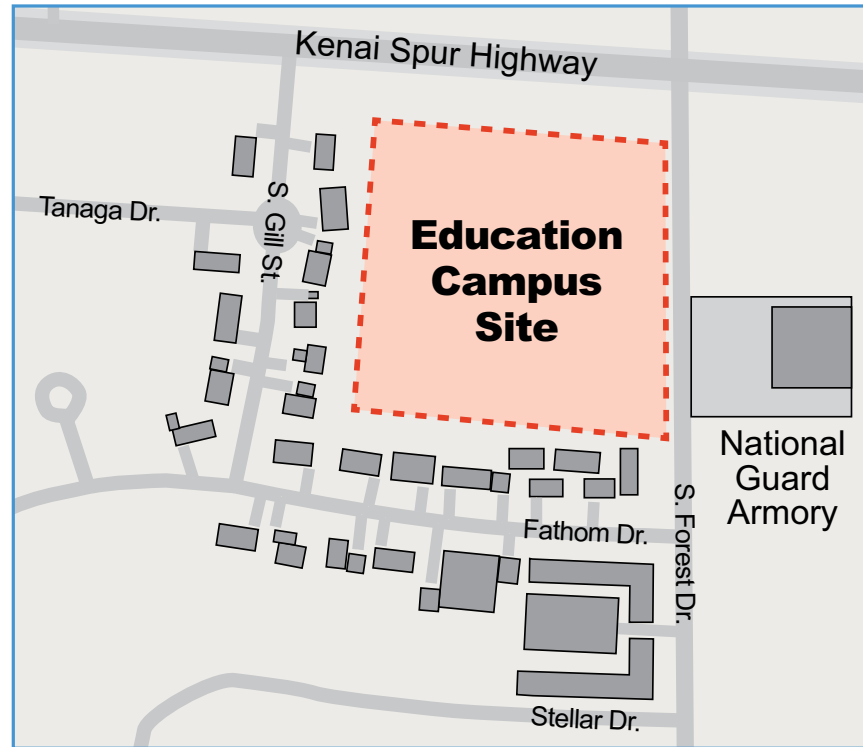
# Education

The Tribe's vision to integrate its education programs began to take shape over the past year.

During the summer of 2018, the Tribe's organizational structure was updated to bring all of its education programs into one department, with a director-level position established to oversee the integration. The position was filled in February 2019, and work is under way to integrate the Tribe's education services, which serve people from birth through adulthood.

During a facility planning session in January, the Tribal Council focused on future growth and committed to building a Tribally owned, culturally appropriate education campus that will house Education and Training programs, including the Early Childhood Center, Yaghanen Youth Program, and Education and Career Training. Property has been purchased at the corner of South Forest Drive and the Kenai Spur Highway in Kenai. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 27, and construction is slated to begin in early spring of 2020.

The new education campus will include office and classroom space, a multi-use space that will accommodate each program's needs as well as gatherings of up to 300 people, and indoor and outdoor playground areas. There will be plenty of room to grow as the Tribe's education



Above, design work is underway for a new education campus. Below, Sandi Semaken watches as Abby Hanna and Vicky Glick of the Tribe's Early Head Start program help her son Samuel paint during a home visit. Andrew Wilson takes notes during a Yaghanen Youth Program camp. Dylan Darian graduated with an Associate's Degree in Computer Networking, with support from a Kenaitze scholarship.

programs expand.

Last fall, the Early Childhood Center's new Early Head Start program moved into its new space in the Na'ini building, and Early Head Start staff began serving families. Early Head Start is a home-based program, and staff visit with pregnant mothers and children up to age 3 to facilitate learning and involve parents as their child's first teacher.

The Yaghanen Youth Program added its Susten Archaeology Camp to the list of camps for which participants can earn high school credit. Moose Camp and Fish Camp also are accredited by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. This year, Yaghanen partnered with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies to hold Harvest Camp at the Peterson Bay Field Station, across Kachemak Bay from Homer. Seldovia Village Tribe also partnered on the camp.

