

# Summary of ANLPAC Recommendations

## Information Scarcity

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges Alaska Native communities—villages, regions, language communities—to assess your own state of its language, to share this information with ANLPAC, and to begin using these data to form plans for the future of your language.

## Regional Disparities

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges Alaska Native communities—villages, regions, language communities—to assess which language-learning opportunities exist locally, to coordinate with other villages and regions who share your language, to share this information with ANLPAC, and to consider language policy and planning steps to increase the opportunities for everyone to learn to speak Alaska Native languages.

## Education

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges schools, public offices, businesses, Native corporations, and local leaders to make use of Alaska Native languages in their daily operations.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to adopt HB 157 in support of language immersion schools and for training for Alaska Native language teachers in a framework that leads to teacher certification.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges the Legislature to amend AS 14.30.420 to clearly apply to *all schools* in which a majority of students are Alaska Natives—calling for a Native language curriculum advisory board to be established and, furthermore, directing that school districts *shall* create Native language programs if so directed by their Native language curriculum advisory boards.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges the University of Alaska to offer instruction in Alaska Native languages, including the traditional language of each campus, in programs designed to lead to conversational fluency through best teaching practices. The University should offer such courses with free tuition to all Alaskans and not cancel classes because of pre-determined minimum enrollment levels. Furthermore, the University should insure that it offers comprehensive instruction in the most effective teaching methods and curriculum design for Alaska Native language instruction.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC calls upon the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to create a Division of Indigenous Languages that supports Alaska Native language teachers, teacher training in best practices, and school programs that lead to fluency in Alaska Native languages.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges Alaskans to make use of new amendments to Sec. 6004, Alaska Native Educational Equity Program (ANEP) and the Sec. 6133, Native American and Alaska Native Language Immersion Schools and Programs in the recently signed-into-law Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), to provide funding for Alaska Native language immersion programs.

## Reconciliation

**Recommendation:** In order to create an environment of healing, and following in the spirit of the apologies issued by the U.S. Congress, the President of the United States, and the BIA, the ANLPAC urges the Legislature to declare an official apology, on behalf of the State of Alaska, for the earlier role that Alaska had in suppressing and forbidding Alaska Native languages in village schools and in boarding schools across the state.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges the Legislature to declare April 21<sup>st</sup> of each year as Alaska Native Languages Day, to celebrate and recognize Alaska Native languages.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges the Legislature to declare that the second Monday of every October annually be *Indigenous Peoples Day* in Alaska.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC calls on all state, borough, city, and other regional groups to consider using traditional, Alaska Native place names when the local community desires and, to the degree possible, to recognize these names formally with the state and federal governments and to use these names in maps, signage, publications, and school curricula.

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges the artist community to express Alaska Native Languages as both critical to our daily lives and to use artistic expression to create healing moments that promote our languages and cultures.

## Technology

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC encourages the creation of electronic means to promote the learning and the everyday use of Alaska Native languages and supports human teaching, rather than learning from tech alone.

## Alaska Native Language Preservation Council Funding

**Recommendation:** The ANLPAC urges the Legislature to restore the budget to support the return of the 2012-2015 position of Administrative Assistant to the ANLPAC section within the Division of Community and Regional Affairs.



Boy and elder; photo courtesy of Sealaska Heritage Institute