

Kenaitze Indian Tribe Annual Report • 2021



Our Mission

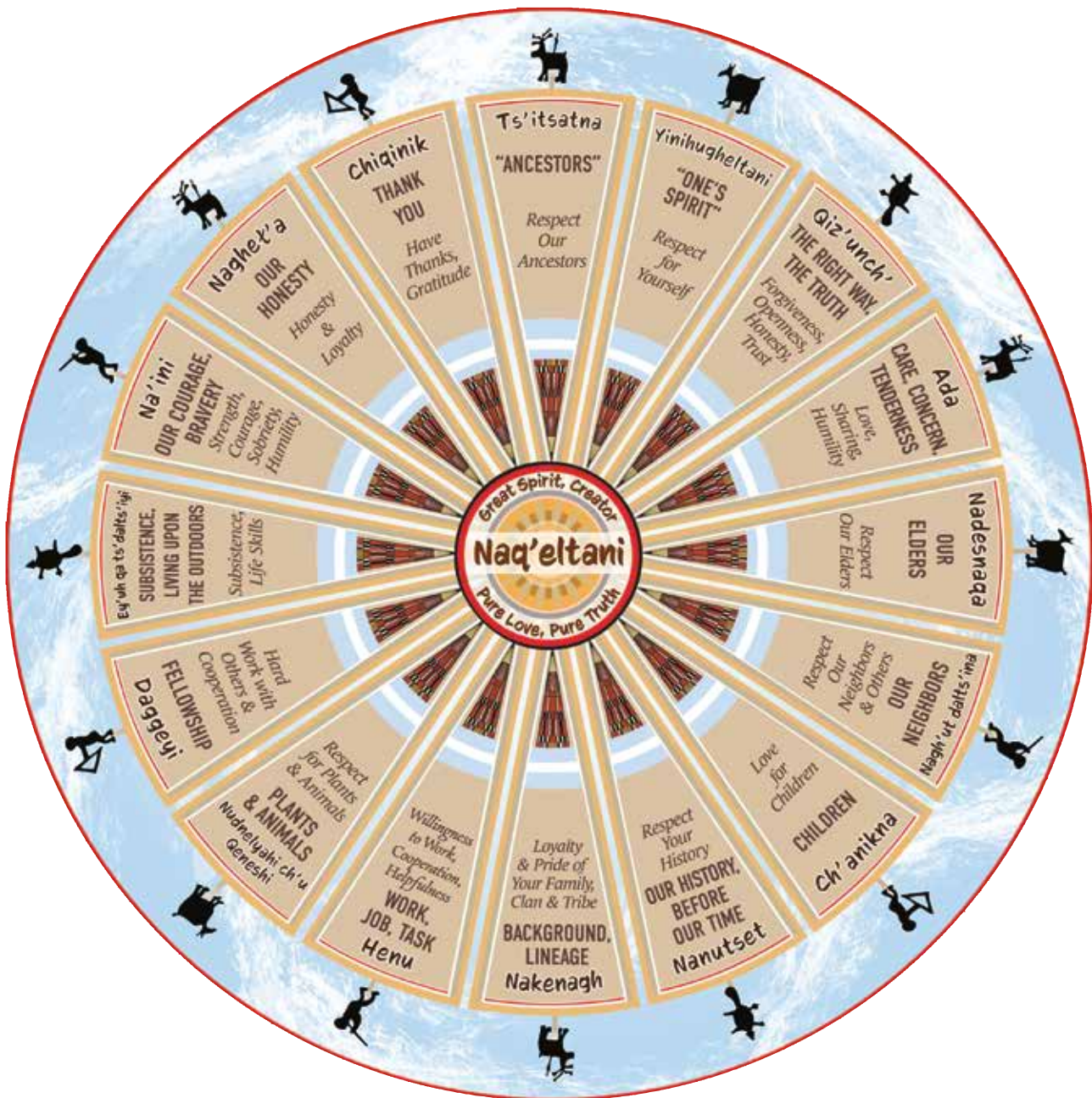


TO ASSURE

KAHTNUHT'ANA DENA'INA

THRIVE FOREVER

Kenaitze Indian Tribe Traditional Values



Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina culture is rooted in the 16 values on the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Traditional Values Wheel.

Recognizing that a higher power is at the core of those values, this past winter, the Tribal Council added to the traditional values wheel.

"The value wheel listed all of our values, but not where they

radiated from," said Bernadine Atchison, Tribal Council Chair. "As human beings, we have within us all our core values. But what helps to guide us in following them is Naq'eltani, pure love and truth. Love and truth is the center of where we came from and where we want to return to. We felt it was important as we open

up our new education campus, Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht, that we had the Traditional Value Wheel completed."

The Dena'ina word Naq'eltani, and the English translation "Great Spirit, Creator, Pure Love, Pure Truth" were placed at the center of the wheel, from which all of the Tribe's other values radiate.



Kenaitze's William Wilson competes in the one-hand reach event during a Native Youth Olympics Invitational meet.

About the Kenaitze Indian Tribe



Kenaitze Indian Tribe's first Annual General Membership Meeting in 1970.

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 1,699 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, an integrated health care facility. Kahtnuht'ana Qayeh, the Tribe's campus in Old Town Kenai, also includes Tyotkas Elder Center, Qiz'unch' Tribal Court, and Chuq'eya Qenq'a (Birch Tree House), which houses the Tribe's Behavioral Health services.

The campus expanded in 2019 with renovations to the adjacent Toyon building to accommodate offices and workspaces for Na'ini

Family and Social Services and the Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity office.

In 2020, the Tribe broke ground on the 67,259-square-foot Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus to provide a permanent home for Early Learning, Yaghanen Youth Language and Culture, and College and Career Training programs. Construction is expected to be finished in spring of 2022.

The Tribe also operates an educational fishery from its beach site on the shores of Cook Inlet near the mouth of the Kenai River.

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 appoints a Chief Judge to oversee Qiz'unch' Tribal Court and uphold Tribal laws. The Tribal Council also hires the 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.



Tribal Members pull the Tribe's net at Waterfront in 1989, the first year of the educational fishery.

Meet the Tribal Council

Seven Tribal Council Members govern the Tribe in accordance with the Tribe's constitution, bylaws, 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.



Bernadine Atchison
Chair



Mary Ann Mills
Vice-Chair



Liisia Blizzard
Secretary



Diana L. Zirul
Treasurer



Wayne D. Wilson Jr.
Council Member



Virginia Wolf
Council Member



Sharon Isaak
Council Member

From the Tribal Council Chair



Yaghalí du? As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Tribe's Constitution, here is this year's annual report.

Over the last 50 years, we have reached many major landmarks in defining who we are as the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina. The national, state and local partnerships we have formed have made our Tribe respected

and successful in striving to fulfill our mission, to assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, I want to acknowledge our Elders and ancestors who realized the importance of recognition as a sovereign nation. We are here today through their hard work and dedication to preserve and protect who we are as a people.

I want to thank all the current and past Tribal Council Members, Committee Members, employees, Tribal Citizens and the partners we have locally, throughout Alaska and across the country for helping us tinitundat' yaghe-lich', walk the path of goodness, through: ada, care; henu, work; daggeyi, fellowship; na'ini, courage; hqeldihch', education; and duk'idli, respect.

I want to give our committee members an extra thank you. Over the past year, we have faced many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Committee Members go the extra mile to ensure that we continue to provide services to our Tribal Citizens and un'ina. Our Committee Members are the backbone to the decisions we make at the Tribal Council level. Starting on page 9, you will find a list of committee members. The next time you see one of them, please take a moment to thank them for their time.

I also want to say thank you to all of our Tribal Council Members for your work over the past year to bring those recommendations from the committees to the Council. I want to acknowledge the work of Council Members and some of the committees they chaired, and how these committees encompass our traditional values:

Nanutset, Our History – As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Constitution, I want to acknowledge Liisia Blizzard for her work as the Chair of the Constitution Committee. This committee has been working hard to identify and recommend changes while respecting the intent of the Constitution as a historical document and how it can embrace the vision of our ancestors, the people we are today and future generations.