This year, the Education and Career Training program awarded \$139,000 in scholarships, an increase of \$42,000 in scholarship funding over the previous year. Of the 52 scholarship recipients, 50 are Tribal Members.





**\$139,000**  
Amount distributed in  
**scholarships** in  
**2019**

**50 of 52**  
**scholarships**  
awarded to Tribal Members



**\$42,000**  
**Increase**  
to scholarship funding  
for **2019**

# Services

## Elder Services

New equipment recently was installed at Tyotkas Elder Center, including a new stove. A professional chef has been hired, and the lunch-time menu has been revamped. The average number of meals served at Tyotkas has increased from 900 per month early this year, to 1,300 per month.

In December, the annual Tyotkas Christmas party proved a success, with 86 Elders enjoying the festivities. Staff from other departments pitched in to help, and Transportation provided rides to ensure that all who wanted to attend could come to share in the fun.

## Na'ini Family and Social Services

Na'ini Family and Social Services recently completed its move into the renovated office space in Toyon Villa.

In April, Na'ini hosted its third annual Violence Against Women Forum. The day-long event brings together various organizations and agencies working to address domestic violence, with the goal of raising community awareness and developing solutions.

During the past year, Na'ini Social Services distributed more than 1,300 food bags, serving more than 2,700 people.

The Cans for Christmas Food Drive provided holiday meals for 56 families. During the food drive, a total of 827 food items were donated to the Food Cache by the Tribal Council, community, and Kenaitze Indian Tribe employees.

In January, Na'ini Social Services participated in the annual Project Homeless Connect event, which connects those experiencing homelessness with helpful resources. Sixty people visited the Kenaitze Indian Tribe booth, which was also staffed by employees from Behavioral Health and Wellness.

At right, Chef Kim Pyfer cooks delicious, healthy meals for Tribal Elders.





# Tribal Court

Early in 2019, the Tribe was awarded two Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation grants for Justice Systems and Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and Corrections and Correctional Alternatives.

With this funding comes the opportunity to expand Tribal Court. The expanded facility will allow the Tribe to grow programs such as its Family Court, Henu Community Wellness Court, and Ts'ìq'u Circle. It also will allow for the addition and growth of new programs in the future.

The Tribe is currently working through the pre-funding requirements with the goal to break ground on the expansion in the summer of 2020.

In the past year, six people have graduated from Henu including one of its first graduates, Eli Darien, a Tribal Elder. Henu, which serves adults who face legal trouble stemming from substance use currently has 11 participants.

The Tribal Court cohosted a three-day workshop on “Combating the Impact of Substance Abuse in Alaska” in September. The event was well attended.

The Tribal Court has hosted visitors from around Alaska interested in learning more about the court. In recent months, visitors have come from Yakutat, Chignik Lagoon, Newhalen, Craig, Nikolai, Nome, Port Heiden, and Sitka.



Above, participants attend Henu Community Wellness Court. At right, Eli Darien is hugged by Liisia Blizzard after graduating from the Henu Court.







Eli Darian pulls the educational fishery net from Cook Inlet. The fishery overcame challenges successfully, netting a solid return of salmon.



# Educational Fishery

While the educational fishery got off to a late start, a steady return of sockeye salmon and good weather allowed the Tribe to make up for lost time.

The fishery opened on June 16, rather than the usual May 1, due to Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerns over Kenai River king salmon returns. However, the Tribe was able to fish two nets during every tide in July, and the sockeye run was consistent.

The opening of the fishery included a ribbon cutting for the new harvest shop. The heated, 1,500-square-foot facility allows the Tribe to expand its harvest program for both fish and moose. The building will eventually include walk-in coolers and freezers, providing additional storage space to meet the Tribe's needs.

A grant from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust will make future expansion of the harvest campus possible.

