



**YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION
RESOLUTION NO. 2021.01.01**

- Akiak
- Akiachak
- Alakanuk
- Andreafsky
- Aniak
- Anvik
- Almautluak
- Bethel
- Bill Moore's Sloug
- Chefomak
- Chevak
- Chuathbaluk
- Chuloonawick
- Crooked Creek
- Eek
- Emmonak
- Georgetown
- Grayling
- Hamilton
- Holy Cross
- Hooper Bay
- Kasigluk
- Kipnuk
- Kongiganak
- Kotlik
- Kwethluk
- Kwigillingok
- Lime Village
- Lower Kalskag
- Marshall
- Mekoryuk
- Mountain Village
- Napalmute
- Napaklak
- Napaskiak
- Newtok
- Nightmute
- Nunam Iqua
- Nunapitchuk
- Ohogomiut
- Oscarville
- Paimute
- Pilot Station
- Pitka's Point
- Quinhagak
- Red Devil
- Russian Mission
- Scammon Bay
- Shageluk
- Steelmute
- St. Mary's
- Stony River
- Toksook Bay
- Tuluksak
- Tuntutuliak
- Tununak
- Umkumiut
- Upper Kalskag

SUBJECT: A Resolution of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation Opposing the Formation of a Regional Tribal Government in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

WHEREAS, The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) is a non-profit tribal health organization established pursuant to resolution of fifty-eight (58) federally-recognized tribes to provide healthcare services under Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 5301-5423; and

WHEREAS, for nearly thirty (30) years, and most recently in 2013, efforts have been made by several entities including the Calista Corporation (Calista) to form a regional tribal government in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region (YK-Delta) with executive, legislative, and judicial branch powers; and

WHEREAS, in January 2014, the YKHC Board of Directors passed Resolution No. 2014.01.01 which found that a single regional tribe was not in the best interests of YKHC, and it strongly opposed the efforts;

WHEREAS, in 2020, Calista continued its agenda of encouraging tribes in the YK-Delta to support a regional tribal government; and

WHEREAS, Calista engaged a consultant, Capitol Hill Policy Group, to assist in its efforts; and

WHEREAS, according to Calista's consultant, a regional tribal government would put it in better position to develop resource projects like the Donlin mine; and

WHEREAS, Calista prepared a draft constitution and a draft resolution in support of a regional tribal government and distributed them to tribes in an effort to elicit tribal support for a regional tribal government; and

WHEREAS, YKHC maintains its position from 2014 and beyond that a regional tribal government is not in the best interests of YKHC, nor its 58 member tribes; and

WHEREAS, YKHC's 58 member tribes are sovereigns possessing inherent governmental authorities predating the State of Alaska and the United States Constitution since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, YKHC's 58 member tribes are distinct, independent political communities exercising powers of self-government, not by virtue of any delegation of powers, but instead by reason of each tribes' original tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, YKHC's 58 member tribes have functioned as autonomous tribal entities throughout history, consist of distinct communities, govern and maintain political influence or authority over their members as single autonomous political entities, and their members have descended from these historic tribes; and

WHEREAS, YKHC's 58 member tribes are federally recognized tribes as determined by the Department of Interior and evidenced by the Department's 1993 list of all tribes which the Secretary of Interior recognized to be eligible to receive services from the United States because of their status as tribes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress subsequently ratified the Department of Interior's federal recognition of these tribes, evidenced by Congress' enactment of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994; and

WHEREAS, YKHC's 58 member tribes have a permanent government-to-government relationship between themselves and the United States as domestic dependent nations that impose on the United States a fiduciary trust relationship to these tribes and their members; and

WHEREAS, YKHC fully supports the individual 58 federally recognized tribes that comprise YKHC's governing body; and

WHEREAS, the YK-Delta's large geographical size; diversity of environments; diversity of tribes; diversity of distinct political communities; diversity of language dialects; diversity of cultures, dances, foods, histories and ways of knowing; there is no basis in either federal Indian law or policy to support a single regional tribe in the YK Delta; and

WHEREAS, YKHC fully supports its 58 member tribes exercising governmental authority over their own villages and members, and not a single distant regional tribe making decisions about villages and people it has no relations to or political ties with; and

WHEREAS, YKHC believes, as Congress did in 1994, that local village authority exercised by 58 individual village tribal governments is far superior than a single regional tribe that is controlled only by a few elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, further believes that a regional tribal government would not unite the villages of the region, but instead usurp power from the already federally recognized 58 tribal governments that are members of YKHC's governing body, and consolidate power into the hands of a few.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,

The YKHC Board of Directors has determined that it is strongly opposed to Calista's draft resolution, and any other effort by any entity that would attempt to establish a single regional tribe in the YK Delta, and take away authority from the already federally recognized 58 tribal governments that govern YKHC, and that a single regional tribe is not in the best interest of YKHC or its 58 member tribes.

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT,

The YKHC Board of Directors authorizes and directs its President/CEO, or his designee, to perform all acts and execute any and all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

Certification

Duly adopted at the meeting of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation Executive Board of Directors, a quorum being present, by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstaining, and 0 absent, this 22nd day of January 2021.

Signed: Walter Jim
Walter Jim, Chairman
YKHC Board of Directors

Signed: Darren Cleveland
Darren Cleveland, Secretary
YKHC Board of Directors