Nadesnaqa, Our Elders – Our Elders were some of the people most affected by the pandemic. Mary Ann Mills is the Chair of the Elders Committee. One of the committee's recommendations at the onset of the pandemic was to have meals delivered to Elders at home. The committee made many other key recommendations that the Tribal Council approved.

Ada, Care and Concern – Health care is one area that impacts all of us. Diana Zirul is the Chair of the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board. The Health Board had some of the most challenging information to break down this last year. They stayed on top of information coming from the Centers for Disease Control, Alaska Health and Human Services, and other Tribal Health Organizations that would impact the Dena'ina Wellness Center, our employees, Tribal Citizens and un'ina. Their recommendations guided the Council's pandemic protocol.

Henu, Work, Cooperation – This year, the federal government on two occasions distributed one-time funding, approximately \$27 million, to assist us during the pandemic. Wayne D. Wilson Jr. is the Chair of the Ad Hoc COVID-19 Funds Committee. This committee worked in cooperation with Tribal programs to identify needs that were within the funding guidelines and able to be accomplished within the limited timeframe we had to spend the money down.

Ts'itsatna, Our Ancestors – Our historic lands and ancestral remains are a priority, especially when we know those sites are going to be disturbed. Virginia Wolf is the Tribe's representative for the Sterling Highway Cooper Landing Bypass project and Chair of the Land Committee. The Land Committee was recently reactivated, so expect to hear more from them in the future.

Hqeldihch', Education – Education and knowledge are the foundation for understanding our roles as Council Members. Sharon Isaak is the Chair of the Ad Hoc Tribal Council Orientation Committee. When new Council Members are elected, the information they need to get up to speed can be overwhelming. This committee identified several documents that will be useful to Council Members and creates an orientation process.

I am the chair of the Education Committee. It is through the Education Committee members that I understand the needs of our children and adults. Recommendations for the Education Campus, Head Start, scholarships, summer and winter programs all come to Council with committee members' support and vision for success.

Lastly, chiqinik, thank you, to all of our employees. They are the boots on the ground, taking the Tribal Council's motions and directives and turning them into reality, "To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever."

Duk'idli, respectfully,
Bernadine Atchison
Tribal Council Chair

Tribal Council Outreach

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

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.

The Tribal Council appointed Diana Zirul and Mary Ann Mills to serve as the Tribe's primary and alternate representatives for ANHB. Mills serves as a representative to the ANHB Behavioral Health Directors meetings. Zirul serves as Vice Chair of ANHB and as the Alaska Tribal Health Compact's Co-Lead Negotiator. Zirul has been appointed by ANHB to serve on national and state entities: Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, primary member; Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, alternate member; and National Indian Health Board, alternate member.

The Tribe's ANHB participation helps to preserve the trust responsibility with the federal government for health care services; preserve and grow programs and funding for health care services; and ensure the Tribe's priorities are addressed by the Indian Health Service and our Congressional delegation.

Unaffiliated Alaska Native Tribal Health Committee

UANTHC consists of tribes and sub-regional tribal organizations in the Cook Inlet area that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding "to describe the means and methods for electing two representatives to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Board of Directors and

to describe essential rules for the operation of UANTHC."

The Tribal Council appointed Diana Zirul as the Tribe's representative. Zirul has been elected by UANTHC to be its representative to the ANTHC Board of Directors.

Village Service Management Team

The VSMT has the primary responsibility for communications with beneficiaries who are residents of the member communities and who receive village field health care services from Southcentral Foundation. The VSMT is also responsible for communicating to the Southcentral Board of Directors the community health needs and concerns raised by the beneficiaries.

Liisia Blizzard, Tribal Council Member, serves as the VSMT Board Member and has attended meetings telephonically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sterling Highway Milepost 45-60 Project

Last year the Tribe signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work with the Department of Transportation to hire two Tribal Members to be Cultural Observers and one Archeologist. Virginia Wolf, Council Member, serves as the liaison between the Tribe and state and federal agencies also involved in the project.

To date, we have had two discoveries by the monitoring and observer crews of two hearth features and a cache pit, both associated with a previously known site. Data recovery has commenced.

A crew from project contractor HDR and Kenaitze Indian Tribe ob-

servers have been surveying potential alternative routes and have had a few new site discoveries that have been recorded but not fully reported yet.

First Alaskans Elders and Youth Council

Sharon Isaak continues as an Elder Representative and Tribal Member Danielle Mills as a Youth Representative for First Alaskans Institute Statewide Elders and Youth Council's Southcentral region.

The council is a group of 51 Elder and youth representatives and alternates who are elected by their regional peers at the annual October conference. This group of individuals serves as the eyes and ears of their regions to keep FAI Indigenous Leadership Continuum Staff informed of the issues pertinent to Alaska Native people. The council helps develop and plan the overall conference while helping distribute opportunities and resources available within their regions.

Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Elders and Youth Conference will be held virtually, Oct. 17-20, 2021.

The theme for this year's conference will be presented in the Eyak language. The conference will include a series of workshops which will share language, art and other cultural knowledge.

In 2020, 1,200 people registered for the Elders and Youth Conference. More than 2,000 people participated in the live webcast and broadcast, and 3,000 watched via social media.

APU Elders Council

Mary Ann Mills is a member of the Alaska Pacific University Elders

Council. The Elders Council supports development and integration of Alaska Native knowledge, language, values, perspectives, history

and concerns in education at APU.
SAMHSA Tribal Technical Advisory Committee
Mary Ann Mills is the ANHB

alternate representative to the national Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Technical Advisory Committee.

Committees and Commissions

The Tribe maintains commissions and committees to inform and guide Tribal Council decisions. For additional information, please contact Tribal Member Services at 907-335-7200.

Policies, Ordinances and Procedures Tribal Council Workgroup

Diana Zirul, Chair

Liisia Blizzard

Mary Ann Mills

Wayne D. Wilson Jr.

Bernadine Atchison

Virginia Wolf

Sharon Isaak

The POP Tribal Council Workgroup reviews the Tribe's proposed and existing policies and procedures to establish guidelines for each department and to provide recommendations to the Tribal Council for approval. The workgroup will be working with the new Quality, Compliance and Privacy Director on evaluating the process for development of new policies and the ability to track updates as needed for the Tribe's accreditation process.

Constitution Committee

Liisia Blizzard, Chair

Elsie Maillelle

Samantha Singleton

James O. Segura

Mary Ann Mills

Wayne D. Wilson Jr.

Sharon Isaak

Amanda Wearly

The Constitution Committee meets on a regular basis to review and recommend revisions to the Constitution.

The Committee will be creating a process for the Tribal Membership

to be able to vote and approve an amended Constitution.

Court Code Committee

Mary Ann Mills, Chair

Liisia Blizzard

Sharon Isaak

Bernadine Atchison

Russelle J. Wilson

Samantha Singleton

Ben Baldwin

Bernice Crandall

The Tribal Court hears cases involving children, protective orders involving domestic violence, cases involving Elders and vulnerable adults. The Henu Community Wellness Court is a joint jurisdiction court with the State.

The Ts'ilqu' Circle is based on traditional Dena'ina values.

Education Committee

Bernadine Atchison, Chair

Amanda Wearly

Samantha Singleton

Mary Ann Mills

Lisa Huffman

Linda Ross

Sondra Stuart

Jennifer Showalter Yeoman

Ben Baldwin, NIEA Board Member

Christina Stuve, KPC Ex Officio

The Education Committee has made it a priority to look for new opportunities to provide programs that inspire our learners, teach our language and culture, and support each learner. The committee worked

with the Education team and created a blended learning tool that can be used at home or on site, following the social distancing guidelines.

