



February 3, 2020

To the Leaders of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region Tribal Governments

Re: *Invitation to attend a Regional Tribal Government Summit in Anchorage May 7-8, 2020*

Dear Tribal Leader:

For many years, the People of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region have considered the question of whether to form a regional tribal government. Several options for doing this have been considered, but the goal of achieving a regional tribal government to unify our People has remained elusive.

Five years ago, Calista Corporation convened a Regional Committee to explore the issue of forming a Regional Tribal Government. This Committee, comprised of 100 delegates from around the Region, considered several options, including formation of a regional borough under Alaska state law.

By a significant majority, the Regional Committee voted to create a regional tribal government. A draft constitution was sent to every tribal government in the Region for consideration. Some supported it, but others found it to be too complicated. Other Tribes decided to work together to form a regional government called Nunavut Alaska, but this effort has been limited.

The challenges facing our People and our Region continue with no path of resolution in sight. No government has all the solutions, but there are some problems beyond the ability of any one tribal government to handle that require region-wide unity and authority to achieve lasting solutions. These challenges include—

- Jurisdiction and protection of lands, waters, and wildlife
- Regional energy, transportation, and communications infrastructure
- Public safety

For your consideration, we have drafted a proposed constitution for the “Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Tribal Government” (Enclosed). This form of Regional Tribal Government is simpler than the effort five years ago and has limited powers that are not intended to infringe upon the sovereignty or interfere with the power of any tribal government within the region.

In addition to creating a government structure, we recognize that any government must have revenue to succeed. We have identified a source of unrestricted funding that could support the Regional Tribal Government – an estimated payment of \$10 million a year from the Donlin Gold project, as well as some additional interim funding to commence regional government operations.

We believe other federal funds can be identified that would bring new resources to the Region and not harm the current federal funding stream the tribal governments and nonprofit associations are entitled to receive.



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In fact, we believe that a widely-accepted Regional Tribal Government will create new opportunities for individual tribal governments to work better together to help our People and improve social service delivery. A unified Tribal Government would strengthen Tribes and communities, reduce costs, create jobs, and provide for an effective regional public safety department and tribal court system.

A meeting to form the Regional Tribal Government will be held in Anchorage (event location TBD), May 7-8, 2020. Your tribal government is invited to send one (1) delegate for purposes of participating in and voting at this meeting. Calista will fund travel, lodging and per diem for the tribal delegate.

To attend the meeting, you must present a Tribal Resolution prior to the meeting that authorizes you to attend the meeting as your Tribe's delegate. (A form resolution is attached.)

The meeting agenda will be as follows:

- Discussion of the Regional Tribal Government Constitution (Draft)
- Vote on adoption of the Constitution
- If approved, convene delegates as an Interim Regional Tribal Council
- Interim Regional Tribal Council would convene before November 2020 to begin the process of scheduling the first election by the People to elect a Regional President, Clerk, and Council in November 2020.

This is an exciting opportunity, and we hope you will support this effort to help the People of our Region. If you have any questions, please contact the Calista Government Relations Department by email: kwilliams1@calistacorp.com or our fax number is (907) 562-0026.

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Sincerely,

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Robert L. Beans
Chairman