



LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR

## Joe Nelson Kaaxúxgu

### Dear Shareholders,

You may have seen an announcement in July from the U.S. Department of Agriculture formally announcing an end to large-scale, old-growth logging in the Tongass National Forest, and a commitment of \$25 million to help transition local economies out of the timber industry.

In its announcement, the USDA said it would work with tribes and Alaska Native corporations to identify priorities for investment, and specifically called out Sustainable Southeast Partnership as an existing network that supports sustainable economic development and includes diverse stakeholders with a commitment to Indigenous stewardship.

Sealaska was a founding member of Sustainable Southeast Partnership more than 10 years ago. Through its local and regional "catalysts"— individuals employed in communities and industry segments across the region — Sustainable Southeast Partnership facilitates collaboration between Alaska Native corporations, tribes, environmental and conservation organizations, local governments, private industry, federal agencies, and others to

identify shared interests and develop programming that respects local priorities and Indigenous knowledge.

The USDA's commitment of \$25 million isn't enough to help our communities make a just transition from the timber industry into a more stable, sustainable economic future — but it is a start. In the coming weeks, we expect to announce even more funding that will be made available to support the work of SSP and programs like the Indigenous Guardians Network. Guardians are already at work in many of our rural communities, in the environmental departments of our tribes, in community forest partnerships and other programs. We expect to be able to expand the number of positions, equipment and training available so more of our people — who are already close to the land and water — can provide Native perspectives on its management and stewardship.

Our most recent shareholder survey (read more about that on page 6) confirms what we have known for a long time — rural community economic development is a high priority for shareholders, and we are excited at what the coming weeks and months will bring. Thank you for sharing your opinions with us through the survey. It is our honor to work on your behalf, for the things you care about, and for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, T'oyaxsut 'nüüsm,

Joe Nelson | *Kaaxúxgu* 

Chair, Sealaska Board of Directors

### Fall Distribution Update

Sealaska's Settlement Trust was approved by shareholders in June 2021, and the first distribution via the Settlement Trust will take place this fall. The Settlement Trust won't change much about the way shareholders receive their distributions — if you're signed up for direct deposit, you probably won't notice any difference at all. (Those who receive a paper check will notice that it will come from the Settlement Trust now, as opposed to directly from Sealaska.) The biggest

difference is that distributions from Sealaska will no longer be subject to federal income tax. (Distributions from other Alaska Native corporations through ANCSA Section 7(j) will still be taxable, as will the distribution made in April 2021, prior to passage of the Settlement Trust resolution. If you are an Urban or At-Large shareholder, you will continue to receive a 1099 form from Sealaska for this portion of your distribution.) For more information and answers to many common questions about the Settlement Trust, please visit Sealaska.com/shareholders/settlement-trust/.

# ADVOCATING FOR NATIVE RIGHTS AND ISSUES

Sealaska is constantly at work on a variety of issues that impact the lives of our shareholders at the local, state and federal level. Please read on for an update on some of the issues in which Sealaska is involved.

# Fighting to Protect Power Cost Equalization

The Power Cost Equalization Endowment Fund in Alaska exists to partially subsidize the high cost of energy in rural communities. It has long been recognized that urban areas in Alaska have benefited from public infrastructure and energy development that rural communities do not have access to.

This year, Sealaska worked with the ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) and Alaska Federation of Natives to ensure that Gov. Mike Dunleavy was not successful in his attempts to "sweep" funds from the PCE endowment into Alaska's general fund to repay drawdowns from the state's Constitutional Budget Reserve. Alaska's state government has been operating on deficit spending for years, and this effort to use funds from the PCE endowment would have allowed some lawmakers to avoid the challenging work of balancing spending and priorities.

AFN filed a successful lawsuit in Alaska Superior Court to prevent the governor from taking funds from the PCE endowment that would have driven rural energy rates to astronomical, unsustainable levels. Sealaska supported AFN's lawsuit, and is grateful for all who supported this important precedent that should prevent future attempts to defund the program. The PCE program is one of Sealaska's top legislative priorities each year, and Sealaska will continue defending this program.

