



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Eighth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 19-21, 2023
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 23-15

Title: Declaration of Emergency for the Opioid Epidemic in Alaska

By: Ketchikan Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 35,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, the drug use and overdose epidemic due to the rapid influx of opioid drugs coming to Alaska has had critical impacts to individuals, families, and entire communities for years; and

WHEREAS, the tribal citizens of Tlingit & Haida are at severe risk of homelessness, physical violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, physical and mental illness, and death as a result of illicit opioid use; and

WHEREAS, based off of current available statistics, only one in ten people permanently sustain a lifestyle of freedom from addiction after going through a treatment process, however, there is no reliable information that is attributable to Alaska Natives and/or American Indians; and

WHEREAS, as it currently stands, it takes on average of eight weeks from the time a tribal citizen wants to go treatment to heal from their addiction to actually making it into a treatment facility, and this process can take upwards of three months until they can be seen in a treatment center; and

WHEREAS, victims of addiction by drug use are not only people impacted, family members, friends, loved-ones, and general community members are also impacted by the disease of addiction; and

WHEREAS, southeast Indigenous Alaskan values guide our people to protect and hold each other up in all aspects of life and it is important to eliminate the stigma of addiction and support those afflicted with it; and

WHEREAS, while western methods to heal Indigenous Alaskans can be useful for some, we recognize that it does not work for the majority of the tribal citizens of Tlingit & Haida that are afflicted by addiction and if our goal is to support those tribal citizens with addiction, we must make it culturally sensitive to our people; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida will continue to advocate for our tribal citizens and families who struggle with addiction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 19-21, 2023, hereby declare a state of emergency of the epidemic of opioids within our communities across our tribal nation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida will do everything in its power to research solutions to reduce the harm of addiction, seek funding for meaningful projects, create partnerships between others, including state and federal governments, and private entities, and continue to advocate for and support those afflicted by the disease that is addiction.

ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2023, by the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata