

Denakkanaaga, Inc.

"Our People Speak"

July 12, 2016

Governor Bill Walker
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Walker:

As the advocate for the 1,200+ Interior Alaska Native Elders 65 and older, Denakkanaaga is greatly concerned about the State's financial crisis and its impact on elder services and programs.

Enclosed please find a resolution that was passed by delegates at the recent annual Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference. The resolution asks that you and the State Legislature prioritize elder programs in light of the financial landscape.

An "elder tsunami" is anticipated within our State over the next 14 years; the elder population will most likely grow from 80K in 2014 to 140K in 2030. With that growth, the health, professional and social services needed for elders must keep pace at a corresponding rate.

We realize that the State's finances must be diversified as the oil revenue declines. However, the Denakkanaaga Board of Directors and elders urge you to do what is right and prioritize and fund elder services and programs.

Sincerely,

Luke Titus
First Chief
Denakkanaaga Board of Directors

Sharon McConnell
Executive Director

Cc:

Lt. Governor Bryon Mallott
State Legislators

Serving the Elders of Interior Alaska

101 Dunkel Street, Suite 135, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 451-3900 Fax: (907) 451-3909

DENAKKANAAGA, INC.

Resolution 2016-01

SUPPORT FOR ELDERS PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, Denakkanaaga, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that serves as the voice for the Native Elders in the Doyon Limited and Tanana Chiefs Conference region of Interior Alaska, an area that covers over 235 thousand square miles; and

WHEREAS, The people of our region and state, have great respect for the knowledge that our elders have gained from a life time of experience. Many local, state and federal agencies seek the historical knowledge of our elders to deal with many of the complex issues facing our great state; and

WHEREAS, Denakkanaaga is from a generation with possession of ten-thousand years of indigenous knowledge, a generation of hard workers, often growing up on the land, with a subsistence lifestyle then with the inception of statehood and land claims, successfully transitioning into different economies; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska is overly dependent on oil revenue to fund government services. As the price of oil has reached historical lows, the failure to diversify has created a crisis situation in the past two years, with no plan to fund necessary services, including elder services; and

WHEREAS, The Elder population of our nation from 2012 to 2050 will double in size, growing from 43.1 million to 83.7 million by 2050. The Elder population of the state will likely grow from 80,000 in 2014 to 140,000 by 2030. Facilities, as well as medical, professional, and social services to serve the upcoming elder population will need to expand at a corresponding rate. Nurses, home care, and assisted living professionals will increasingly become in greater demand; and

WHEREAS, Programs, services and assistance from the State of Alaska for elders should be not be cut, but should expand with the expanding elder population; and

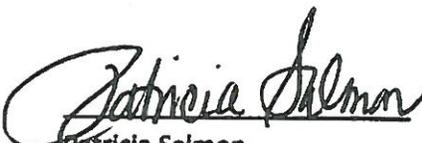
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Denakkanaaga supports diversification of the State of Alaska revenue, in order to sustain the ups and downs of oil prices in order to fund the government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Denakkanaaga seeks to protect and expand and fully supports vital elder programs and services provided by the State of Alaska to assist elders. Denakkanaaga asks the State Legislature and Governor Walker to prioritize elder programs.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by Denakkanaaga, Inc. delegates during the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2016 in Hughes, Alaska at which a quorum was duly established.




Patricia Salmon
Secretary/Treasurer