



Sealaska and Central Council Sign Historic M.O.U.

Juneau, AK— Chris E. McNeil, Jr., Sealaska President & CEO and Bill Martin, President of Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) are pleased to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on March 27, 2009 between Central Council and Sealaska. The MOU is a historic agreement and strengthens opportunities for shareholders and members of both Native organizations. The intent is to provide business opportunities that will meet mutual objectives, including exploring business partnerships and investment opportunities in the region.

“This is a challenging time for Southeast Alaska but there is potential for developing innovative and sustainable economies in Southeast,” stated McNeil. “Collaboration amongst these Native institutions represents a new model to discovering solutions that will strengthen our region and benefit tribal members and Sealaska tribal member shareholders.”

Sealaska and Central Council will work to identify and evaluate strategic plans then consider acquisition or startup of operating enterprises. The primary goals of the MOU are to:

- Research new opportunities to improve the economic conditions of and employment opportunities for the Tribe’s members and Sealaska’s tribal member shareholders
- Generate revenue for the Tribe and Sealaska
- Enhance the Tribe’s economic self-sufficiency and self-determination
- Increase benefits and employment opportunities for tribal members and Sealaska tribal member shareholders
- Enhance Sealaska’s access to contract opportunities

“During this struggling economy it is important that we obtain maximum funding for our region through the stimulus act,” said Martin. “I look forward to the Tribe working cooperatively with Sealaska to bring economic and employment opportunities to our tribal citizens and shareholders.”

Central Council and Sealaska will focus on U.S. Small Business Administration 8(a) federal contracting and mentor/protégé programs, renewable energy projects, labor force training and deployment, tourism and community infrastructure development.

“The board of Directors, Sealaska management and our subsidiaries are working together to increase our economic activity in Southeast,” said Sealaska Director Tate London. “ This MOU aligns well with that vision and is an important step that will build off the collective strength of Sealaska and Central Council,” said London.

Presidents Martin and McNeil’s vision is to jointly develop enhanced revenue for the Tribe and Sealaska through future partnerships. Sealaska and Central Council will initially focus on the

opportunities available by passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus package).

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