CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Ninety-First Annual Tribal Assembly
September 23-25, 2026
Juneau, AK

Resolution TA 26-09

Title: Building Tribal Technical Capacity through Technology Contracts and Partnerships

By: Seattle 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 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Resolution TA 23-10 supported development of a Tribal Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math program and reflects Tlingit & Haida's commitment to strengthening Native participation and capacity in technical fields; and

WHEREAS, technology increasingly supports Tribal government, gaming, education, citizen services, language and culture, communications, infrastructure, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, outside vendors, consultants, universities, and technical partners provide valuable expertise, but projects without meaningful Tribal participation, documentation, access, or knowledge transfer can create long-term dependency and vendor lock-in; and

WHEREAS, when Tribal funds purchase technical work, Tlingit & Haida should retain not only the deliverable but also the knowledge, documentation, access, and portability needed to govern, maintain, secure, and transition that work; and

WHEREAS, Tribal sovereignty is strengthened when Tribal Citizens and employees develop the knowledge and experience to govern and provide more technical services from within the Tribe over time; and

WHEREAS, capacity building is most effective when incorporated into the work and proportionate to its scope, sensitivity, duration, and strategic importance; and

WHEREAS, specialized external expertise will remain important as Tribal capacity grows;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened September 23-25, 2026, hereby requests that the Tlingit & Haida IT Governance Team review existing procurement and contracting practices and develop proposed standards and a roadmap for Tribal technical capacity building and knowledge transfer;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed standards should address capacity building and knowledge transfer in technology contracts and partnerships materially involving Tribal data, software, infrastructure, systems, intellectual property, or long-term operations, proportionate to the work;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed standards should address ownership of work product, licensing restrictions, data portability, administrative credentials, transition assistance, and other terms that may create unreasonable vendor dependence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the roadmap should consider reasonable thresholds and documented exceptions, identify cost and funding mechanisms, and preserve Tlingit & Haida's ability to obtain specialized external expertise;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tlingit & Haida IT Governance Team will report on its progress of proposed requests at the next Annual Tribal Assembly.

ADOPTED this 25th day of September 2026, by the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Michelle D. Martin