Our education campus has been named Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht, which means the Kenai River People's learning place. The campus is about 62 percent complete with estimated completion in spring 2022. We plan to have the Educational programs transitioned into the building by fall of 2022.

Kenaitze Early Childhood Center/ Head Start Policy Council

Liisia Blizzard, Tribal Council Liaison
Virginia Wolf, Alternate

Elders Committee

Mary Ann Mills, Chair

Mary Lou Bottorff

James Coveyou

Russell Wilson

Phyllis Bookey

Sharon Isaak

Betty Porter, Honorary Lifetime

The average number of meals served per day at the Elders program is 259. Twenty-one percent of the lunches went to Kenaitze Tribal Members.

Election Board

Logan Wik, Chair

Katheryn Rodgers

Bernice Crandall

Phyllis Bookey, Alternate

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Enrollment Committee

Liisia Blizzard, Chair
Evelyn Boulette
Samantha Singleton
Katheryn Rodgers
Elsie Maillelle
Bernice Crandall
Linda Ross

The Tribal Enrollment Committee receives and verifies eligibility of all applications for Tribal enrollment. All approved applications for Tribal enrollment are ratified on a yearly basis during the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Annual General Membership Meeting.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the same ratification process as in 2020. The list of new Tribal Enrollees will be mailed to all qualified voting members. If we receive no objections to the list of new enrollees, we will consider the list ratified within 30 days after the Annual Meeting.

Finance Committee

Diana Zirul, Chair
Linda Ross
Ben Baldwin
Wayne D. Wilson Jr.
Maria Sweppy
James Coveyou
Sharon Isaak

The Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing drafts of the Tribe's financial statements on a monthly basis and making recommendations to the Tribal Council regarding the annual audit. Two Tribal Members, Maria Sweppy and Jim Coveyou, recently joined the committee.

Hunting, Fishing and Gathering Commission

Kaarlo Wik, Chair
James Coveyou
Alex Coxwell

Liisia Blizzard
Elsie Maillelle
Sharon Isaak
Russelle Wilson
James O. Segura, Honorary Lifetime
Mary Ann Mills, Honorary Lifetime
Bernadine Atchison, Honorary Lifetime
Clare Swan, Honorary Lifetime

Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board

Diana Zirul, Chair
Mary Ann Mills, Vice Chair
Wayne D. Wilson Jr., Secretary
Sharon Isaak
Maria Sweppy
Samantha Singleton
Evelyn Boulette

The Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board provides recommendations and advice to the Tribal Council on matters related to health care services at the Dena'ina Wellness Center and behavioral health services at Chuq'eya Qenq'a. The renovations that were completed during this past year have allowed the Tribe to continue health care services even during the current increase in COVID-19 cases. In particular, un'ina and staff have been able to access the negative pressure, pandemic suite through a separate entrance in order to ensure that those un'ina with symptoms or who have tested positive for COVID may receive services.

The Tribe has continued in its efforts to recruit additional Primary Care providers. In addition to Dr. Callum, Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Marcotte, Dr. Cafego joined the staff this past year. Un'ina are now able to receive COVID test results within 24 to 36 hours as a result of the new laboratory equipment that provides onsite testing as well as avoid delays for other bloodwork results when tests are sent off site.

Dr. Lincoln has joined Dr. Phillips as the Tribe's second optometrist in the new Optometry suite. Special

testing equipment and the purchase of eyewear have allowed un'ina to readily access these services on site rather than going elsewhere. Dr. Millar, Dr. Barrickman and Dr. Perkins have joined Dr. Richards to provide additional dental services such as crowns and Invisalign treatment. Services at the gym have started with a variety of new equipment. Behavioral Health services have been relocated to Chuq'eya Q'enq'a with individual treatment rooms for privacy purposes.

This past year, a Quality, Compliance and Privacy Director was hired to assist in evaluating the services with the Tribe's health system. The Health Board welcomes your input through this process for improving both the quality and type of services available at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board Behavioral Health Committee

Mary Ann Mills, Chair
Diana Zirul
Alex Coxwell
Evelyn Boulette
Maria Sweppy

Craig Ward, Director of Behavioral Health has emphasized reduction of the wait list. By adding extra assessments onto clinician schedules, all Kenaitze Tribal members have been offered appointments.

The pandemic has taken an emotional toll on un'ina and the Mental Health program is creating more groups to serve the need. The Behavioral Health Clinicians embedded within Primary Care are working with providers and Dr. Nassar to improve the coordination of care the substance use/chemical dependency program is conducting treatment sessions through Zoom and in person.

Kahtnuht'ana Development Corporation

Gabriel Juliussen Jr., President
Bruce Gabriel, Vice President
James O. Segura
Virginia Wolf

Land Committee

Virginia Wolf, Chair
Mary Ann Mills
Kaarlo Wik
Elsie Maillelle
Sharon Isaak
Vernon Stanford
Russelle Wilson

The Tribal Council recently appointed Virginia Wolf, Council Member, as the chairperson to work with the Committee to develop a plan and goals. The Land Committee is gathering a list of all Tribal lands and properties in order to identify and track.

Research and Review Board

Bernadine Atchison, Chair
Virginia Wolf, Elder
Elizabeth Atchison, Cultural Representative
Norma Johnson, Archaeologist
Robert Mitchell, D.O., Medical Director

The board is working with Dr. Ripan Mahli with the University of Illinois to offer a class about salmon DNA for Tribal Members.

We are collaborating with Tribal Archaeologist Norma Johnson to have ancestral remains returned for repatriation; working with the Land Committee on bluff restoration or other options for Kalifornsky Village grave sites; and participating in Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act trainings.

Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity Housing Board

James O. Segura, Chair
Kaarlo Wik, Vice Chair
Diana Zirul, Secretary/Treasurer

Rosalie Tepp
Chris Monfor
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman

TERO Commission

Lisa Huffman, Chair
Bernadine Atchison
Wayne D. Wilson Jr.
Mary Ann Mills
John Juliussen

The Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) Commission has focused on the Tribal Council's goal of establishing and growing a pool of TERO applicants. Kenaitze's TERO Ordinance gives preference to Tribal Members, Tribal Member's spouses, and Alaska Native and American Indian people in employment, contracting, and other business activities. From the TERO Pool, qualified applicants are identified for employment opportunities within the Tribe as well as with other companies and businesses.

The TERO Manager has been instrumental in connecting applicants with jobs at Kenaitze Indian Tribe and with businesses in our communities. The TERO Manager has assisted TERO applicants with education and training so that more opportunities become available to our Tribal Members.

The TERO Commission reviews job descriptions to ensure barriers are removed and opportunities are made available to TERO applicants. The TERO Commission identifies areas in policies and procedures where language specific to TERO and preference is needed, and forwards recommendations to Tribal Council for consideration and approval.

The TERO Commission also reviews variance requests presented by hiring managers to ensure TERO preference is applied when filling vacant positions or promoting individuals within the Tribe. Variance

requests receive final approval from Tribal Council.

The TERO Commission reports that in the past year, the TERO pool has grown from zero to more than 120 applicants; 15 Tribal Members and 40 TERO applicants were employed with the Tribe; three Tribal Members and nine TERO applicants were employed outside the Tribe; 14 TERO applicants were in college to further their careers; five TERO applicants were pursuing behavioral health certifications; four TERO applicants were in training for trades; and seven partnerships were formed with local business and employers.

Title IV-E Committee

Mary Ann Mills, Chair
Samantha Singleton
Liisia Blizzard
Diana Zirul
Bernadine Atchison
Bernice Crandall

Title IV-E is a federal program to replace the Office of Children Services for Kenaitze children who are in foster care. This program is intended to protect Kenaitze children and promote family reunification.

The program will give the Tribe the opportunity to pay for foster care comparable to what the state pays its foster parents. Licensing of foster parents will be done through the Tribe's Na'ini Family Services.

