



CALISTA CORPORATION  
www.calistacorp.com

## TY DUDLEY

CALISTA SHAREHOLDER

COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

MAJOR

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY

CAREER PATH

COMMERCIAL PILOT

VILLAGE TIE

GEORGETOWN

## ASPIRING PILOT FROM BETHEL

SHAREHOLDER ON COURSE FOR AVIATION INDUSTRY

**Ty Dudley**, a Calista Shareholder with ties to Georgetown, is working his way to becoming a commercial pilot in Alaska. He started by graduating from Mat-Su Career Tech in 2021. He continues at the **University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)** for two undergraduate certificates in **Aviation Maintenance Technology, airframe and powerplant (A&P)**.

"Aviation is my passion," Dudley says. "I look forward to growing a career in Alaska."

Dudley grew up in Bethel and his grandparents are Calista Shareholders Joseph "Sonny" Venes Jr. and Irene (Fredericks) Venes. He later moved to Wasilla but would always visit family in Bethel at least once a year.

"Growing up, I always remembered the large airport in Bethel with a lot of smaller Alaskan planes, some just for private use, but most were used commercially," Dudley says. "It would be quite the experience to move back to where I came from to contribute to the busy aviation industry."

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

# STORYKNIFE

THE VOICE OF THE REGION

*Yaarnin*



MAR/APR 2023 • CALISTA CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

## 2023 Calista Spring Distribution

Total: \$11 Million  
Distribution Date: April 14

## CALISTA CORPORATION 2023 SPRING DISTRIBUTION IS \$11 MILLION

OVER 1,200 SHAREHOLDERS ADDED IN PAST YEAR

Calista Corporation's largest-ever Shareholder distribution of **\$11 million** will occur on or before **April 14**. This distribution is nearly **13 percent** larger than last year's spring distribution of \$9.8 million.

The average Shareholder who owns 100 shares will receive an estimated **\$283**. This is a **9 percent increase** from last year, despite the 1,200 new Shareholders who enrolled in the past year.

"This is the first time a single distribution has exceeded \$10 million," said Willie Kasayulie, Calista Board Chair. "Six in 10 Shareholders live in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region. These distributions will help put a dent in their household expenses."

Checks will be mailed on or before April 14 for those without direct deposit. Shareholders in the Y-K Region should allow **up to three weeks** for mailed checks to arrive, weather permitting.

Subject to approval by Calista's Board of Directors, Shareholder distributions are typically made in the spring and the fall. This is the 42nd distribution in Calista's history, and **total distributions to Shareholders now exceed \$124 million**.

Over **36,100 Shareholders** will receive the 2023 Spring distribution. Calista is the largest regional Alaska Native Corporation by number of Shareholders.





## BOARD MESSAGE: CULTURAL VALUES

Willie Kasayullie, Board Chair

Our values inform our way of life. In **Yuuyaraq**, or the Yup'ik "way of being," we learn from our parents and Elders at an early age.

The cultural value of **Continuous Improvement** is also a corporate value. Just as in Yuuyaraq, we are always learning and developing in all we do. We grow at every stage and learn how to take on different tasks. As kids we watch adults when they bring in the fish, when they cut the fish, and when they prep and dry the fish. As our hands become more capable of handling this process, we gain more responsibility.

Our cultural values drive our corporate values. This is woven into our overall corporate strategy. Calista's **Mission** is to **increase Shareholder benefits and economic opportunities through innovation, growth, leadership, partnership, execution, and financial discipline.**

We work with our Shareholders at the top of our minds. Our corporate value of **Dedication** and loyalty to Calista vision/mission, people, and customers is always keenly noted. To ensure we dedicate our time and resources to our

Shareholders, we hire our Shareholders to do the job. Last year we had over 200 Calista Shareholders on staff.

Calista is formed as a for-profit business, but as an Alaska Native corporation, our work lies far beyond solely commercial interests. Our cultural value of **Service** to the community and those in need is doubled on the corporate level. Service to Shareholders, customers, and the public carries the same weight as providing for the village when you have more and can provide a bigger harvest of meat or berries when others in the community cannot provide for themselves. Our way of life for thousands of years continually informs our future for generations.



