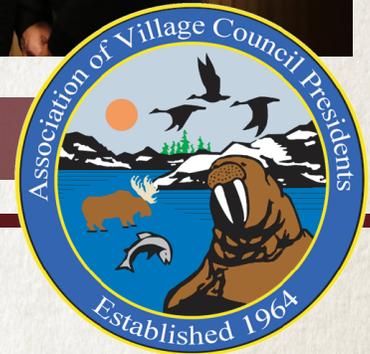


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Jack Crow, Vivian Korthuis, Joy Anderson, and Liz Peterson  
at the 2022 Annual Convention



## INSIDE



Charlene Wuya taking attendance at the 2022 Hybrid  
Annual Convention

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## AVCP ANNUAL CONVENTION ADDRESS



Good morning. Welcome to the Association of Village Council Presidents 58th Annual Convention. The convention theme this year is “All Things Connected: Our Family, Our Region, Our Future.” My name is Vivian Korthuis. I serve as the Chief Executive Officer for AVCP.

First, I want to take acknowledge the damage done by last weekend’s typhoon which has severely impacted coastal communities in our region and along the Western Coast of Alaska. This storm was devastating. While the damage assessment and clean up will take some time, I am confident in our region’s ability to recover. I am most grateful that there have been no reports of lives lost as a result of the Typhoon.

I want to thank AVCP staff who have worked tirelessly the past few days to manage the aftermath of the storm. I am grateful to our partners from the State of Alaska most notably the governor and the National Guard for their quick response.

For the next two days we will focus on the annual convention and continue to think of those in our communities that are still in the process of recovering from the damage of the storm. Executive Board, Delegates, Tribes, Staff, and Guests of the AVCP-thank you again for attending the annual convention. Next, I want to recognize our late Second Traditional Chief Bea Kristovich. Bea was our region’s first female Traditional Chief, and I wanted to thank her and her family for sharing Bea and her leadership with all of us.

Third, I want to congratulate Congresswoman Mary Peltola. Mary is Alaska’s first woman to serve as the Representative for Alaska and the first Alaska Native Woman to serve in Congress. We are very proud of Mary and support her in the work she does for all of us in her new role. I also want to thank her family for sharing Mary with all of us. Bea and Mary are great examples of this year’s convention theme-all things are connected to our families, region, and our future generations. I also want to thank our Keynote Speakers. Today we heard from Representative Tiffany Zulkosky. Tomorrow we will hear from Ayaprun Jones. These two women are also great examples of the theme for this year’s convention. I want to thank both Tiffany and Ayaprun’s families for sharing them and their leadership with all of us.

This year’s annual convention is being held both in person with the option of attending virtual. I want to thank all our Tribes for sending delegates to make our convention successful. Our delegates will hear from Administration and Programs on services AVCP delivers to our Tribes, Tribal members, families, communities, and region. You will gain insight into AVCP’s mission of advocating, educating, and monitoring on issues we all face. AVCP is a strong voice for the people of our region and as an organization, we have never been better positioned to fulfill our mission of serving all of you.

Our programs, services and initiatives touch all our lives in one way or another. Our quality improvement program continues to serve us well. It has been three years since we have been able to gather in-person for our annual convention. The pandemic did its best to keep us apart, but through it all we stayed together. We took care of one another and are getting through Covid standing up. Our region has layers of challenges including the public safety crisis, the pandemic, salmon crash, and most recently the storm.

AVCP leadership with the support of the Executive Board, is doing everything in our power to overcome these challenges. Especially the salmon crisis. This is a statewide problem impacting 100,000 people in Alaska. There is no quick fix. But we are aggressively working to influence state and federal leaders and their policies in the name of managing this serious situation.

Just as we did in the pandemic, it must be all of us, collectively speaking on behalf of one another to address this crisis.

I have personally met with the Secretary of the Interior, Governor Dunleavy, Senator Murkowski and leaders from countless state and federal agencies. I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with Congresswoman Peltola on this issue which impacts us all.

Some of you have heard about my zip lock bag approach. These bags represent our smokehouses and freezers-empty. I have shared empty bags with elected officials. The empty bags cause an emotional response to the idea that people don't have salmon. I encourage all of you to write a message about how the salmon crisis is impacting you, your family, and community. Later today you will hear details about our new strategic plan to address natural resource and subsistence issues in the Special Fisheries Report.