The Title IV-E program is presently going through the federal government's Region X for its final approval.

Tribal Council Orientation Workgroup

Sharon Isaak, Chair
Wayne D. Wilson Jr.
Diana Zirul

Tribal Council Charter Workgroup

Diana Zirul, Chair
Bernadine Atchison
Liisia Blizzard

Tribal Services

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 an integrated health care facility offering a holistic approach to care. Our un'ina receive access to medical, dental, behavioral health, chemical dependency, wellness, physical therapy, pharmacy support, optometry and complementary medicine. The building also features a gym and classroom space.

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 Dena'ina Wellness Center opened in 2014 on the site of an early Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina village. Kahtnuht'ana Qayeh, the Tribe's Old Town Kenai campus, continues to grow, with Behavioral Health services moving into Chuq'eya Qenq'a, Birch Tree House, in 2020.

Family and Social Services

At our Toyon building adjacent to the Dena'ina Wellness Center, 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.

Educational Fishery

We operate an educational fishery through a permit issued by the State of Alaska. 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.

This year, social distancing measures were put in place to allow families to return the harvest campus and fish the net together.

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.

Education and Training

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

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 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. Yaghanen also offers study hall and tutoring during the school year and summer learning opportunities.

Our College and Career Training program supports the traditional Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina value of 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.

Tyotkas Elder Center

Honor and respect for Elders is a traditional value. Our Elders program is administered at the Tyotkas Elder Center. We offer regular 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.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tyotkas has transitioned to home delivery of meals.



Youth enrolled in the Tribe's summer learning program participate in a Kenai River float trip in June. Read more on p. 20.

Tribal Member Services

Tribal Member Services is available to promote the well-being of Tribal Members and their families through various Tribal benefits, including the Tribal Member Enrichment Program, burial assistance, and funeral assistance. Tribal Member Services staff assist Tribal Members with the educational fishery and other programs.

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. We manage K'Beq' in partnership with the Chugach National Forest.

Housing Assistance

Our Housing Assistance Program offers a variety of services, including emergency housing, sanding and snowplowing, student housing, transitional housing, and more.

Qiz'unch' Tribal Court

Established in 1986, our Qiz'unch' 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 con-

servatorship and guardianship.

The court also administers the joint-jurisdiction Henu Community Wellness Court with the State of Alaska Court System, which serves people facing legal trouble stemming from substance use.

Ts'itq'u Circle

The Ts'itq'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

Dena'ina Wellness Center services expand

Health care staff at the Dena'ina Wellness Center continue to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Providers resumed scheduled in-person visits in January after utilizing telehealth options for many services earlier in the pandemic.

Drive-up testing for COVID-19 has continued at the Dena'ina Wellness Center, and as COVID-19 vaccines have been released, they have been made available to un'ina and the Tribe's employees based on the prioritization schedule and availability.

Beginning last fall, changes were made throughout the Dena'ina Wellness Center to improve and expand services while protecting the health of un'ina and employees. Renovations were completed throughout the building.

Primary Care

The new pandemic suite with six exam rooms and a negative pressure air handling system is ready for use. The rooms in the pandemic suite can be sealed off from the rest of the building to prevent the spread of airborne disease. The area can be accessed from a separate side entrance, when needed.

In addition to new space for Physical Therapy, remodeling in the Primary Care area of the Dena'ina Wellness Center includes rooms for complementary medicine, including massage therapy, Rolfing, and traditional healing. Un'ina began making appointments for massage therapy in April.

The Primary Care workspace also was remodeled. Staff now have additional space to work and social distance as needed.

Optometry

Renovations at the Dena'ina Wellness Center over the past year included a new, expanded Optometry suite.

The new Optometry space has four exam rooms and a specialty room. The additional space accommodates a second optometrist, allowing the Tribe to better serve un'ina.

The biggest addition is the new optical service. Un'ina are now able to purchase their new eyeglasses at the Dena'ina Wellness Center, with many frames to choose from on display in the Optometry reception area.

New state-of-the-art equipment will help with the diagnosis of many eye conditions treated by the Optometry staff. The new technology allows un'ina to view an extreme closeup of their eye as their care provider discusses their vision.

Behavioral Health

In response to the emotional toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, Behavioral Health has started new support groups, including an anxiety support group and a grief and loss support group.

While restrictions on in-person gatherings were in place, a weekly drum making workshop was organized through Behavioral Health's

Dena'ina Yinihugheltani Project, which is funded by a Native Connections grant. Participants learned to make several different styles of drums. Drum making also was incorporated into the Youth Services summer program.

Drumming is returning to Behavioral Health as the Heart-beat of Mother Earth drum will be used for drum circles and healing activities.

Remodeling of the building to accommodate Behavioral Health services, including installation of wheelchair lifts, has been completed at Chuq'eya Qenq'a.

Dental

Expansion of the Dental clinic includes three additional large, enclosed dental exam rooms. New equipment assists in maintaining the exam rooms to ensure the health and safety of un'ina and staff. Each exam room is equipped with HEPA filters that clean, purify and re-energize the air.

Additionally, each hygiene room has been equipped with new ultrasonic cleaners and dental suction systems that remove droplets and aerosols from the air, further reducing the risk of infection.

Dental staff also are now using new intraoral scanners, which create digital 3-D models of teeth. With the scanners, Dental will be able to offer Invisalign to un'ina who qualify. This alternative to metal braces reduces the number of overall office visits and allows for remote orthodontic treatment.



A monitor shows the status of one of the Dena'ina Wellness Center's six new negative pressure exam rooms that were added to complement the center's existing negative pressure room. The rooms are in a suite within the center and make it possible to treat infectious people even more safely than before. Most common to a hospital, there are very few of the rooms on the Kenai Peninsula.

Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy staff began seeing un'ina in person in January in the new treatment space.

The new space, located in Primary Care, includes individual rooms for evaluation and treatment of un'ina, and a large, dedicated gym area for other physical therapy activities.

Wellness

The Wellness gym re-opened in April, and many other in-person programs have resumed, including arts and crafts sessions, summer harvesting, and chronic disease management classes. Many activities are held in the Wellness group room, which is located next to the Wellness Activity reception desk.

Wellness services, such as smoking cessation assistance, were available telephonically and online over the winter. Wellness

staff held weekly Wellness Wise workshops over Zoom, which included presentations on crafts, fitness, and nutrition.

The Ch'k'denlyah yuyeh greenhouse on the Dena'ina Wellness Center campus produced fresh greens and vegetables all year, which were used in meals prepared by Tyotkas Elder Center staff. Plans are underway to move the greenhouse to Shanteh t'uh, the Tribe's property on Ames Road in Kenai. The Wellness gym has installed several new pieces of equipment, including new WaterRower rowing machines and a new strength machine. Fitness On Demand workouts are available to complement the gym's group classes.

Laboratory and Imaging

New equipment in the Dena'ina Wellness Center Laboratory de-

partment allows staff to process more tests, and in many cases do in a few minutes what used to take hours or longer. For our un'ina, that means getting a quicker diagnosis, and working toward wellness sooner.

The Lab has several new pieces of state-of-the-art equipment. The machines can process more tests, test for more things, and provide more accurate results. With the ability to run a wider range of tests, the Lab is also able to cut down the number of tests sent to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for processing.

For example, a new urinalysis machine can process 10 samples in 5 minutes. Previously, the Lab could only run one sample at a time, and it took 15 to 20 minutes.

Another new machine provides an "integrated platform" for Lab staff. It takes the place of several different machines, and can do multiple tests at once. The machine gives the Lab the ability to expand the types of testing it can do, and Lab staff will be working with care providers to see what tests they would like to have available.

A new PCR testing machine allows those tests to be processed onsite. That includes COVID-19 testing, as well as testing for influenza, strep, and other infectious diseases.

Another new analyzer examines cells at the molecular level, and is highly accurate in detecting abnormalities. This gives providers a clear picture of an un'ina's health.