Willie Kasayullie, Board Chair

"OUR CULTURAL VALUES DRIVE OUR CORPORATE VALUES."

*Willie Kasayullie*

## ST. MARY'S AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

### BRICE INC. BEGINS WORK TO FIX AGING RUNWAY

As a transportation hub for Lower Yukon residents, visitors, mail, and emergency services, the **St. Mary's Airport** needs upgrades to meet federal standards for commuter and freight aircraft serving the community.

In September 2022, Calista subsidiary **Brice Inc.** was awarded a **\$53 million contract** from the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities for its competitively bid **St. Mary's Airport Improvements Project** to provide these upgrades.

The project will take two years to complete. Work includes runway resurfacing, new electric lighting systems on runway, taxiway and aprons, and drainage improvements.

Residents in St. Mary's, **Marshall** and **Pitka's Point** will see activity in the coming months. Minor mobilization will begin in May and significant work will start in June. Gravel will be sourced from the Pitka's Point quarry and a new high-quality rock source at **Pilcher Mountain** in Marshall.

**Local hire recruitment**—including equipment operators, drivers and laborers—began in early 2023, interviews were underway in

March, and hiring will begin in May, says **Paul Walsh, the Brice Inc. project manager** for the St. Mary's Improvements Project.

"We reached out to both St. Mary's and Marshall governments to discuss employment for their residents and others in the surrounding region," he says.

While the purpose of the airport project is to meet **Federal Aviation Administration** standards, another benefit is the development of a new high-grade quarry at Pilcher Mountain.

"The St. Mary's airport project is the first use of this new rock source at Pilcher Mountain, which meets strict requirements for federally funded transportation projects," says **Tisha Kuhns, Calista Vice President of Land and Natural Resources.**

It is typically more expensive to barge high-grade rock from quarries outside the region, Kuhns says. "The work to develop Pilcher Mountain this summer will make it more economically viable for future community infrastructure projects."



Andrew Guy, President and CEO

"CALISTA WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS DECISION MAKERS FROM ALASKA'S STATE CAPITOL TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO FOLLOW THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS, BEFORE THE 2023 FISHING SEASON BEGINS, TO PREVENT THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE AYK SALMON STOCKS."

*Andrew Guy*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: FISHERIES

Andrew Guy, President and CEO

Calista Corporation is deeply concerned about our state and federal regulators allowing commercial fisheries to intercept too many salmon returning to our Region's rivers and waste our most precious food as bycatch.

Until recently, salmon sustained the population of the Calista Region year-round, and it was common to see fish racks and smokehouses along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers filled with salmon. Salmon runs were strong enough for our Shareholders to feed their families through the winter, mitigating the high cost of living in the Region while providing a healthy food staple.

With the decline of salmon, our communities are forced to rely on other fish and game stocks as well as food donations.

Though there are numerous theories encompassing the collapse of the salmon stocks of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, there is one thing all experts agree on. **The source of this collapse does not arise within the fresh waters of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.** However, once the fish hit the oceans, they suffer from poor marine survival rates.

Last week, Calista joined other organizations from our Region as well as the upper Yukon in testimony to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, demanding it to follow its constitutional mandate and prevent the total collapse of our Region's salmon stocks. **Calista also donated airfare for seven Calista Region residents** to attend and provide their own testimonies.

In our testimony, we noted that chum salmon crash didn't solely arise from environmental stress in the

ocean. Chronic mismanagement is compounding the problem and heavily contributes to the fishery's inability to endure environmental changes.

We spoke in support of common-sense proposals, including Proposal 140, to fairly allocate the salmon between the different user groups. **We opposed the proposed increase in commercial harvest** of these salmon.

While Yukon-Kuskokwim fisheries have limped along or closed for decades, the Area M fisheries along the Alaska Peninsula intercepting our salmon are having record catches due to increased times, improved methods and better equipment. Adding to the harvest burden, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) salmon are forced to compete with an ever-increasing stock of hatchery salmon from Asia while they are in the North Pacific. As a result of this increased competition, chinook and chum salmon are suffering high mortality rates and returning earlier and smaller.

