



ALASKA NATIVES WITHOUT LAND: UPDATES AND MORE

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was signed into law in 1971, marking a significant shift in the federal government's approach to Indigenous land claims in Alaska. Under ANCSA, the U.S. government extinguished Aboriginal land claims but allocated 44 million acres of land and \$962.5 million to Alaska Natives, which was distributed among newly created for-profit Native corporations rather than Tribal Governments. This law fundamentally changed the way Alaska Natives held land and managed resources, replacing tribal trust land ownership with a for-profit corporate model. These Native corporations were incorporated and regulated under Alaska law. Despite the corporate designation, these are Native entities with Native values.

When ANCSA was enacted, however, five Southeast communities were excluded: Deishú (Haines), Kichxáan (Ketchikan), Séet Ka (Petersburg), Kaachxan.áak'w (Wrangell) and Tinaghu (Tenakee Springs). Despite having the same claim to their ancestral land as other communities, these "landless" communities were denied the same land rights, economic opportunities and corporate structures granted to other communities originally included in ANCSA.

In response, Alaska Natives from these communities organized and have been advocating for recognition since 1971. By 2006, their efforts led to the formation of the Southeast Alaska Landless Corporation (SALC), a unified body made up of representatives from each landless community. Instead of pursuing individual land claims, they chose to stand together, ensuring that the fight for land claims remained fair and collective. Today, SALC leads the Alaska Natives Without Land initiative, working to secure



the long-overdue recognition of the landless communities. Sealaska has made this initiative one of its top priorities, providing significant financial and political support alongside tribal, conservation and advocacy organizations across the state.

Emil Notti, Alaska Native Political Activist, cast the deciding vote to include Southeast Alaska in ANCSA, and his words still ring true: "The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will remain unfinished until the five landless communities are recognized."

Let us continue to stand together as we advocate for our landless relatives.



Sincerely,
**Sealaska and The Alaska Natives Without
Land Team**

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LANDLESS BILL PASSES?



Follow us on
Facebook



Follow us on
Instagram

It is important to understand what will happen when the landless bill passes in Congress and is signed into federal law by the President. For more than 50 years, landless shareholders have fought for recognition, and when this bill passes, it will finally bring long-overdue justice. Knowing what this means for landless shareholders and their communities ensures that the significance of this moment is fully recognized and supported.

Once enacted, the bill will establish five new ANCSA Urban Corporations, one for each of the five landless communities. The shares of those community members who originally enrolled in the 1970s in these five communities, now classified as "At-Large/Landless" shareholders, have been carefully monitored and managed by Sealaska Corporation using the original Bureau of Indian Affairs enrollment rolls. Sadly, more than half of those original shareholders have passed, but their shares have been passed on to others through gifting or inheritance. Today, there are more than 4,400 shareholders with landless shares, and once the corporations are officially established, each of those landless shareholders will be enrolled in their respective corporations.

Because these five new corporations would hold "urban" status (instead of "village" status), their shareholders will remain designated as "At-large" and they will continue to receive ANCSA Section 7(j) funds directly from Sealaska on a per-share basis.

When looking at land rights, each new corporation will receive 23,040 acres in the Tongass National Forest, and these lands have already been identified and are reflected in the maps associated with the legislation.

"Every day that passes, the unfairness and inequity grows. Since 1971, Native corporations across the state have built upon their assets, investments and programs developed to help their shareholders. We continue to fight to make sure each landless shareholder finally receives recognition and collective ownership of the land their new corporation will receive."

Joe Nelson (Kaaxúxgu), Interim President, Sealaska Board of Directors

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Gunalchéesh, háw'aa, nt'oyaxsn to all of you who raised your voices on behalf of the landless communities.

Sealaska has led the Alaska Natives Without Land legislative effort since Senator Frank Murkowski first introduced a Congressional solution in 1985. In the last session of the U.S. Congress, the landless legislation advanced further than ever before. Thanks to bipartisan support, the landless bill passed out of committee in both chambers but was not considered on the floor of the House and Senate before the 118th Session concluded. We have many people to thank for this progress, including those in the landless communities, SALC leadership and other advocacy organizations.