## Educational Fishery Productivity

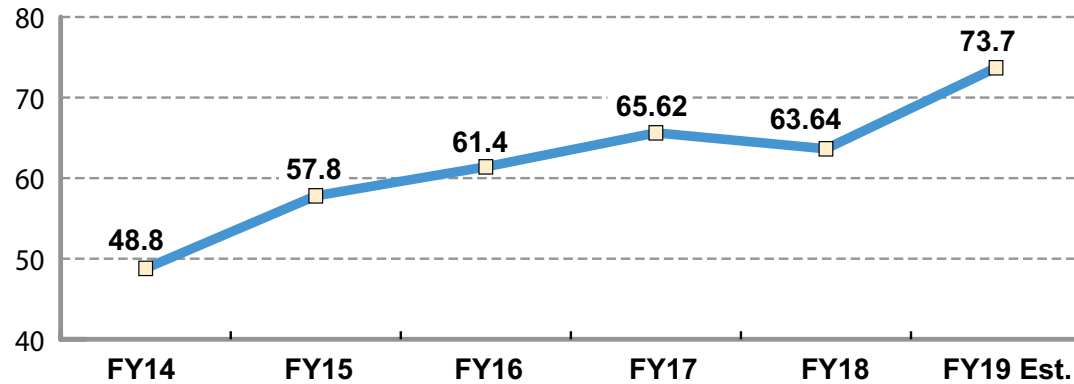
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Kings</b>	2	20	10	22	3	1
<b>Reds</b>	6,109	8,109	6,709	9,311	6,155	8,572
<b>Pinks</b>	352	4	203	90	259	93
<b>Silvers</b>	261	63	502	222	945	24
<b>Totals</b>	6,724	8,196	7,424	9,645	7,362	8,690

\*As of Sept. 9, 2019



# Financials and Demographics

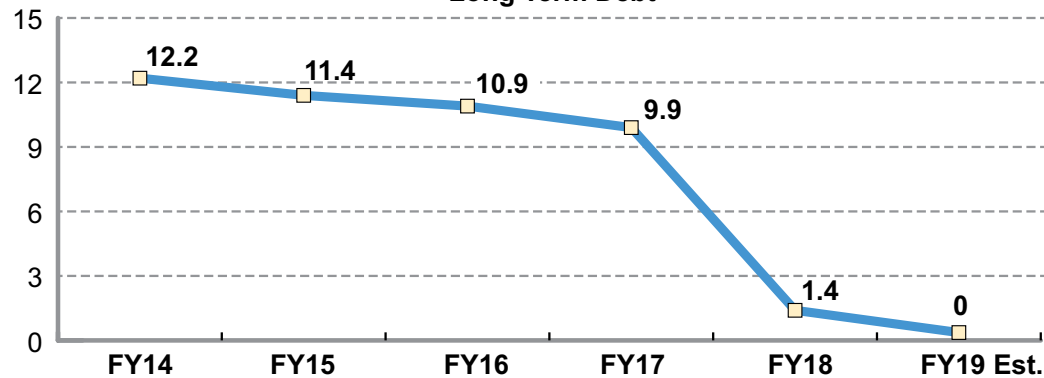
**Total Assets in Millions**



## TOTAL ASSETS

The Tribe's assets have increased over the last 8 years to \$73.7 million.