Over the winter, Radiology also had a new X-ray machine installed, which provides high quality, digital images within minutes.



Arthur Flores, Assistant Cook, packages salads on Tyotkas Elder Center's new packaging machine.

Tyotkas Elder Center

Tyotkas staff moves into expanded space



A south-facing solarium was included in the Tyotkas Elder Center remodel and expansion.

Last fall, Tyotkas Elder Center underwent additions and remodeling. The changes allow for expanded services as well as enhanced safety when the building reopens to the public.

Last summer and fall, Tyotkas staff, with assistance from some of the Tribe's other programs, delivered as many as 250 meals each day. In November, Tyotkas switched to weekly food boxes due to a surge in COVID-19 transmission. From November to March, staff prepared and delivered 4,264 food boxes to Elders.

In March, Tyotkas resumed preparation of hot meals for Elders in the Tribe's service area. Hot meals are available to Elders for

delivery or pick-up on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In the kitchen expansion, there is now more room and some new equipment, including a designated baking area and a dedicated salad prep area. The dishwashing area features a new triple-basin sink, large enough to handle the biggest pots and pans the kitchen staff uses.

The kitchen also now features an Oliver packaging machine. With the machine, meals can be packaged and sealed for delivery or storage.

The dining area also underwent some changes. A solarium area has been added to the back of the building. The room faces south,

taking advantage of the sunshine and the view toward the mouth of the Kenai River with a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows. The solarium opens up onto a new patio area.

The solarium is outfitted with board games and puzzles, as well as TV screens for Elders to catch their favorite shows.

Elders also will appreciate the new and improved salad bar, and new chairs and tables in the dining area. There's also a sweet treat waiting for the re-opening: a new soft-serve ice cream machine.

For information about lunches and advocacy services available at Tyotkas Elder Center, call 907-335-7280.

Tribal Fishery

Fishery staff works the tides to support permit holders

It has been a busy year for the Tribal Harvest Program.

“This summer has been extremely productive,” said Jake Kooly, the Tribal Harvest Program Manager. “It’s been the best summer I’ve seen in the last five years.”

As of Sept. 6, 11,033 fish had come to the Tribe’s nets at the educational fishery.

Families also were able to return to the beach to fish the nets, re-summing traditions and helping to ease the workload on fishery staff. While social distancing measures were in place, families were still able to work together.

“That’s the biggest key – everyone working together to get fish,” Kooly said.

Not only have plentiful numbers of fish been coming to the net, Kooly said the timing of the run was extended as well.

“We had a second July with the number of fish we saw in August,” Kooly said.



Jake Kooly, Tribal Harvest Program Manager, carries bags of frozen salmon fillets into Tyotkas Elder Center for storage in the center's freezers. The fish is used for Elder meals and delivered to Elders for them to cook.

Last fall, the Tribe purchased a 32-foot fishing boat, which is named the Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina.

The boat was used over the winter to fish for king salmon out of Homer. This summer, it has been used for halibut fishing.

The fish that come to the Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina are shared with Elders. King salmon are harvested under state sport fishing and proxy fishing regulations. Halibut fishing is done under federal subsistence fishing regulations.

Three moose also came to the Tribe last fall. The moose meat also was shared with Elders in the food boxes provided by the Tyotkas Elder Program. The moose meat, fresh king salmon and halibut supplement the sockeye salmon that come to the Tribe’s nets at the educational fishery.

Educational Fishery Productivity

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Kings	22	3	1	4	0
Reds	9,311	6,155	8,572	7,040	10,758
Pinks	90	259	168	118	0
Silvers	222	945	24	506	275
Totals	9,645	7,362	8,765	7,668	11,033

*As of Sept. 6, 2021



Tribal Member Kimberly Ivarie poses with silver salmon that came to the Tribe's net in early September. "I like the bellies," Ivarie said. "I smoke and can them and then make smoke salmon artichoke dip, one of my favorite treats."



Starla Oskolkoff learns archery during the summer program.

Education

Learning programs adapt and grow

While the new Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus is under construction, the Tribe's Education division already is growing into it.

In the fall of 2020, the Tribe launched a blended learning program, which combines online and in-person learning. As part of the program, tablet computers were distributed to 150 families. A pilot learning session was conducted in December 2020, with an expanded blended learning program field tested during the past winter and spring. Online learning opportunities, held over Zoom, included Native Youth Olympics, Dena'ina culture and language, drumming, and arts and crafts, among other topics.

During the summer, Education looked for ways to provide additional opportunities for learning while maintaining COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Early Head Start staff resumed in-person home visits on a limited basis. Children enrolled in the Tribe's preschool program returned to the Early Childhood Center in small groups, one day per week, to prepare for fall in-person learning.

The Tribe also was able to offer two sessions of summer learning for children ages 5 to 14. Children ages 5 to 8 were based at the Nikiski Community Recreation Center, with access to trails, the beach, and many other activities.

The program for learners ages 9 to 14 was mobile, with small groups traveling in the Tribe's vans to lo-

cations around the Kenai Peninsula for activities such as archery, rafting, swimming and water safety, and cultural learning.

The Tribe's Susten Archaeology Camp included two week-long sessions in July, as well as additional field work days. Participants conducted field work at several sites, and followed up with analysis of their work.

Participants in the Tribe's internship programs played an important role in the summer learning session, helping to instruct their younger peers. The Tribe worked with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and the Kenai Watershed Forum to place interns.

This fall, changes were made to the Yaghanen Youth Culture Program to serve more learners while maintaining health and safety protocols. Rather than transporting learners to a central location, the Tribe's Culture Instructors will be working in schools Monday through Thursday. Culture Instructors are able to provide daily Native Youth Olympic sessions, as well as the other Yaghanen programming, including traditional dancing and drumming, Healthy Choices, archery, language and culture, and tutoring.

Culture Instructors also will be available during the school day to support students and help school staff understand their learning needs.

On Fridays, Culture Instructors take part in training, including Dena'ina language study.

Culture Instructors will be working at Mountain View Elementary, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary, Kenai Middle and Kenai Central High schools.

The Education division also continues to expand its Dena'ina language curriculum, and is finalizing plans to hire a Dena'ina Language Institute Director and instruction team.

\$204,400

Amount distributed in
scholarships in
2021

78 of 78
scholarships
awarded to Tribal Members

\$51,700
Increase
to scholarship funding
for **2021**

Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus

New building makes big impression

Members of the Tribal Council, Education Committee, and Education division staff recently had an opportunity to walk through the Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus, which is under construction at the corner of the Kenai Spur Highway and South Forest Drive in Kenai. For many, it was their first peek since construction started in the summer of 2020.

"I think it is going to be pretty awesome," said Bernadine Atchison, Tribal Council Chair and Education Committee Chair.

The building will have space for all of the Tribe's education programs – with extra room to grow. At 67,259 square feet, the education campus is even bigger than the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

"I think it's really going to capture all the education programs we want to do," Atchison said.

While construction started last year, the project has been part of the Tribe's vision for many years. The location provides opportunities to expand the classroom outside the building. The Kenai Municipal Park, the Kenai beach and the mouth of the Kenai River, as well as the Kahtnuht'ana Qayeh in Old Town Kenai are all within walking distance.

When the building is completed, all of the Education division's programs will be together under the same roof. Currently, the Early Learning Center is located on North Willow Street in Kenai, while Yaghanen Youth Language and Cultural Programs, and College and Career Training are located on K-B Drive off of Poppy Lane.

Sara Battiest, the Tribe's Yaghanen K-12 Administrator, said one of her favorite features of the building is the number of windows letting in natural light.

"I really love the huge window at the front of the building, and all the light coming in. Even in the basement, there are window wells to let natural light in," Battiest said.

Battiest said she is also looking forward to putting the large multi-purpose space to use for Native Youth Olympics, dance, and other cultural activities.

