

**SEALASKA CORPORATION PLEDGES FULL SUPPORT OF AND COOPERATION WITH SECRETARY HAALAND'S FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, Sealaska was established through the land-claims settlement process with the federal government to represent nearly 23,000 shareholders of Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian and Aleut descent; and

WHEREAS, our purpose as a corporation is to help our shareholders reach their full potential through a variety of benefit programs, many of which are meant to address the historical and ongoing genocide and trauma our Native peoples face from the attempted elimination of Native culture, traditions, our ways of life and languages, carried out on a systematic basis by the federal government, religious institutions, individuals and businesses since Europeans first made contact with Indigenous people in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, the recent revelations of mass graves of First Nations children who were forcibly separated from their families in Canada to attend government- and religious-sponsored boarding schools provides needed focus on the long, painful and violent history that defines Indigenous people's relationship with the U.S. government on American soil as well, and has created a painful legacy of long-term, intergenerational harm to Indigenous peoples, families, communities, cultures and languages, compounded by ongoing racial injustice; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) recently announced the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative as a first step in shedding light on the same brutal, forced-assimilation attempts at boarding schools in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives in Southeast Alaska and across the state were removed from their home communities and families and forced to attend boarding schools with documented histories of physical and sexual violence, where they were beaten for speaking their Indigenous languages and where the explicitly stated objective was to "kill the Indian, save the man"; and

WHEREAS, Sealaska recognizes that a full and complete accounting of the traumas visited upon Indigenous people is a prerequisite to healing individuals, families and communities, and, consequently, our ability to help our shareholders and descendants reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, this full and complete accounting must be done concurrently with a robust health and wellbeing process, embedded with Native values, healers and pathways, and led by Native peoples; now therefore be it

RESOLVED,

1. Sealaska pledges its full support of and cooperation with Sec. Haaland's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative; and
2. Sealaska pledges its support for any legislation proposed at the state or federal level to address any and all appropriate redress, recompense, reparations, *Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation*, or other programs or services meant to help Alaska Native and American Indian people return to good health and wellbeing, with connections to cultures and homelands; and

Sealaska Supports Sec. Haaland's Federal BIA Schools Initiative

3. Sealaska extends its heartfelt care to our people as they endure the sadness and trauma associated with surviving, descendants of survivors, and the clans, families, and communities of those who did not survive because of the federal boarding school policies and practices, and the current horrendous revelations of mass graves of children in Canada, the U.S., and those that are certain to be found in the United States as this process continues, recognizing that we are directly related to Indigenous peoples in Canada and separated only by the boundaries that colonial and occupying governments such as the U.S. and Canada have imposed on us; and
4. Sealaska offers special recognition to its shareholders who were separated from their homeland and cultural traditions by being forced to attend government- and religious-sponsored boarding schools within and outside of Alaska, as well as to those who never returned, and whose descendants have also suffered as a result of this attempted genocide, cultural isolation and destruction; and
5. Sealaska calls upon land owners, religious and governmental officials, historians, archivists, museums and other relevant individuals and institutions in Alaska to support the investigation now underway by the U.S. Department of the Interior to repatriate the remains of our lost children and to tell the full and unvarnished history of government and religious boarding schools in our country.

APPROVED   x   DISAPPROVED    TABLED   

AYES  13  NAYS  0  ABSENT  0 



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VICE PRESIDENT & CORPORATE SECRETARY