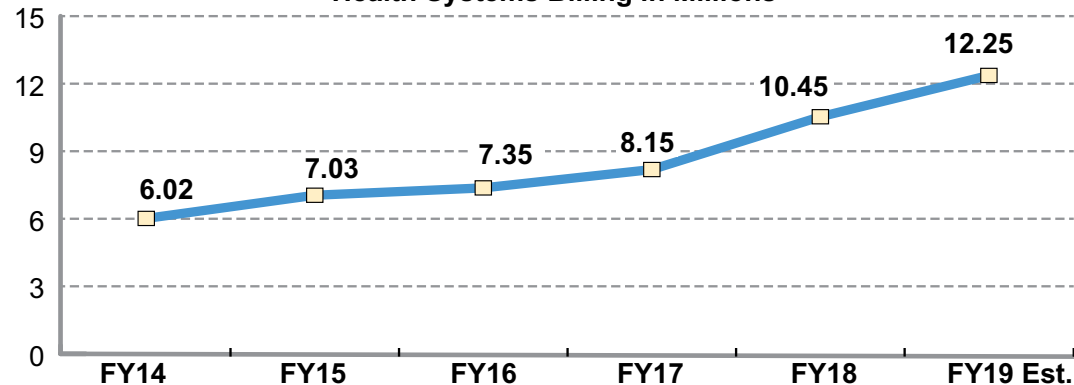
**Long Term Debt**



## LONG TERM DEBT

In FY19, the Tribe paid off all remaining long-term debt. The payoff will save the Tribe more than \$433,000 in interest.

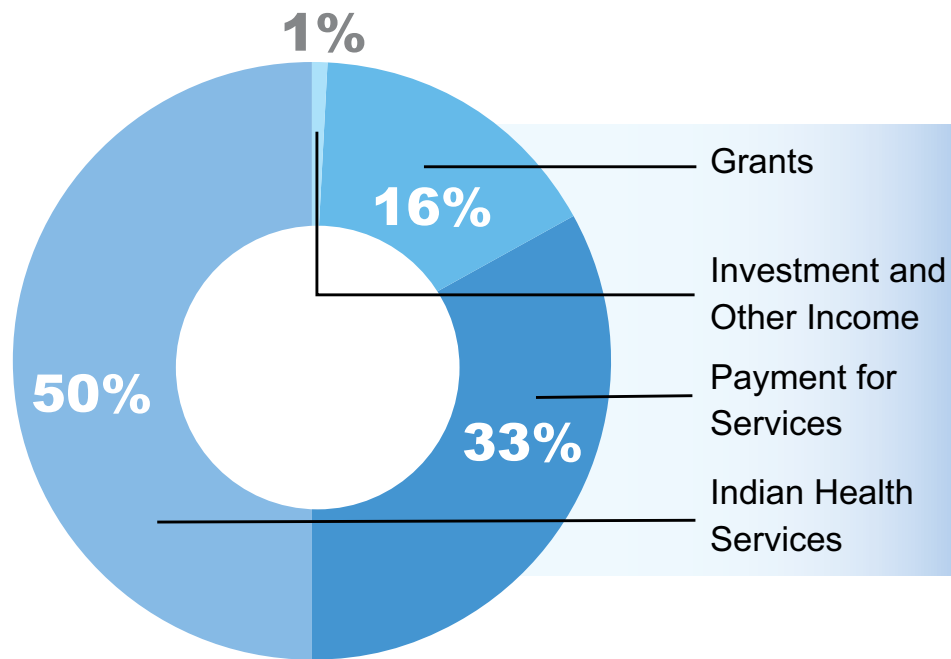
**Health Systems Billing in Millions**



## HEALTH SYSTEM BILLING

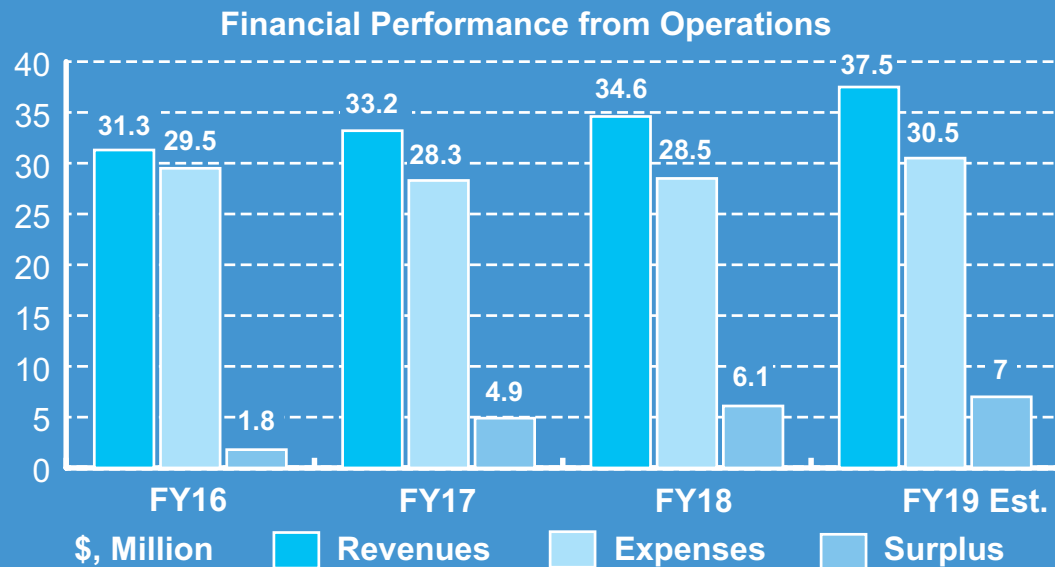
In FY19 there has been a renewed focus on optimizing access to care. The resulting improvement in efficiency has resulted in an increase in \$1.8 million in cash collections over the previous year.





