

Alaska Federation of Natives Plenary Session

Director's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

October 22, 2022

- Good afternoon, everyone. We'd like to give our sincere thanks to all the tribal leaders and their representatives for taking time to join us today.
- I want to particularly thank Julie Kitka for inviting me to speak to the Alaska Native delegation today.
- We recognize and very much appreciate Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) for its efforts on behalf of the 2020 Census.
- Our Alaska outreach would not have achieved the level of success it did without your support and the hard work of Vice President, Nicole Borromeo.
- She deserves a big round of thanks for her dedication in making sure all Alaska Natives were counted for the 2020 Census.
- So thank you!
- I also want to thank and acknowledge the Sitka Native delegation for hosting me and our staff this past Monday.
- I learned a lot from visiting this native village.
- It was a profound, moving, and insightful experience.
- We recognize our need to listen more and to listen continuously.
- In fact, it's a priority under my tenure to extend and strengthen our relationships with all Alaska Natives and their representative organizations.
- That means our work with you is of the highest importance.
- We seek to strengthen our nation-to-nation relationships with all tribes.
- We believe that is the key to serving you better, to providing you with the data you need for your governance.
- Now, we arrived in the wondrous state of Alaska on Saturday.
- We've had an insightful visit with the Sitka Tribal Council to hear their concerns from the 2020 Census and our American Community Survey.
- And this past Tuesday, we held a tribal consultation hosted by the ANCSA Regional Association.
- There we gave updates on our 2020 American Indian and Alaska Native data products as well as the Federal Register Notice released in August that seeks public input on 2030 Census planning.
- To be clear, we welcome future tribal consultations with your tribe and village council.
- We are delighted to have been invited here today.
- We are hoping that you can provide input on our next set of 2020 American Indian and Alaska Native data products.
- That will help us provide more accurate, more relevant data to you.

- Information continues to be sent to you by our tribal team and we hope to get your input on the next set of 2020 Alaska Native data products.
- We recognize we need to serve you better.
- As such, we're committed to providing the quality data you need, data that your communities rely on.
- We are in the early stages of planning for the 2030 Census and your input is critical.
- We encourage you to provide feedback now, through a Federal Register Notice that posted on August 17, 2022.
- Your input will help inform our decisions for the next census, including our research, testing, and design.
- With ideas from the tribes and other communities across America, we seek to better reach and count historically undercounted people, overcome challenges, and encourage everyone to respond to the 2030 Census.
- It's very important to get your input early in the decade and to hear from as many people and communities as possible.
- Once we have an operational design—in 2024—we will turn our efforts to building and procuring the infrastructure to support, test, and refine it.
- So now's the best and most impactful time to hear from you.
- We're confident that by working together, we can make progress in a way that helps the U.S. Census Bureau produce data about the Alaska Native population that meet your needs.
- We welcome future invitations and opportunities to talk with you about how our data can better serve your communities.
- Once again, thank you so much for having us meet with you.
- We appreciate your support and look forward to receiving your ideas.
- We look forward to a continued, strengthened partnership with you and our tribal partners.