# Working with Tribes to Distribute CARES Act Funding

In 2020, the U.S. government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding allocation for Alaska Native corporations was challenged in court by several tribes in the Lower 48, which asserted that ANCs should not quality as tribes for the purposes of COVID-19 relief aid. Sealaska and several other parties successfully challenged this assertion in the U.S. Supreme Court, and in late June, received word that ANCs would receive a portion of the \$8 billion in federal funding that was designated for tribal governments. Although we believe our people and communities need and deserve this funding, Sealaska's primary interest in the suit was to defend our legal status as a "tribe" under the definition set forth in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975.

This long-standing precedent was important because the definition applies to other federal programs in which Sealaska participates, including Department of Agriculture programs that provide land management assistance, and other federal agency funding for economic development, cultural preservation



The Southeast Alaska Landless Corporation (SALC) has been busy this summer engaging in dialogue with community and regional stakeholders in Southeast Alaska to build awareness and advocacy for recognition of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee Springs and Wrangell under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Rep. Don Young introduced H.R. 3231 in the U.S. House of Representatives in May 2021 to amend ANCSA to include the five landless communities. Sen. Lisa Murkowski has committed to introducing companion legislation in the Senate before the end of 2021.

Young's bill differs from previous landless legislation in that it includes specific land selections and associated maps. Inclusion of the maps provided the public with a better understanding of selections in proximity to communities, and led to productive dialogue regarding land use.

SALC has been meeting with Southeast communities to provide assurances related to public access and use, and to answer other questions related to the selections and maps. SALC board members have participated in numerous city council and assembly meetings, and participated in a series of community meetings hosted by Murkowski's staff throughout Southeast Alaska in June.

"This is a fight for our Indigenous children, recognition of land and human rights," stated Cecilia Tavoliero, president of SALC. "This is a human and Indigenous land-rights issue worth fighting for, and we need your help to finally bring this long-standing injustice to a solution."

Information and legislative updates are available at <u>withoutland.</u>
<u>org.</u> Sealaska supports the work of SALC and is an active partner in pushing for justice on behalf of the five communities.

activities, and workforce development. These and other federal programs allow us to protect our resources and generate income that can preserve or increase our revenues. With revenues, Sealaska provides benefits to shareholders.

The Department of the Treasury determined a funding formula to allocate a portion of the \$8 billion to all qualifying tribes in the United States. At the time of this newsletter, our plans to distribute Sealaska's share remain under development. Please watch <code>Sealaska.com/news-media</code> for updates on how CARES Act funding will be distributed.

# Redistricting: Protecting the Power of the Native Vote

The 2020 census is complete, and the results were released in mid-August. After the number of Alaska Natives and others in Alaska are tallied, these numbers are used to redraw state legislative districts. In theory, the districts are supposed to include roughly the same number of people in each, and to be reflective of the district's population in terms of race, age and other demographic factors. In the past, redistricting has provided an opportunity for some to shift power away from rural Alaska to urban centers, damaging the opportunity Alaska Natives and especially rural communities have to influence state policy decisions and advocate for funding needs in rural areas. Sealaska is actively monitoring the redistricting work now underway, in coordination with others in the Native community, to design maps for consideration that preserve Alaska Native or rural representation in Alaska.

Across the board, the population count of American Indians and Alaska Natives is up significantly from the 2010 census. This is due in part to natural growth rate among our people, but is also thanks to the advocacy of so many in the Native community and beyond to educate Indigenous people on how to fill out the forms to ensure an adequate count and safeguard funding for housing, health care and other programs. Sealaska worked closely with the Alaska Counts effort, and we are grateful to those who worked so hard to ensure our people are counted.

# The Necessary Work of Healing: Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative

In July, the Sealaska Board of Directors passed a resolution pledging its full support to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, which seeks to document unmarked graves and repatriate the remains of children who died in the custody of the federal government or at church-run boarding schools. The resolution also offered words of comfort to Sealaska

shareholders and other Native people who are absorbing the impact of near-daily stories in Canada and the United States of the traumas perpetrated by residential boarding schools in both countries.

"This investigation and report will not right any wrongs. But it will help move us forward," said Sealaska Board Chair Joe Nelson. "Until we address our past honestly, we won't be able to genuinely build the shared future that our grandchildren deserve."

To read the resolution, go to <u>Sealaska.com/news-media</u>.

