



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-56

- TITLE:** DECLARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our people; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Elders and Youth Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** We the indigenous youth and future leaders of Alaska are concerned for the survival of our future generations, ways of life, traditional lands, intact ecosystems, emotional, spiritual, and mental well-being due to Climate Change; and
- WHEREAS:** Our indigenous lands and waters are warming at twice the rate as the rest of the world. Many communities across the state face hardships directly correlated with Climate Change, such as the extreme warming temperatures which melt the permafrost, causing mass erosion, resulting in the relocation of entire communities along with devastating the natural habitats of our animal and plant relatives. These impacts have disrupted indigenous seasonal hunting and gathering traditions; and
- WHEREAS:** In recent years we have lost community members due to unpredictable and unsafe ice conditions, have seen the die off and disease of seals, salmon, migratory birds, shellfish, whales, polar bears, and recognize that these are also our relatives; and

WHEREAS: We, the Alaska Native youth, are asking our tribal leaders to consider, as is traditional, the future of their grandchildren and the generations to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives will reinstate a climate action leadership task force within the Alaska Federation of Natives to advance indigenous voices and advocate for strong climate policies that will ensure the survival of future generations and to declare a state of emergency on Climate Change.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND  
YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED