



Grand Camp

*Alaska Native Brotherhood
Alaska Native Sisterhood*



Grand Camp Resolution #16 – 08

Title: Clan Cultural and Traditional Rights Survival

WHEREAS, The Indian Reorganization Act of 1936 enabled the formation of tribal governments at the village (kwaan) level; and

WHEREAS, The National Museum of American Indians Act of 1989 followed by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 require repatriation for SE Alaska through CCTHITA; and

WHEREAS, These acts and SE Alaska entities which were imposed by the federal government in an effort to create greater equality between federal and native institutions, in as much, have no bearing on cultural and traditional Tlingit society, politics or Tlingit law; and

WHEREAS, The clan system remains as the cultural and traditional political organization where:

- the term “tribe” has never had, or currently has, meaning or position
- the term village (kwaan) exists simply as a place where a clan, or clans, reside for various purposes and durations

; and

WHEREAS, “The traditional Tlingit legal system includes a well defined code of property law. Property included both tangible and intangible objects such as land, names, songs, stories, and crests. Children acquire the right of ownership of property through their membership in a clan rather than through the process of inheritance. The clan rather than individuals holds collective rights to property.”; and

WHEREAS, Culture and tradition dictates that Clans control ownership of Clan at.oow (and copies of Clan at.oow) and culture and tradition shows that at.oow:

- is the essence of ancestral identity, and
- must be acknowledged (through protocol regarding at.oow) in order to show respect for one’s ancestors, and
- underlies all Tlingit social and ceremonial activities including oral traditions, and
- is the essence of one’s own identity as a Clan member and as a Tlingit

; and

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, The Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood at Convention in Juneau Alaska on October 5-8, 2017 insist The Clan cultural and political status shall not be infringed and societal and traditional property, especially at.oow, will be owned, controlled, protected, retained and displayed by the Clan it belongs to, in the traditional Tlingit manner, into eternity.

ALSO, BE IT RESOLVED, Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp will request CCTHITA provide:

- a committee with representation for all Clans to determine property ownership decisions (assess repatriated or otherwise acquired items), and
- a property grievance group to recommend a settlement for ownership disputes, and
- a Tribal Court system which can finally settle disagreements without using courts affiliated with any of the contesting groups.

/s/ Sasha Soboleff

Grand President
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Devlin Anderstrom

Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Cecelia Tavoleiro

Grand President
Alaska Native Sisterhood

/s/ Carol Duis

Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Sisterhood