### In the News: Ballot Measure to Force Alaska to Formally Recognize Tribes

Two Sealaska directors, Liz (La quen náay) Medicine Crow and Barbara ('Wáahlaal Giidáak) Blake, are among three co-sponsors of a ballot measure that would force the state of Alaska to formally recognize the 229 sovereign tribes within its borders. The measure's third sponsor is Richard (Chalyee Éesh)



Peterson, president of Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. The measure is under legal review but is expected to clear that hurdle without challenges. The next step will be for sponsors to gather the 36,140 signatures required to place it on the 2022 ballot.



Although the U.S. Supreme
Court and the Alaska Supreme
Court have consistently affirmed
that federally recognized tribes
are sovereign governments,
the state has not. This has led
to a relationship that has been
adversarial at times, and although
the measure is not expected to
change the legal relationship
between the state and tribes,

the hope is that it will be a step toward more productive government-to-government relations. The ballot measure mirrors a bill by Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky, D-Bethel, which passed the Alaska State House during the last legislative session.

Sealaska is not directly involved in the ballot measure at this time, but supports the work of directors Medicine Crow and Blake on behalf of Alaska's 229 sovereign tribes.



# OUR STORY Salmon have nourished our people— we humans, and our brothers the bear and the eagle— for thousands of years.

Sealaska's original logomark was developed in 1971, as our founders were building Sealaska from the ground up. It was just one of many decisions that had to be made, and was created by a Seattle-based advertising agency. The "one bird" logo has been with us for nearly 50 years. But as we anticipate the upcoming 50th anniversaries of both the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) later this year, and of Sealaska in 2022, it is time for a change.

Sealaska's new logo depicts a salmon egg in traditional Northwest Coast formline, and was designed by renowned Tsimshian artist and language scholar David Robert Boxley (Gyibaawm Laxha) of Metlakatla. It is one piece of a comprehensive branding system that will evolve our look and feel to match our vision.

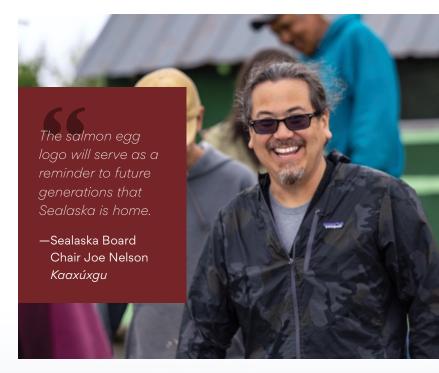
### Why a salmon egg?

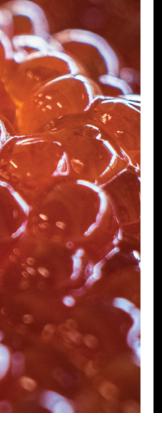
Our traditional values call on us to help restore and maintain balance in our natural systems. Salmon have nourished our people — we humans, and our brothers the bear and the eagle — for thousands of years. Their decomposing bodies nourish our lands. It is with respect for all they have done for us, and in awe of the perfect natural system represented by their lifecycle, that we have selected a salmon egg to represent us.

The salmon egg represents the promise and obligation we hold for future generations. As the salmon matures and heads downstream, it requires an entire system in balance — forest, animals, ocean and people. All of us rely on the salmon in turn.



The shape of the logo, like the egg, is a circle representing a perpetual cycle that sustains and renews.





### About the Logo Artist: David R. Boxley *Gyibaawm Laxha*

David Robert Boxley (*Gyibaawm Laxha*) has been an artist his entire life, beginning at the side of his father and renowned carver, David Albert Boxley. David R. Boxley pursued his own path and began selling his work in galleries at age 13. He trained with master illustrator Chris Hopkins in high school, attended two years of art school, worked with his father on more than a dozen totem poles in his 20s, and worked for and studied under Haida master artist Robert Davidson. Today, Boxley works in many mediums, including red cedar, yellow cedar, alder, paper, hide, silver, gold and digital. In addition to his work as an artist, Boxley is a language scholar and teacher, working with children and adults to perpetuate the *Sm'algyax* (Tsimshian) language.



Balance is the aspiration that focuses our work, challenging us to confront the greatest problems facing our people — a warming climate, changing oceans, inequities in systems and opportunities. It requires us to be courageous and deeply self-aware, humble and optimistic at the same time. The resiliency and adaptability of the salmon reminds us that the knowledge we need to sustain ourselves was passed down to us from our ancestors.