"To have a space for these activities that is appropriate, well lit, and not cold – I'm excited about that," Battiest said.

Linda Ross, a member of the Education Committee, said she loved the building and is looking forward to seeing kids in it. She is also excited to see the Dena'ina language incorporated with the learning that

will take place.

"I think the building is really well thought out," Ross said, adding that she hopes Elders will be involved in sharing their experiences with young learners.

"For them to know about their heritage and what it's like to be a Tribal Member, those are things that are meaningful to me," Ross said.

Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart, also a member of the Education Committee, said it is exciting to see the progress on the building.

"It's much bigger than I thought it would be. It's really exciting to see how many classrooms there are going to be," Shaginoff-Stuart said.

Shaginoff-Stuart said she was impressed as she walked across the skybridge that connects the top floor of the education wing with the walking track on the second floor of the multi-purpose wing.

Shaginoff-Stuart also likes the instructional space for cultural activities such as processing game.

Construction on the Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus is scheduled to be complete in spring of 2022. The education wing includes classrooms on the main floor and administrative offices and conference rooms on the top floor. The basement will be available for future growth.

The multi-purpose wing features an open area for activities. The space can accommodate a gathering of up to 300 people. A walking track circles the second story.

The space connecting the two wings includes the main entrance, a commercial kitchen and cafeteria.



Artist's rendering of the Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus.



Members of Tribal Council and the Education Committee tour the Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus on July 8. The tour was a first-look for most of those in attendance. Pictured is the indoor track that is elevated above the activity area.

Additional Construction Underway

New facilities will support expanded and improved services

Plans are moving forward for the new Kahtnuht'ana De-na'ina Community Hall and Harvest Pavilion. The new structure will replace an older, much smaller shelter at the Tribe's beach site.

The new pavilion will be 3,227 square feet, with enough space to accommodate up to 215 people when the Tribe once again gathers for the opening of the net and other occasions. The pavilion's design includes a raised hearth in the center of the building, as well as large doors that can be opened to the breeze off the inlet.

An expansion of the Qiz'unch' Tribal Courthouse also is moving forward. The aim is to begin work

on the expansion this fall. Funding for the project comes from U.S. Department of Justice grants.

The current building is about 1,480 square feet, and the single, 300-square-foot courtroom can be cramped. The expansion project will add more than 3,200 square feet to the building, for a total of 4,748 square feet. The expansion will include a pair of 700-square-foot courtrooms at the southwest end of the building. The court's Ts'ilq'u Circle will move into two rooms at the other end of the building, where the courtroom is currently located.

Located between the courtrooms and Circle rooms will be

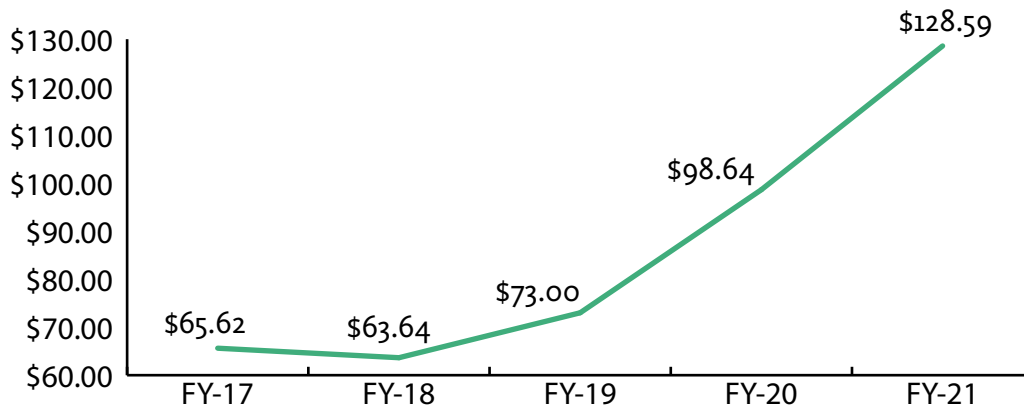
new and reconfigured office space for the Chief Judge, Tribal Court Judges, and administrative support staff.

The design of the building will include a brighter, more comfortable waiting area. Clerestory windows along the building's peak will provide plenty of natural light.

To make room for the expanded Qiz'unch' Tribal Court, the Ch'k'denelyah yuyeh greenhouse is being relocated to Shanteh t'uh, the Tribe's property on Ames Road. An additional greenhouse will be added, providing more room to grow to support the Tribe's services and improve food security.

Financials and Demographics

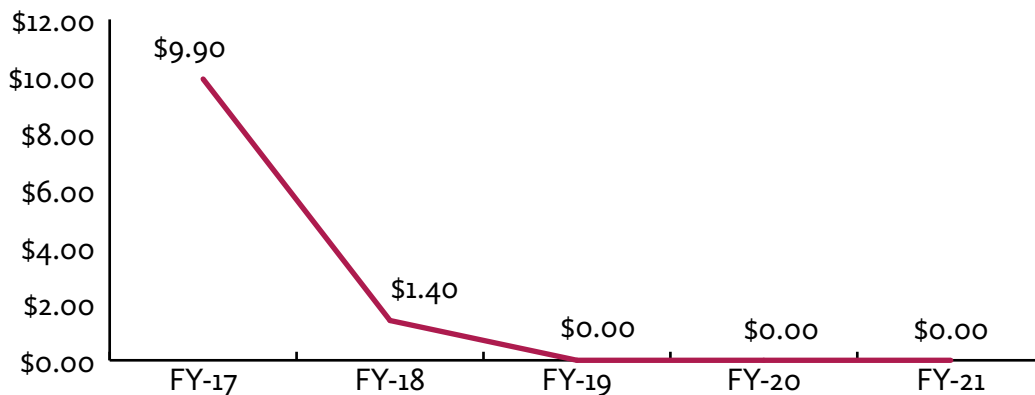
Total Assets in Millions



TOTAL ASSETS

The Tribe's assets have increased over the last 5 years to \$128 million. Overall assets increased by \$13 million due to COVID-19 relief funding, and \$17 million due to revenue replacement funds and billing revenue.

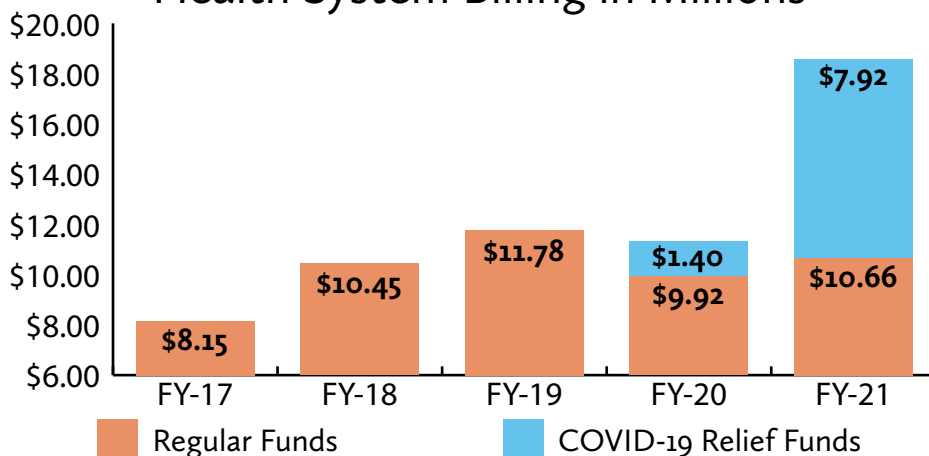
Long Term Debt in Millions



LONG TERM DEBT

In FY21, the Tribe has no long term debt. In FY22, the Tribe anticipates incurring long term debt to finance construction projects.

