

# Alaska Native Science Commission

429 L Street

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

[www.nativescience.org](http://www.nativescience.org)

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# ANSC ORIGINS

- ◆ The Arctic Contamination Conference 1993
- ◆ The Environmental Legacy of the Cold War - Project Chariot and iodine experimentation on Alaska Natives
- ◆ Position paper was prepared which stated the desire of the Native community to become actively involved in scientific research, to become aware and informed of science investigating Native lives and environment, and to ensure that when science is performed in Alaska it is with the knowledge, cooperation and understanding of the Native community.

- ◆ October 1993 - the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) passed a unanimous resolution at their annual convention to support the creation of the Alaska Native Science Commission. During 1994, a series of workshops were held with Native community leaders and elders and Arctic scientists and researchers to discuss the formation and structure of the ANSC. Funding was received from the National Science Foundation to assist in establishing the ANSC and a partnership was formed with the University of Alaska.
- ◆ April 2002 - ANSC became an independent non-profit organization which provides the primary link between the scientific community and the Alaska Native community.

# ANSC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- ◆ Elaine Abraham (Teacher) - Chair
- ◆ Orville Huntington (Natural Resources) - Vice Chair
- ◆ Anne Walker (Health) - Treasurer
- ◆ Alice Petrivelli (Elder) - Secretary
- ◆ Oscar Kawagley, PH. D. (Education) - Member
- ◆ Sven Haakanson Jr., PH.D. (Scientist) - Member
- ◆ Charlie Johnson (Circumpolar Research) - Member
- ◆ Tagulik Hepa (Arctic Research) - Member
- ◆ Nirvana Ramos - Student Advisor
- ◆ Viola Steptin - Student Advisor



# A Partnership Approach

- ◆ The Alaska Native Science Commission was created to bring together research and science in partnership with the Native community. It serves as a clearinghouse for proposed research, an information base for ongoing and past research and an archive for significant research involving the Native community. We provide information, referral and networking services for researchers seeking active partners in the Native community





# Mission Statement


- ◆ The mission of the Alaska Native Science Commission is to endorse and support scientific research that enhances and perpetuates Alaska Native cultures and ensures the protection of indigenous cultures and intellectual property



# GOALS

- ◆ **GOALS**
- ◆ Facilitate the inclusion of local and traditional knowledge into research and science.
- ◆ Participate in and influence priorities for research.
- ◆ Seek participation of Alaska Natives at all levels of science.
- ◆ Provide a mechanism for community feedback on results and other scientific activities.
- ◆ Promote science to Native youth.
- ◆ Encourage Native people to enter scientific disciplines.
- ◆ Ensure that Native people share in the economic benefits derived from their intellectual property.

# CONCERNS

1. **Environmental health and the causes of disease that are specific to Alaska Natives, especially the types of cancers that are killing the young and non-substance abusers.**
  2. **Elements and conditions that contribute to the survival of Native cultures and societies, and identification of major barriers to cultural survival.**
  3. **Partnerships with agencies and researchers who have supported community involvement in research and work well with the Native communities.**
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# CONCERNS (continued)

- 4 **Active community involvement in science and research which:**
- Inform communities of their rights regarding research done on their environment or people.
  - Establishes community research standards and protocols.
  - Establishes standard research reviews to address issues of local concern and cultural values.
  - Assures that scientists work with communities on the direction and design of research.
  - Channels communication of research results in a practical manner back to communities which are most impacted.

# CONCERNS (continued)

- Helps scientists work directly with students who are interested in the classroom and at the research site to foster interest and involvement.
- Promotes hire of local people to assist with research.
- Prepares locally-held knowledge of community resources.
- Promotes student learning through elders.
- Encourages and supports students who are interested in science to become actively involved in the research of their people and homelands.
- Establishes local standards for the utilization of traditional knowledge with consideration of intellectual property rights.

# Alaska Federation of Natives Policy Guidelines for Research

- ◆ Advise those Native people who will be affected by the study of the purpose, goals and time frame of the research, the data-gathering techniques, the positive and negative implications and the impacts of the research.
- ◆ Obtain informed consent of the appropriate governing body.
- ◆ Fund the support of a Native research committee appointed by the local community to assess and monitor the project and ensure compliance with the expressed wishes of Native people.
- ◆ Protect the sacred knowledge and cultural/intellectual property of Native people.
- ◆ Hire and train Native people to assist in the study.
- ◆ Use Native languages whenever English is the second language.
- ◆ Include Native viewpoints in the final study.
- ◆ Acknowledge the contributions of Native resource people.
- ◆ Inform the Native research committee in a summary report, in non-technical language, of the major findings of the study.
- ◆ Provide copies of the study to the local people.

# *When an elder dies, a library burns*