The salmon egg represents the promise and obligation we hold for future generations.

The shape of the logo, like the egg, is a circle representing a perpetual cycle that sustains and renews. As Sealaska prepares to mark its 50th anniversary in 2022, we are building a company designed to sustain future generations of shareholders and descendants for the next 100 years.

Sealaska, like the salmon, is inextricably connected to a very meaningful place that has been home to our ancestors since the beginning. Our path to maturity may take us far from where we were born, but we always strive to return home, connect our children to their culture, and give back to the place that created us.



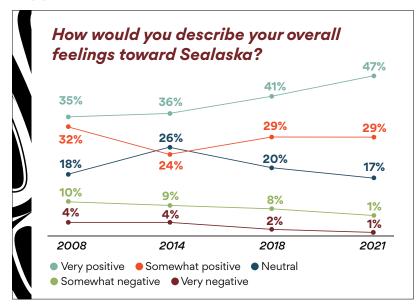


### SURVEY: SEALASKA SHAREHOLDERS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT OCEAN HEALTH FOCUS

Sealaska shareholders are overwhelmingly favorable toward the company's business platform focused on ocean health and environmental stewardship, according to the company's 2021 shareholder survey.

The survey, conducted by an independent research firm in April and May, was completed by nearly 5,000 shareholders in Southeast Alaska and beyond. More than 85% said they were fairly or very supportive of Sealaska's business vision.

The survey also showed shareholders hold a largely positive view of the company, with 76% rating themselves as somewhat or very positive toward Sealaska.



Feelings towards Sealaska are consistent with years past, with evidence that more shareholders now hold a very positive impression.

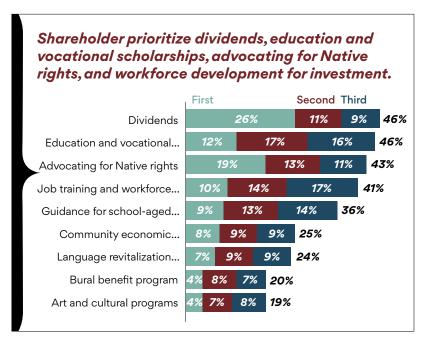
"We are humbled by our shareholders' support for our vision," said Sealaska President and CEO Anthony Mallott. "Our emphasis on ocean health and environmental stewardship comes from a commitment to the values and belief systems of our ancestors. We are applying those values to modern problems, working across cultures with employees and partners who share our values and want to be part of the solution."

The survey was conducted online and by phone. Shareholders were asked to respond to a variety of questions about their priorities, understanding of Sealaska's business vision, and engagement with the company.

In the two years since Sealaska last surveyed its shareholders, support for the work Sealaska is doing around ocean health has

grown significantly. In 2019, 31% of shareholders said Sealaska was doing a good job at helping to address climate change; in 2021, that number rose to 50%.

Since 2014, Sealaska has moved steadily to build out its ocean health business platform. Today, its businesses are grouped in three primary categories: food, which includes processing and retailing sustainably caught seafood from around the globe; land, which includes environmental remediation, groundwater cleanup and monitoring, and Sealaska's carbon sequestration program; and water, which includes marine monitoring and clean up, along with offshore and coastal infrastructure development, seismic testing, and support for clean-energy technologies like offshore wind and tidal.



Sealaska uses its earnings from business operations and investments to provide benefits to its shareholders. In 2020, Sealaska invested \$28,545,000 in shareholder benefits and dividend payments. Shareholders were asked which benefit programs were most important to them for Sealaska's continued investment. Dividends remain an important benefit to shareholders, the survey found. Other priorities include advocating for Native rights and issues, language revitalization programs, opportunities for school-aged youth, and community economic development.

Our emphasis on ocean health and environmental stewardship comes from a commitment to the values and belief systems of our ancestors.

-President & CEO Anthony Mallott



# MEET SEALASKA'S NEW BOARD YOUTH ADVISOR

Every year, Sealaska directors select a shareholder descendant to serve a one-year term as the Board Youth Advisor (BYA). Tiadola Silva-Martin was selected as the 2021–2022 BYA. In this position, Silva will provide input and gain board training and knowledge of Sealaska's operations.