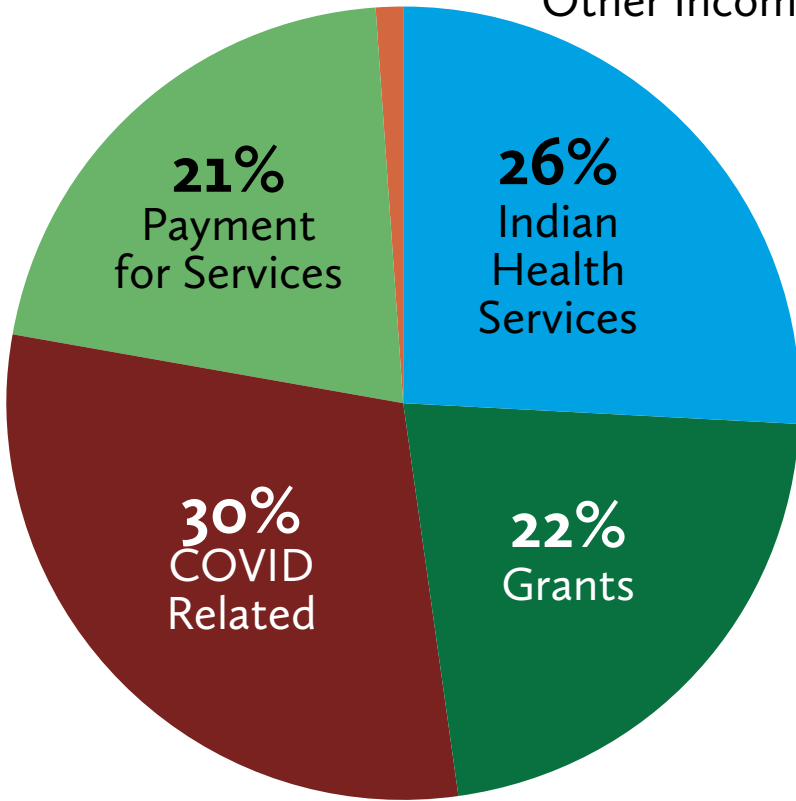
Health System Billing in Millions



HEALTH SYSTEM BILLING

In FY21, total Health System billing is \$18.58 million, an increase of \$7.26 million over FY20. In May 2021, the Tribe received \$7.92 million in revenue replacement funds under the American Recovery Plan Act. The funding covers revenues lost in FY20 and FY21.

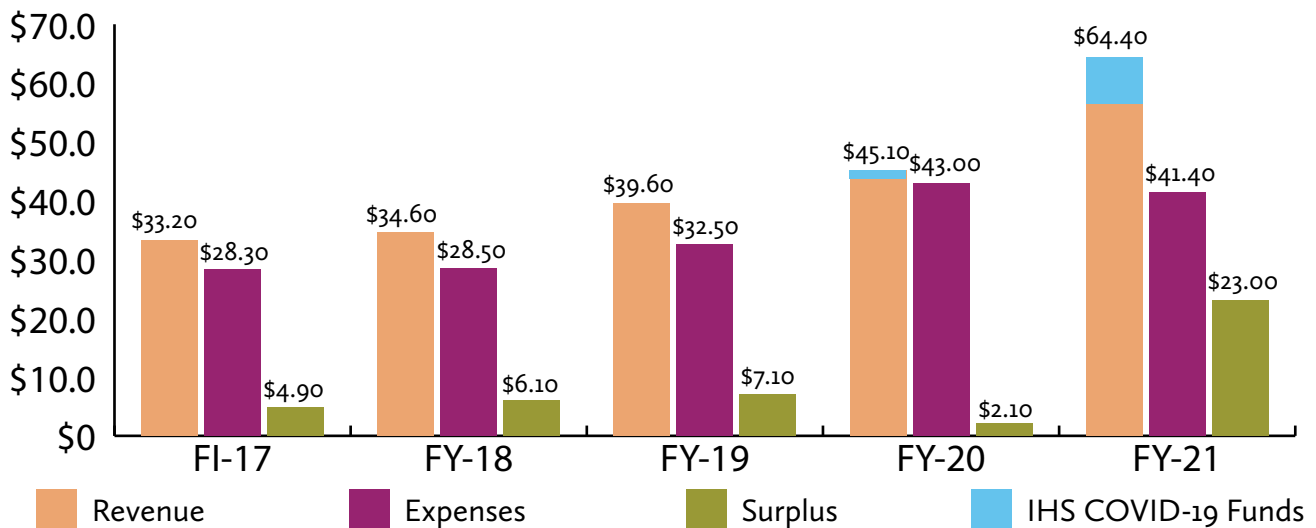
1% Investments and Other Income



SOURCES OF REVENUE

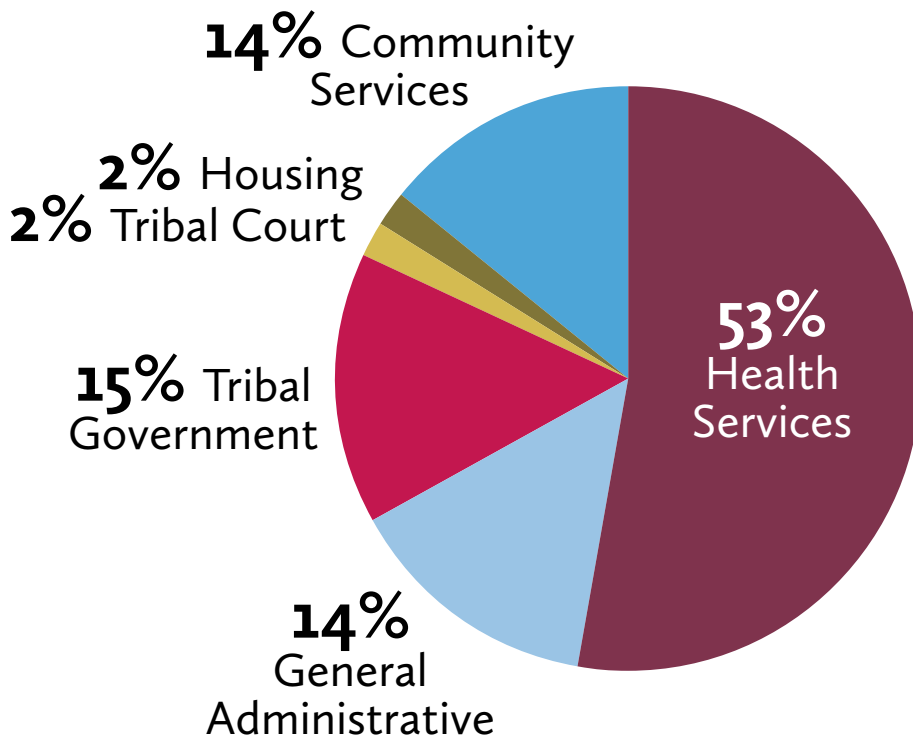
In FY21, about \$16.74 million of the Tribe's total revenue came from Indian Health Service funding. About \$14.17 million came from federal, state and private grants, and about \$19.32 million came from COVID-19-related funds. Reimbursements for health services provided by Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance generated about \$13.52 million. The rest of the Tribe's revenue came from program user fees, donations, interest income, contributions and investment income.