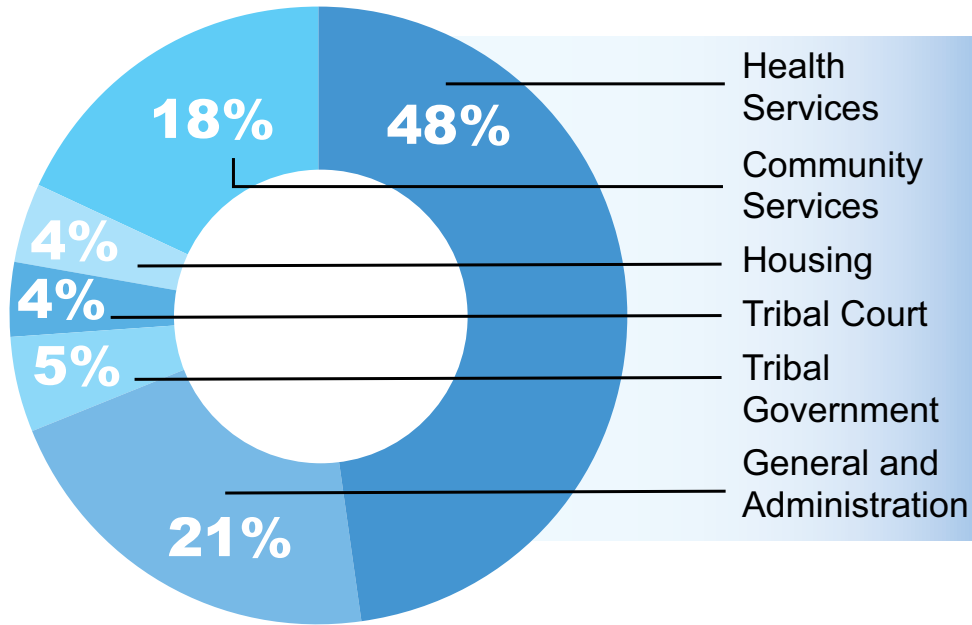
#### SOURCES OF REVENUE

In FY19, about \$18.7 million of total operating revenues came from the Indian Health Service Joint Venture award. \$6.1 million came from federal, state and private grants. Reimbursements for health services paid by Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance generated about \$12.2 million. The remainder came from program user fees, donations, interest income, contributions and investment income.