Silva (Tlingit) is Eagle of the *Shangukeidí* (Thunderbird Clan), child of the *Deisheetaan* (Beaver Clan) and grandchild of the *Teikweidí* (Brown Bear Clan). She carries the name *Glúdas* from her late great-grandfather Peter Jack Sr. of Angoon. Silva is the daughter of Jeremy Martin and Juanita Silva. Her roots come from Angoon and Kake. She currently lives in Juneau.

Silva graduated from Northwest Indian College in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Native environmental science. Silva is currently serving as an environmental stewardship technician with Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Silva also serves as first vice president on the Tlingit & Haida Youth Commission board.

Silva shared her views on community service, her goals, her mentors and more.

### ON COMMUNITY SERVICE:

"You need to listen to the needs first and see in what areas you can help. Community outreach is very important to me. I like to listen to the needs and try to fill in where I can. ... Taking on this role, I'm very excited to hear what all of the communities need. That way, I can report back to the board, and hopefully those issues could be met. I wanted to take on this position to be that resource for the smaller rural communities."

### ON HER PERSONAL GOALS:

"A personal goal is to gain some experience from this role. I also sit on Tlingit & Haida's Youth Commission board and just got elected as the first vice president. I want to learn more about the tribes, and gain leadership skills, and make more connections with our Elders and our board of directors. I hope to gain as much knowledge as possible and go back for my master's degree in environmental science."

### ON HER MENTORS:

"I have quite a few. Aissa Yazzie, Julia Orloff, Jim Parkin and Senator Albert Kookesh."

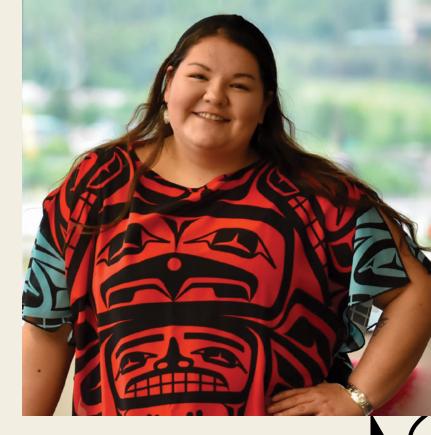
"Julia Orloff and Aissa Yazzie were my advisors during my first year at Northwest Indian College and my professors. They constantly checked up on me before, during and after school hours. Between school and my personal life, they always knew what to say. They were comforting with their words. They encouraged me the whole way.

"Jim Parkin was my science teacher from 7th through 12th grade, and he was always there for me. He helped me with applications and always gave me advice and recommendations.

"Albert Kookesh was one of my mentors when it came to my high school days. He always encouraged me to keep going to school, telling me I need to finish. Albert would call me or tell me in person, 'Keep going. You are one of the leaders for our people.' Coming from a small community, college was hard. Albert would always say, 'You can do it.'"

### Fun facts about Silva:

- She is a huge 'Friends' fan. "It's the best show ever!"
- She is a certified scuba diver. "I love being in the water. I was convinced I was half fish when I was a child."
- Her favorite food is smoked salmon.
- Her hobbies include kayaking, camping, fishing with her family and beading. "(Beading) helps me when my life gets overwhelmed. It's always my escape."



### About the Board Youth Advisor program

The Board Youth Advisor position helps cultivate leadership skills among Sealaska shareholders and descendants between the ages of 18 and 25 who meet program qualifications. During the one-year term, board youth advisors share their perspective in board and committee meetings while receiving valuable training on board processes and procedures. The position is an opportunity to develop professional networks and a broad outlook on the issues and opportunities faced by Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people and the Southeast Alaska region. To learn more, visit *MySealaska.com/* Opportunities/BoardYouthAdvisor.



### 2022 *INTERNSHIP* **OPPORTUNITIES** AVAILABLE SOON

Explore career interests, grow professional skills, and connect with the unique and vibrant cultures of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people. The Sealaska internship program provides experience and training for Sealaska shareholders and shareholder descendants currently pursuing postsecondary education. Spend the summer with peers who share an Alaska Native heritage, building a community as you venture into your careers! Summer internship opportunities open in October and close mid-January. Internships are open until filled or the application close date. The program runs approximately from mid-June to late-August each year. For more information, visit <u>Sealaska.com/careers/summer-internships/</u> or email intern@sealaska.com.



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