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

Resolution TA 26-19

Title: Committing to Conduct a Comprehensive Study to Research the Mortality of Tlingit & Haida Citizens

By: Sitka Tlingit & Haida Community Council / Delegate Alicia "Lisa" Gassman

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, Tlingit & Haida citizens seem to be passing away at alarming rates; and

WHEREAS, the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) is responsible for the health and welfare of the Indigenous people residing in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, beneficiaries of SEARHC and their families have been reduced in numbers of great quantities in the villages under the territory and jurisdiction of Tlingit & Haida due to cancer and other ailments, and these reductions have not been consolidated or documented for annual review by the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study regarding the following should be conducted with support from the Board of Directors of SEARHC, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), and any other appropriate agency: Establishing Death Rate; The basic count of how many people die divided by population size; Determining the Cause of Death; Tracking specific reasons for passing away, such as heart disease, infections, or workplace hazards; Standardized Comparisons; Adjusted number for age; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida has a representative on the SEARHC Board of Directors;

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 declares a state of urgency in the Southeast Alaska region and commits to Tlingit & Haida requesting a comprehensive study, in collaboration with SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), and any other appropriate agency to count and analyze deaths within a specific group over a set period of time to understand why and how fast people are dying;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida authorizes the President, or his designee to apply for, negotiate, and accept state and federal assistance, including but not limited to grants for public health for such a comprehensive study;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida encourages its representative on the SEARHC Board to bring this request forward at the next SEARHC Board meeting and meet with other communities to try to get their support for the study and if necessary, attend any Tribal Health committee meetings to get all Tribes advocating for this mortality study;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida will, as necessary, seek additional resources for research, prevention, response, and post-response activities identified as a result of the study.

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