

KEYNOTE ADDRESS – “TODAY”

This has been an exciting few years for KIC through growth in funding, expansion of programs, completion of the Elder Housing Units, opening of the Tribal House Drug Store and the Southern Southeast Alaska Technical Education Center, to name a few.

KIC employs an average of 175 jobs annually with a peak of over 200 during the summer season, which ranks us 6th among the largest employers of Ketchikan. KIC has grown over the last few years by expanding its' revenue sources to an operating budget that is over \$31 million dollars. This is up from \$21 million in 2006. KIC has worked to support tribal hire, support tribal businesses and keep our money in our community. Annual KIC spends around \$8 million in salaries and \$13 million in local spending through businesses, organizations and service providers. This has a significant economic impact on the community of Ketchikan, through direct employment and as spending ripples through the local economy. We take pride in being this stable presence in our community during these difficult economic times for our nation.

Some significant accomplishments for the Tribe in 2011 are:

- The reinstatement of the Advisory Health Board. KIC Tribal Council listened to the memberships overwhelming response in support of this during the 2011 elections. During our strategic planning session this year, we spent a significant amount of time working on this so that by the next elections the board could be in place. This also including establishing new By-Laws which were adopted this fall.

- The other primary issue for the Council was Constitutional Reform. A Constitution Committee was established and has spent the entire year working through the critical issues of any constitution – membership, jurisdiction, Council make-up and processes, elections and powers. The next step is to ensure that the By-laws and Ordinances adhere to the Constitutional amendments, so there is still much to do. We will be holding a referendum vote on these matters in 2012 prior to the 2013 elections.
- With the development of new businesses came the need for the Tribe to establish a Section 17 Charter which established the Business Corporation. This allows the tribe to operate businesses under a separate Charter, protecting the assets of the Tribe, as in business there are no guarantees and we want to protect the Tribe. A separate board will eventually be established per this charter and eventually a CEO will administer these companies reporting to the KIC Business Corporation Board of Directors, similar the GM reporting to the Tribal Council.
- This year KIC also developed and filed the paperwork with the State of Alaska to establish a non-profit company called the Heritage Foundation. It has been a strategic goal for many years as there are opportunities out there including funding sources, that we are not eligible for a Tribal Government but will be as a Tribal Non-Profit.
- As reported by the Committee Chairs earlier, KIC celebrated the Grand Openings of the Tribal House and SSEATeC Training Center. We plan to pursue other business

opportunities for the Tribe that will generate revenue for our programs because as you know there will be significant cuts in the federal funding over the next few years that we receive. The SSEATeC vocational training center has been a long term strategic goal of the Tribe and is finally being implemented. That program will grow to provide many training opportunities for our members and ALL Alaskans.

- Over the last two years KIC received \$1.1 million in capital funding from the State of Alaska for SSEATeC. We are now pursuing capital and operational State funding for these programs. With this funding we are building a commercial kitchen in the SSEATeC facility that will provide culinary arts instruction – the only other one in Alaska is in Fairbanks. It will also provide meals for the Elders, the daycare facility and KIC meetings – to keep our funding internal and creating more jobs and training opportunities for our tribal members.
- We reorganized our Senior Management team to accommodate the growth of the organization and to improve administration of and communication within our programs.

Our Senior Management team consists of:

- Debbie Patton, General Manager
- Michelle Short, CFO who is a Certified Public Accountant over finances
- Tom Gubatayao, Chief Administrative Officer, over the indirect functions
- Joel Azure, Chief Operations Officer, over BIA programs and Housing
- Brent Simcosky, Health Administrator

- We also established a second meeting a month: the regular monthly meeting on the 2nd Monday of every month and a Business Meeting the 4th Monday. This will allow us to separate the Tribal program business from the For-Profit business of the Business Corporation. And as you know with the reinstatement of the Advisory Health Board – those meetings will be separate as well. So there has been growth and adjustments within the staff and Council as KIC grows and expands.
- You may have received a newsletter this fall and/or a postcard to this event – KIC is working to improve its communication with its membership and public relations, which was another strategic objective this year. We have reinstated our quarterly newsletters; we will be developing an email list serve for email distributions of significant information in between newsletters, such as Press Releases, significant events, etc. We now have a dedicated person to keeping our website up-to-date and with current information so it's a more useful tool for the Tribe and membership, we plan to establish social media sites for the Tribe in the near future and are working on an annual report that will be distributed at the polls during the 2012 Elections, to name a few of the current projects occurring in this area.
- KIC Tribal Council, Health Committee and staff actively participate in local, state and federal meetings such as:

- Chamber of Commerce,
 - Ketchikan Visitor's Bureau Board,
 - Ketchikan Downtown Steering Committee
 - University of Alaska Southeast Advisory Board,
 - Women in Safe Homes,
 - Southeast Conference,
 - State Homebuilders Association,
 - Alaska Workforce Investment Board,
 - Alaska Native Health Board,
 - Alaska Federation of Natives,
 - National Congress of American Indians,
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- In closing, it's been a busy and productive year at KIC. The Staff, Administration, Tribal Council and At-Large members are dedicated to and work many hours for the Tribe, because we believe in its' mission – “working together – to provide for the general well-being of the Tribe”.

As with any growth, there comes change. As with all human beings, none of us are perfect and we don't always see eye-to-eye – but it is this common bond that brings us together, as Tribal members.