Effective leadership involves listening. AVCP is listening and communicating with tribes at a level never seen before. Your collective voices on all issues are being heard. Our team will be listening during this convention tomorrow when delegates will discuss regionwide needs by Unit.

In closing, I want to say thank you to the AVCP staff for all their hard work and for all of us coming together for the common good of our region.

Thank you.



## 2022 ANNUAL AWARDS



### **Health: Catherine Beebe, Kwinhagak Tribe**

Catherine Beebe is originally from Eek, Alaska and lives in Quinhagak. Her mom is Theresa Beebe Ilutsik from Eek. Grandparents are the late Fritz Beebe Sr and Edith Beebe. Catherine's is married to Timothy Beebe Jr. and they have three children Roselyn, Conner and Jackson.

Catherine Beebe is a Community Health Practitioner in Quinhagak, Alaska. Ms. Beebe graduated with her Associates in Community Health in 2021. She enjoys community outreach with presentations at the school and announcements supporting reproductive health and immunizations. Although she is young, she's the main "go to" person within the Quinhagak clinic. She's a motivator, supporter, encourager and never fails to help those in need. She never fails to show her smile even under stress. She educates the community in what available to them without hesitation.

She's a mom of three and is raising them to live a healthy and subsistence lifestyle while also teaching them the traditional values that she grew up with. As a Yup'ik, Catherine believes we should live humbly, and that kindness is never wasted.



## Education: Monica Charles, Orutsararmiut Native Council

Monica Charles, Naucetaaq Nayak’aq, is a Yup’ik born and raised in Bethel, AK. Her parents are Frank and Louise Charles. Monica is the mother three children Helen, Nanugaq Jordan and Hannah. Ms. Charles has a B.Ed. in Elementary Education from University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

Monica has been a GAL (Guardian ad Litem) with AVCP since 2015.

Monica served as the chairperson for the Alaska Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Partnership for 10 years. Monica has lectured on FASD and conducted education-focused trainings across Alaska and at major FASD conferences in Washington State and Arkansas, and is frequently requested to present on FASD for professionals in the child welfare field. In 2019, Monica was part of a 5-member Alaskan Vocational Training Team for an FASD Clinic in Perth, Australia. Monica continues to work to bring awareness and resources for families caring for and raising children with FASD in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, statewide, and nationally.

Ms. Charles has volunteered on several boards including Tundra Women’s Coalition, Alaska FASD Partnership, Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Academic Policy Committee, Parent Navigator for Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation FAS Dx Team. Monica received Recognition Legislative Citation: YK Delta Women in Philanthropy, April 2018; inducted into the Tom and Linda Daschle FASD Hall of Fame in June 2015.

Distinctive quotes on helping children with FASD succeed: “If they have one stable person in their life in the school setting, be it the janitor, their teacher, a stable friend, the secretary or be it the teacher’s aid, they can have a higher chance for success in the school setting. It also doesn’t mean that they can’t succeed, it just means they need more support in the school setting.”



## Hunter/Fisher: Agnes Gregory, Kwethluk Tribe

Agnes “Aggie” Gregory was born in Bethel 60 yrs ago. Her parents were Martha Gregory Toguyak & Wassillie Paul (both deceased). She was raised by foster parents Joseph & Freda Lomack. Aggie’s children are Staci, David, and Ana.

Hunting and fishing is important but it is just as important to take care of what a person catches. Agnes values her subsistence lifestyle and loves processing all fish, game and traditional foods. Agnes will share all of her traditional foods with anyone in need, especially friends and family.

In December 2021 there was some unforgiving weather on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta that halted air travel in the region. This left many individuals and families stranded in Bethel without food and resources. Numerous people were stranded at the airport for days. Aggie began cooking and delivering food up to the airport to ensure that people who were stranded had home cooked meals. The weather was bad for days and was not lifting, as many individuals and families kept on waiting for their flights. Aggie began posting on social media for others to help feed residents who were stranded over a week due to bad weather. Before we knew it, much of Bethel began to offer to support and cook meals to help stranded families in need. Aggie coordinated the food efforts and helped many people from the surrounding villages while on their way home. She lead by example in sharing what she had with those that needed it the most.

Aggie’s strong Yup’ik upbringing shows the great value of respect, sharing, hard work, and love for family and children is very apparent in all that she does.



## Small Business: Michael Fredericks, Georgetown Tribe

Born and raised in Anchorage, Michael Fredericks is an Alaska Native of Yup'ik descent and is a member of the Georgetown Tribe. Her late father, Glenn Fredericks, was born in the Kuskokwim region and her late mother Jan Fredericks came to Alaska in the early '60s, after being raised all over the world in a military family. Michael received her Bachelor of Architectural Studies from the University of Washington and her Masters of Architecture from the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Michael is the President and majority owner of SALT. Michael has leveraged her architectural training into a specialization in complex stakeholder engagement around design projects. Over her 16 years of experience, Michael's facilitation services have evolved to include business planning, community engagement, project planning, complex problem solving, organizational planning, action planning, and focused conversations around challenging issues. Ms. Fredericks is trained as an architect, but her passion and expertise lies in strategic planning, visioning, facilitation and grant writing.

Ms. Fredericks strongly believes that the most successful initiatives harness collaborative thought and align the solution with the stakeholder – not the other way around. Providing a strong process for stakeholder engagement not only empowers the user but has proven to result in bottom-line savings as well. Michael is adept at helping groups define their unique version of success and provide them with a roadmap to achieve their goals.



## Youth Leadership: Golga Oscar, Kasigluk Tribe

Golga Oscar's parents are Molly and David Oscar of Tununak.

Golga Oscar, Yup'ik, is an artist from Southwest, Alaska who pursues and uses modern textile that reflects his cultural identity. He seeks the aspects of revitalizing his ancestral work with a mix of contemporary materials and design. Mr. Oscar has been exploring different mediums that range from leather/skin sewing, grass weaving, and walrus ivory/wood carving. A strong cultural identity is evident in his work. Through his knowledge of traditional art forms and sewing skills, he creates cultural attire that becomes a strong visual element in his photographic imagery.

Golga has taught art classes focusing on creating Yup'ik attire that range from headwear to footwear including headdress, dance fans, and boots. Golga was awarded the 2022 Calista Cultural Bearer Award. This knowledge that he has is what he shares with his surroundings, especially to the younger generation. Golga Oscar says, "Yup'ik culture and traditions have saved my life from falling apart." - Meaning Yup'ik culture can save anyone's life by practicing it every day, keeping the mind busy from negative thoughts or keeping away from negative environments. Always follow the admonishments you were given from your parents and grandparents, because they save you from their experience."

## WDD Update

Workforce Development Division had a busy fall with outreach, workshops, scholarships and child care. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Child Care, and Tribal Workforce Development (TWD) spent the fall reaching out to tribal members and sharing the different kinds of support we offer.

VR continues to recruit new consumers that need workforce support, like hearing aids, magnifiers, and tools. VR staff visited Eek, Atmautluak, Quinhagak, and Aniak in September. In October Minnie or Irma's travel plans included trips to Hooper Bay and Napakiak. Before Thanksgiving, look for VR in Mt. Village, Kalsgak, Russian Mission, Pilot Station, Scammon Bay and Alakanak.

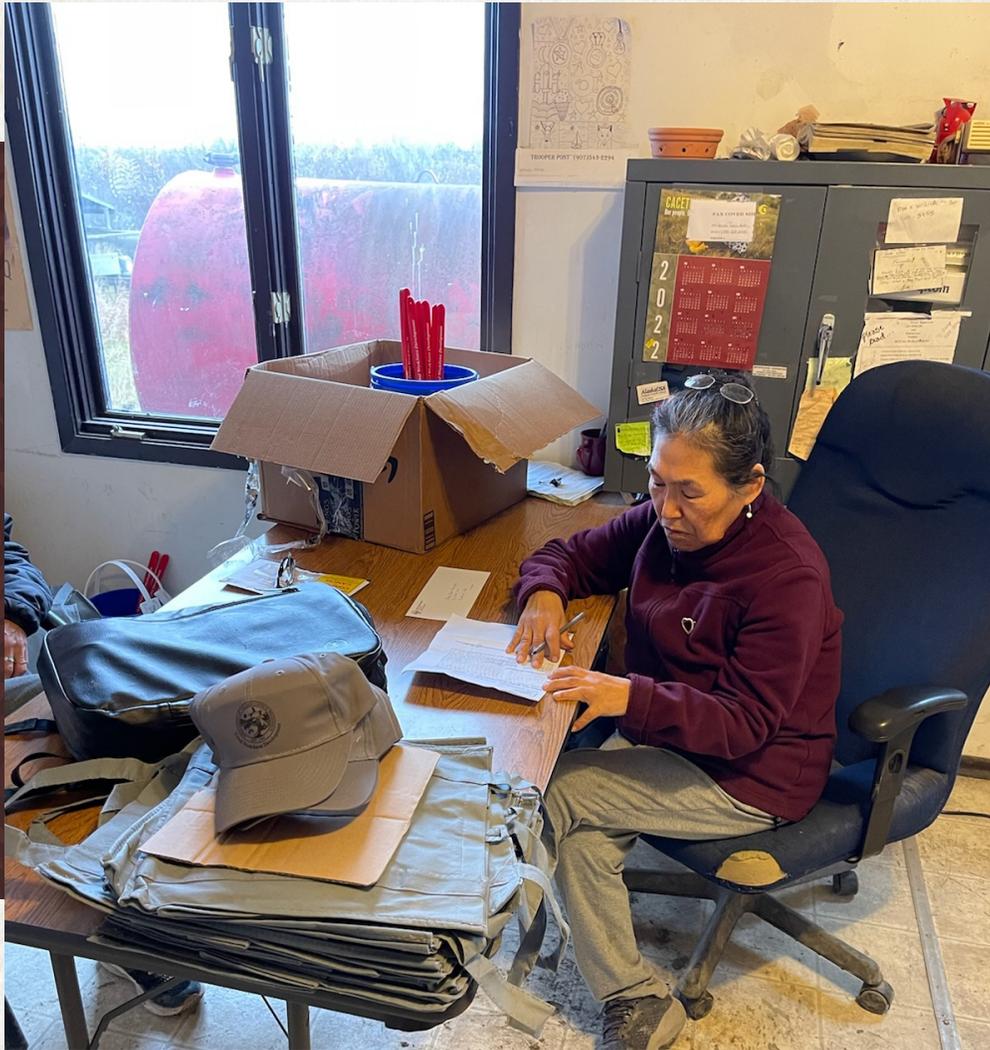
Child Care traveled to many AVCP Villages, too. Beverly Turner's travels included upriver trips to Aniak and Mid Kuskokwim trips to Eek. The Child Care team is always seeking to connect families with child care providers' services.

Child Care recently held its second Providers Conference of the year in Bethel. Child care providers received valuable training in trauma and wellness, child abuse, SIDS, CPR and first aid.

TWD has had a constant stream of clients entering training this fall. Just in October, TWD has approved nearly twenty eligible tribal members scholarships for training. AVCP TWD is supporting pilots, truck drivers, carpenters, and health care workers; just to name a few.



*Chevak Tribal Member and Workforce Development Client Adolf Bukowski doing After The Storm repairs with Michael Tall (left) in Chevok, Alaska*



*Marilyn Wille, Napakiak Workforce and Benefits Navigator*

In October and November, Noel Kairaiuak, Chefnak Workforce and Benefits Navigator is hosting a small engine repair training in Chefnak and in Aniak and Kalskag, Navigators Michele Samuelson and Jessica Anvil are working with Northern Industrial Training to put on for middle Kuskokwim Tribal Members.

TWD staff also received training from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and FEMA. Felicia Cook, Hilda Stern, Elaine Savetilik, Connie Ulroan, Joseph Hunter, Jr., and Marilyn Willie all received training in Individual Assistance applications. They are available to assist tribal members who need assistance filling out the State of Alaska and FEMA forms for Individual Assistance.

# THE FIGHT TO PROTECT THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA)



ICWA protects American Indian and Alaska Native kids in child welfare proceedings by keeping them in the care of extended family or tribes whenever possible. In **Haaland v. Brackeen**, a small group of opponents will argue in front of the Supreme Court that those protections should be taken away—and the challenge will have far-reaching impacts.