Financial Performance from Operations in Millions



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FROM OPERATIONS

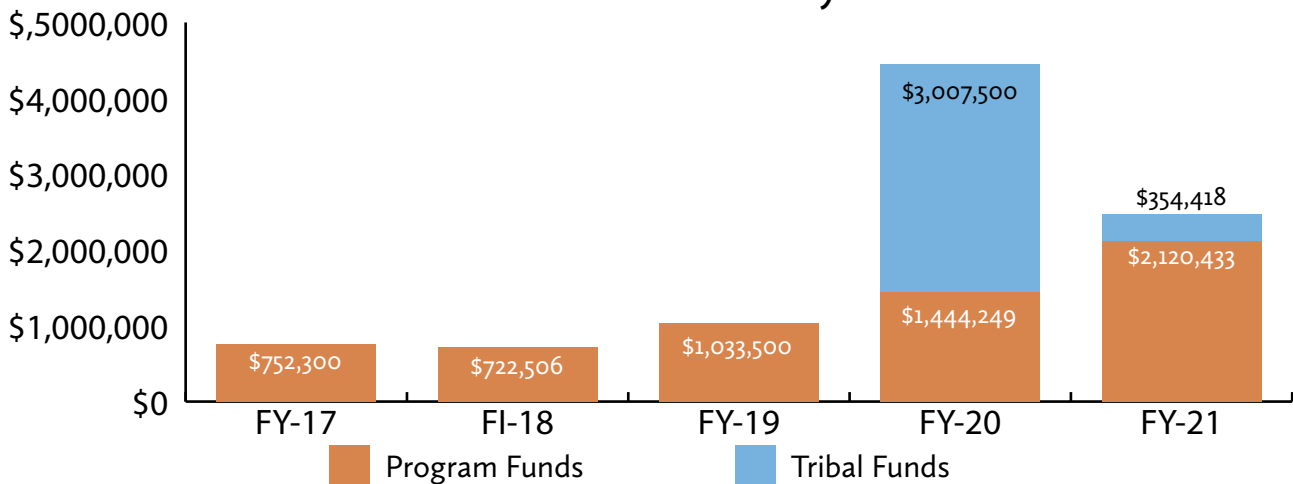
In FY21, the Tribe earned \$64.4 million in revenues and spent \$41.4 million on Tribal operations to provide programs and services. Operations had a surplus of \$23.0 million. Surplus funds are used for future capital projects, debt payment and Tribal development activities.



OPERATING EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

In FY21, the Tribe spent \$41.4 million on operations. Of the total, \$21.94 million was spent on health services; \$5.8 million on general and administrative; \$6.21 million on Tribal government; \$5.8 million on community services; \$828,000 on housing; and \$828,000 on Tribal Court. COVID-19-related expenditures were largely on health services. American Recovery Plan Act funding expenditures will be a mix of health services and Tribal government heading into FY22.

Financial Assistance Payments

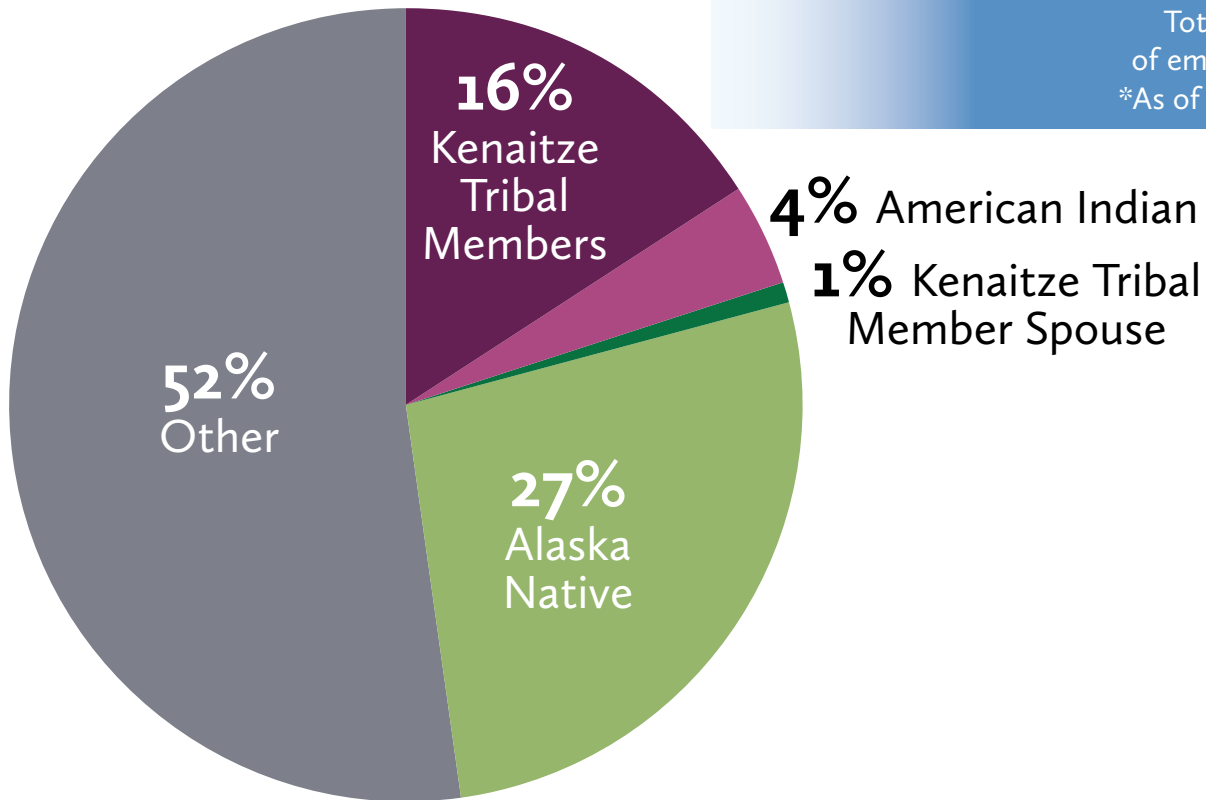


FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

For FY21, the Tribe will spend about \$2.47 million on direct payments to those we serve to assist with housing, education, training, transportation and emergency needs. Most of the Tribe's COVID-19-related direct assistance was paid out in FY20, which ended Sept. 30, 2020.

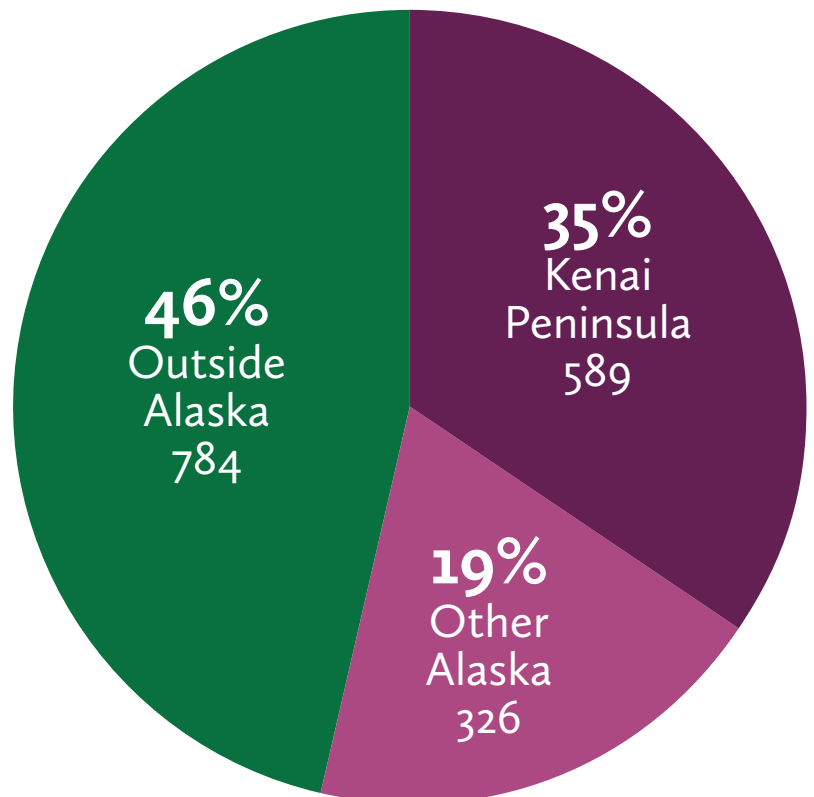
Staff Diversity

Total number
of employees: 280
*As of Sept. 10, 2021



Tribal Member Enrollment

Total Kenaitze Indian
Tribe Members: 1,699





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Kenai, Alaska 99611

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www.facebook.com/kenaitze