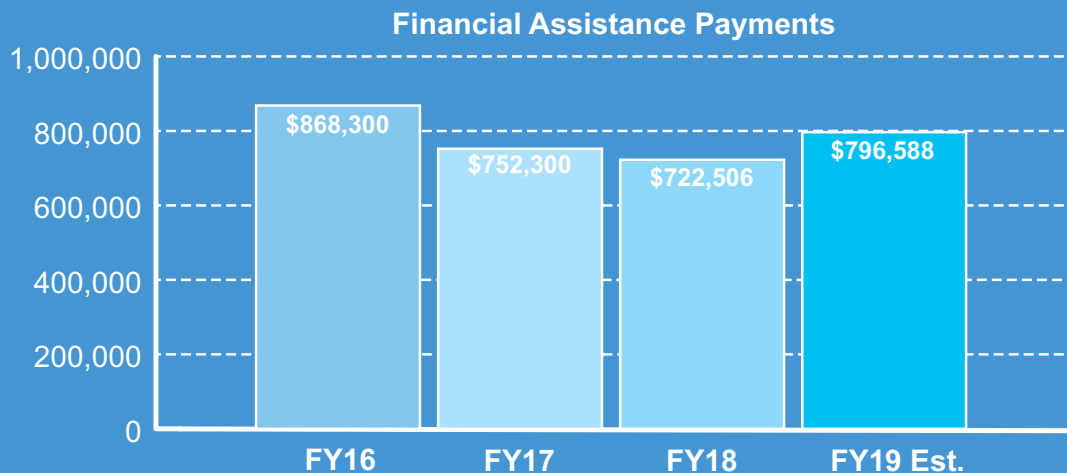
#### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FROM OPERATIONS

In FY19, the Tribe earned \$37.5 million in revenues and spent \$30.5 million on Tribal operations to provide programs and services. Operations had a surplus of \$7.0 million. Surplus funds are used for future capital projects, debt payment and Tribal development activities.