**Here's what you need to know about this case, which will be a defining issue of 2022:**

## ICWA IS NECESSARY.

### 1 ICWA puts best practice into law.

Experts agree that placing kids with extended families or communities when possible is preferred. These placements give kids a connection to the people and places they come from. ICWA protects identity, familial network, and sense of belonging—things that all children need.

### 2 Family separation is a modern-day threat.

Systemic, intergenerational trauma and neglect coupled with bias has meant that Native children still enter the child welfare system in disproportionate numbers. 15% of Native children can expect to enter foster care at some point before their 18th birthday compared to about 5% of white children and they are often not placed with relatives or other Native families, even when such placements are available and appropriate.

### 3 ICWA exists to curb and heal generations of harm.

When ICWA was passed in the 1970s, research found that 25%-35% of all Native children were being separated from their parents, extended families, and communities by state child welfare and private adoption agencies; of these, 85% were placed outside of their families and communities even when fit and willing relatives were available. The family separation crisis compounded nearly 200 years of active cultural genocide in the boarding school system, starting in the early 1800s. ICWA has acted as a much-needed reform on the practices that have separated Native children from their families for centuries.

## WHAT DO ICWA CHALLENGERS WANT?

### Not the well-being of Native children.

ICWA opponents have two things in common: deep pockets and minimal contact with Native tribes, organizations, leaders, or peoples. ICWA opponents include a conservative think tank, a law firm that represents Big Oil, and the State of Texas. ICWA supporters include 497 Tribal Nations, 62 Native-led organizations, 26 child welfare organizations, 23 states and DC, and 87 congresspeople. One side is best suited to represent the interests of Native kids; the other is best suited to undermine them.

### Not respect for tribal sovereignty.

In a blatant and intentional misunderstanding of sovereignty, ICWA's opponents argue that the law is unconstitutional because it creates a different set of rules for Native kids—that is, they say it is racist. Not so. The U.S. Constitution recognizes Tribes as sovereign, much like states or foreign nations; we are federally recognized entities with inherent power to self-govern and thousands of years' experience doing so. Tribal citizenship confers a political classification that allows for self-determination in our affairs.

### A coordinated attack on tribal rights.

These malicious attacks are familiar; this time, our enemies are attacking ICWA so they can use Native kids and cultures as a backdoor to ultimately undermine the rights of tribes. If the Supreme Court undermines Tribal Nations' sovereign rights, our opponents could set legal precedent that has serious consequences for other issues like tribal gaming and land rights. A challenge to ICWA is a threat to tribal rights.

**Want to stay in touch with the Protect ICWA Campaign? [Click here.](#)**

## 2022 CONVENTION RECAP



*WDD Director Sam Crow presenting Program Reports, AVCP Executive Board in the background*



*AVCP Division Directors answering Delegate Questions*



*Keynote Speaker State Representative Tiffany Zulkosky*



*Keynote Speaker Ayaprun Loddie Jones receiving gift from AVCP Traditional Chief Edward Adams Sr.*



*U.S. Representative Mary Peltola calling in to the AVCP Convention*



*Senator Lyman Hoffman attending the AVCP Convention in person*



*Senator Lisa Murkowski attending the AVCP Convention virtually, addressing the crowd*



*Senator Dan Sullivan attending the AVCP Convention virtually, addressing the crowd*

## TYPHOON MERBOK UPDATE



*Photo by Jeremy Edwards/FEMA*

A brief update regarding Typhoon Merbok for the AVCP region. AVCP has been working closely with The State of Alaska, FEMA, Red Cross, Alaska National Guard, and Emergency Tribal Contacts within the 56 communities that AVCP serves.

Our first priority was assuring hard hit communities had arrangements to receive essentials such as shelter arrangements, food, water, and hygiene supplies, many of which were generously donated by outside organizations and community members. This wouldn't have been possible without freight donations from local airlines transporting donated items to those rural communities. AVCP assisted State Emergency Operations, National Guard, and The Red Cross in making connections to visit affected communities in our region to better assess the damages shortly after the storm.