Already, since the first session of the 119th U.S. Congress began this past January, Alaska U.S. Representative Nick Begich has re-introduced our landless legislation, titled H.R. 41: Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act. We are grateful to him for his leadership and swift action. A companion bill is anticipated in the U.S. Senate as Alaska Senators Murkowski and Sullivan remain committed to resolving this long-standing injustice and working through any obstacles.



If you want to support Alaska Natives Without Land, you can help by adding your name to our petition.

Scan the QR code to visit our website and make your voice heard!

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL

For thousands of years, Alaska Native people have lived in harmony with their lands, guided by traditional knowledge and a deep responsibility to protect and sustain them. Ceremonies and protocols have long governed the use of natural resources, such as giving thanks before harvesting trees or ensuring only part of a cedar's bark is taken so it can continue to grow, and never taking more than what is needed. These practices reflect a worldview centered on balance, respect and the well-being of future generations.

This stewardship remains central to the fight for land recognition today. Despite being excluded from ANCSA, the landless communities have always belonged to these lands, maintaining their presence, culture and connection. Federal recognition would not only restore what was unjustly withheld but reaffirm the role of these communities and shareholders as rightful stewards, ensuring that the land continues to be protected as it has been for thousands of years.



NEWS FROM SHI



On January 11, the U.S. Army issued a formal apology to the Stikine Lingít people of Wrangell for its 1869 bombardment of their village. The event, organized by the Wrangell Cooperative Association and Shtax'héen

Kwáan clan leaders, began with a retracing of Shx'atoo's final footsteps through the village. In 1869, Shx'atoo, following Lingít law, avenged the murder of his sons by killing ex-Confederate officer Leon Smith. The Army, failing to understand Lingít laws, responded by shelling the village

until Shx'atoo surrendered. Shx'atoo was sentenced to be hung. On the gallows, Shx'atoo jumped to his death to spare the community from avenging his death, an act that ended the conflict.



SHI's scholarship application period for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. The final deadline to apply is March 1, 2025. Applications must be submitted online at scholarship.sealaskaheritage.org.



Athletes, volunteers and officials are invited to participate in SHI's 2025 Traditional Games, scheduled April 4-6 at Juneau-Douglas High School: *Yadaa.at Kalé*. The event will feature 12 competitions in traditional Alaska Native games that test strength, agility and endurance. Divisions include middle school, high school, and adult. The events will be livestreamed on SHI's YouTube channel.



Caption: Children performing at Celebration 2024. Photo by Austin Bernales, courtesy of SHI.

Finally, the dates for Celebration 2026 are set for June 3-6 in Juneau. The lead dance group will be *Lepquinm Gumilgit Gagoadim* Tsimshian Dancers from Anchorage.



STAY UP TO DATE WITH SEALASKA



Scan the QR code to hear from Desiree Anax X'aséigu Yé Jackson regarding upcoming board and community meetings and all the new ways Sealaska is engaging with our shareholders this year!

<https://qrco.de/bfjtHm>



Scan the QR code to watch the recording of an insightful presentation on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the origins of Sealaska!

<https://qrco.de/bfjtl8>



Join our team! Scan the code to visit our Careers page and learn about what it means to work at Sealaska!

<https://qrco.de/bfm305>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SHAREHOLDERS:

MARCH

12. Virtual Shareholder Engagement Series: Being an Engaged Shareholder, part 2: Shareholder Records

23-29. Gold Medal Basketball Tournament - Juneau

24: Independent Nominee Application Deadline

APRIL

09. Sealaska Business & Shareholder Information Fair - Wrangell

10. Sealaska Committee Meetings - Wrangell

11. Sealaska Board Meeting - Wrangell

30. Virtual Shareholder Engagement Series: Being an Engaged Shareholder, part 3: "Understanding Financial Statements"

Stay Connected! Sealaska.com MySealaska.com  @sealaska  @sealaska  @sealaska  @sealaska-corporation



Sealaska

One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 400
Juneau, AK 99801-1276
800.848.5921 toll-free

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Juneau, AK
Permit No. 98

The Sealaska Shareholder is published for shareholders free of charge by Sealaska. Subscription information for non-shareholders is available by writing to Sealaska Communications. To find previous editions, visit <https://mysealaska.com/Services/Newsletters>

 Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.