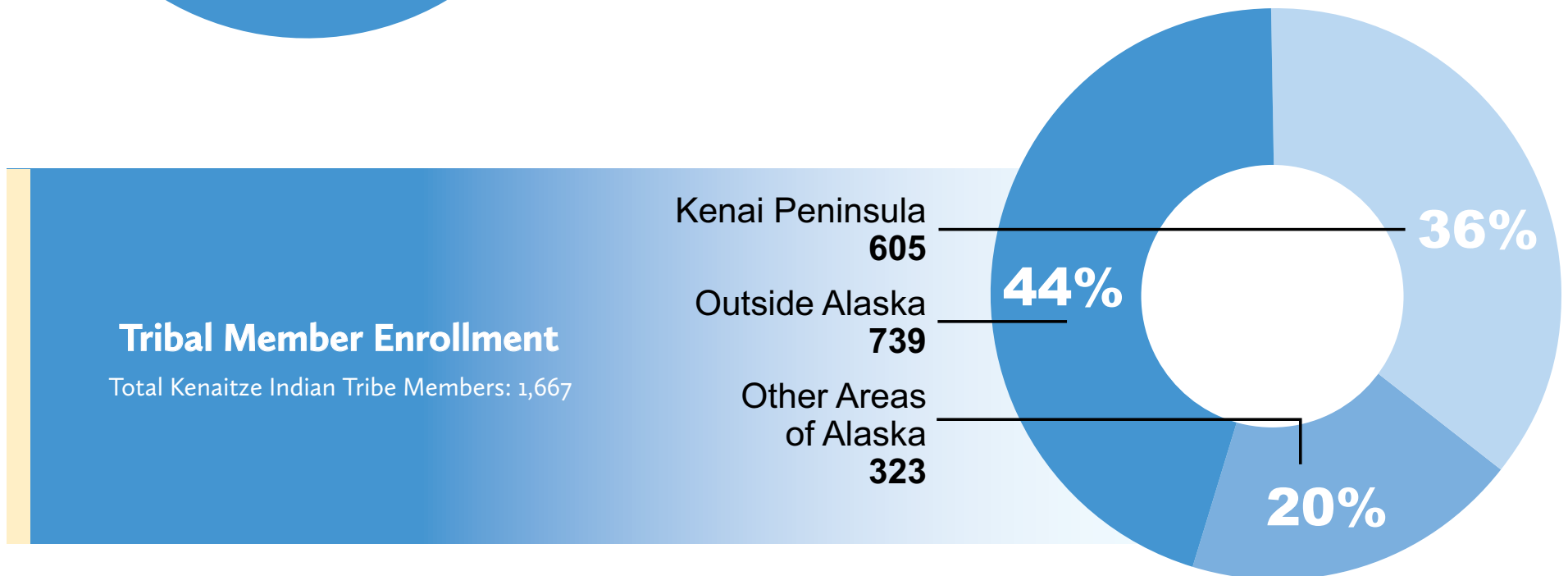
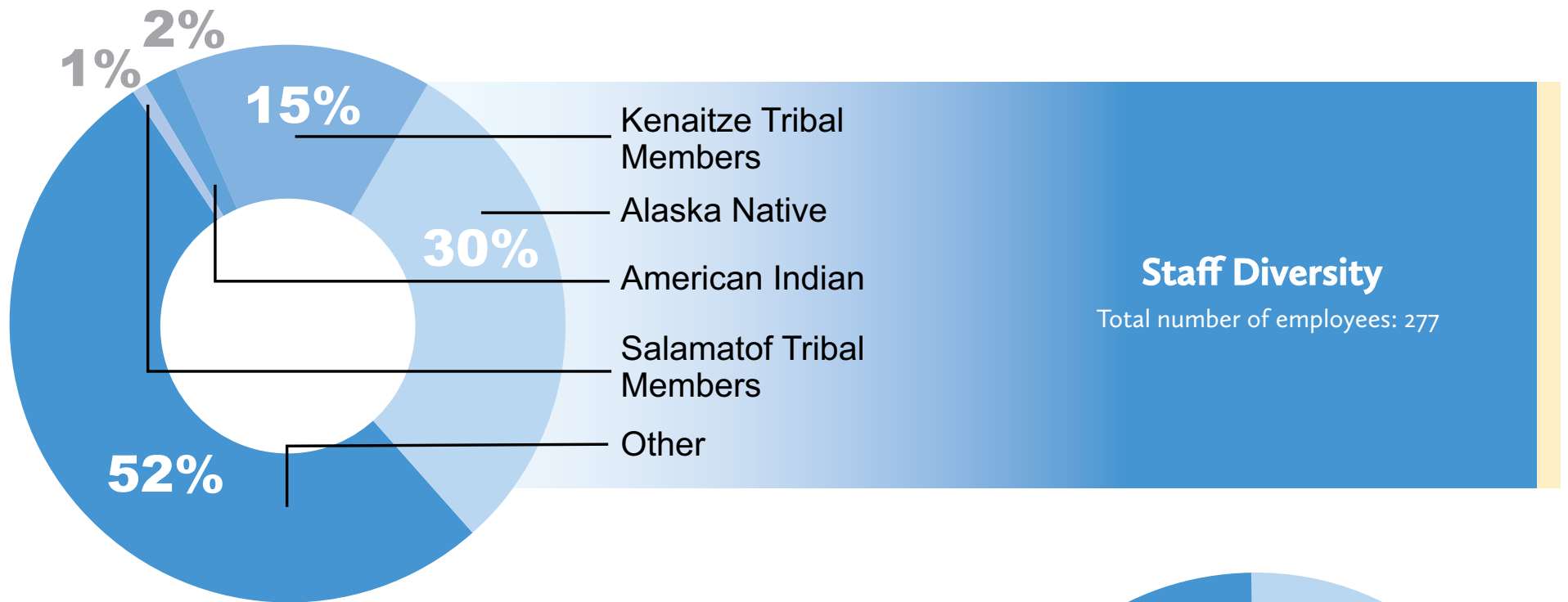
### OPERATING EXPENSES

In FY19, the Tribe spent a total of \$30.5 million on Tribal operations. Of the total, \$14.6 million was spent on health services, \$6.1 million on general and administrative, \$5.4 million on community services, \$1.5 million on Tribal government, \$1.2 million on housing and \$1.2 million on Tribal court.



### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

For FY19 the Tribe will spend about \$797,000 on direct payments to those we serve to assist with housing, education, training, transportation and emergency needs.





# Kenaitze Indian Tribe Traditional Values

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

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