Initial assessment reports allowed for the State Disaster Declaration, which opened numerous paths of funding for survivors. Hooper Bay and Chevak were identified as the hardest hit by the storm. Alaska National Guard made a push to visit all the communities that requested assistance in piecing parts of their community back together. The help was greatly appreciated, as communities needed boardwalks moved back together, debris cleanup, and grave relocation due to such high tides during the storm. An incomprehensible amount of service, help, and guidance has been offered by The State of Alaska, FEMA, Red Cross, and Alaska National Guard in repairing our communities hard hit by Typhoon Merbok.

Upon receiving BIA Emergency Funding AVCP Tribal Workforce Development Navigators conducted detailed assessments and outreach phone calls to Tribal Leaders in the AVCP service region to identify communities that had been affected by Typhoon Merbok. Those assessments were the key factor in allocating emergency funds AVCP received from The BIA to be distributed to devastated communities. Along with assessing community damages, exact inventory for repair needs was encouraged throughout the region.

As inventory quantities are being gathered, The State of Alaska advised for inventory lists to be sent to [storm@ready.alaska.gov](mailto:storm@ready.alaska.gov). Conclusive of assessments done by Navigators, eleven (11) communities were identified as hardest hit and moved to top priority to receive recovery funding. These communities are Hooper Bay, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Chevak, Kipnuk, Newtok, Kotlik, Napakiak, Toksook, Tuntutuliak, and Kongiganak.



*Hooper Bay, Courtesy William Naneng*

Hooper Bay reported five homes being beyond repair and thirty-four needing major to moderate repairs. Eleven families reported food insecurity in Hooper Bay.

Nunam Iqua declared one home destroyed and twenty-seven homes needing major to minor repairs. Forty-six families reported food insecurity due to subsistence gathering tools being damaged. Nunam Iqua also utilized National Guard assistance to relocate eleven grave sites that had been displaced due to flooding.

Alakanuk stated three homes were beyond repair and nine needing major to minor repairs. Forty-seven families declared food infrastructure needs and fifteen homes needing heating source evaluations. Chevak reported 1 home needing major renovations and six needing Minor.

In Chevak the mass of devastation was inflicted upon the beach where many community members stored subsistence gathering tools and boats. One hundred-seventy individuals lost material ranging from storage sheds, gill nets, boats, ATVs, navigation, to fuel etc.

Kipnuk reported one home lost and another fifteen needing major to moderate repair. The storm also impacted Kipnuk's boardwalks, roads, barge landing and gravel stock.



*Newtok, Courtesy Bruno Chakuchin*

Newtok reported one home a total loss and two needing major repairs. Newtok is currently in the process of relocating to Mertarvik as they lose their ancestral village site to rapid erosion. Thirty families have lost subsistence materials in Newtok.

Kotlik lost one home to erosion and reported 10 homes needing major to moderate repairs. Twenty-five families expressed food infrastructure needs.

Napakiak did not report any homes lost but identified nine homes needing major to moderate repairs. Twenty-five families reported food insecurity concerns related to loss of subsistence foods and materials in Napakiak.

Nunakauyak stated concern for one home that has gotten dangerously close to falling into the ocean due to rapid erosion during the storm season and climate changes that have been a large concern for all coastline and riverside communities. Nunakauyak reported six additional homes needing major to moderate repairs. Fifteen families reported food insecurity in Nunakauyak (formerly known as Toksook).

Tuntutuliak reported one home a total loss and four homes needing major to moderate repairs. Ten families expressed food infrastructure needs in Tuntutuliak.

Kongiganak fortunately did not report any homes a total loss but have identified four homes that need major to moderate repairs.

Among assessing homes, subsistence food infrastructure, and heat sources, AVCP also assessed water and sewer services, boardwalks, power units, dumpsites, and anything else that raised concern from community members. AVCP TWD Navigators recently attended a brief training hosted by FEMA, focused on best practices to assist Tribal Members with Individual Assistance Applications.

Navigators are currently stationed in Hooper Bay, Newtok, Tuntutuliak, Toksook, Chevak, and Alakanuk to assist with filling out Individual Assistance Applications with the State and FEMA. AVCP will continue to field outreach calls to direct those in need to the best options for assistance. A incomprehensible amount of service, help, and guidance has been offered by The State of Alaska, FEMA, Red Cross, and Alaska National Guard in repairing our communities hard hit by Typhoon Merbok, for this we would like to thank all those that have united together to uplift our neighbors who are recovering from this historic storm.