Section 17 of article VIII of Alaska's Constitution provides: "Laws and regulations governing the use or disposal of **natural resources shall apply equally to all persons similarly situated** with reference to the subject matter and purpose to be served by the law or regulation."

**We can't wait for additional studies before taking action.** Calista will continue to press decision makers from Alaska's state capitol to Washington D.C. to follow their legal obligations, before the 2023 fishing season begins, to prevent the total collapse of the AYK salmon stocks.





# DONLIN GOLD PROJECT UPDATE

## FIELD SEASON BEGAN IN FEBRUARY

Work at the Donlin Gold Project site began a lot earlier in 2023—drilling began in February and is expected to wrap up by June.

Why so early?

“As we transition back to the engineering fieldwork that we began in 2019, most of the work areas are best accessed during winter conditions. That led us to planning for a predominantly winter work season in 2023,” says Donlin Gold LLC General Manager Dan Graham.

The purpose of the engineering fieldwork is to advance the design of mine facilities and for permitting, which includes geotechnical and hydrologic studies for the mine’s dam safety permits.

Donlin Gold is also evaluating project engineering and design data that will help Barrick Gold Corporation and NovaGold Resources Inc. in making a decision to update the proposed mine’s economic feasibility study.

The company’s environmental initiatives in 2023 include:

- Continuing the aquatic habitat restoration at the historic Snow Gulch placer mine
- Installing additional stream flow monitoring stations at Crooked Creek to bolster existing baseline data on natural stream flow variations
- Monitoring groundwater flows in the project area
- Continuing Kuskokwim River smelt and barging-related studies

Donlin Gold hired Shareholders from 24 Y-K communities last year, and while there will be fewer drilling jobs and a shorter season in 2023, a number of workers from last year’s drilling program will continue on during the summer to work for Donlin as community liaisons in their home villages.

## COMMUNITY UPDATES

Also, with the pandemic easing, there are more opportunities for in-person meetings in villages in 2023, to provide updates about Donlin and answer questions from Shareholders.

On March 2, Calista participated in Donlin-related updates during the Middle Kuskokwim Gathering in Aniak at the invitation of **The**



Drill rig equipment for groundwater studies



Donlin Gold Field Technician Nathan Andrew of Nunapitchuk

**Kuskokwim Corporation**, which owns the majority of the surface estate at the Donlin project site.

On March 3, Calista and Donlin Gold staff provided updates and Q&A related to Donlin during **Calista’s Shareholder Relations Committee** meetings in Crooked Creek and Stony River. Comprised of members of Calista’s Board of Directors, the **Shareholder Relations Committee** has resumed in-person travel in 2023 to provide updates on Calista operations as well as the Donlin project.

## HELPING COMMUNITIES IN NEED

Already this year, Donlin is assisting with efforts to address ongoing water and power failures in our villages through donated equipment and supplies. This is a continuation of previous efforts by Donlin to assist Y-K communities experiencing **water and power issues or suffering from food insecurity** due to the collapse of salmon runs.

“No community should struggle with access to water and power to keep their homes warm,” says Graham, the Donlin Gold general manager.

**Calista Vice President of Land and Natural Resources Tisha Kuhns** said she was heartened to see Donlin Gold stepping up to help during recent emergencies. This includes the donation of a 95-kilowatt generator and technical support to the community of **Crooked Creek** which has struggled for months with power outages and resulting water and sewer outages.

The outages in Crooked Creek have caused school and airport closures, loss of heat and appliance burnouts, loss of access to the post office and medication, inability to call out of Crooked Creek in case of emergency, and health clinic closures. Until the power plant is repaired, the generator donated by Donlin is the community’s one reliable source of power.

Kuhns says, “Donlin’s timely support to Y-K communities experiencing disasters is one of the important ways it continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to our Region.”

CALISTA LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# LANDS IN FOCUS

## MIGRATORY BIRD HEALTH

Millions of waterfowl migrate to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta every year to feed and raise their young.

Many of these geese and ducks are highly valued by subsistence and sport hunters and they are monitored, much like salmon, to track the health of their populations.

So how are they doing?

“In general, they are doing pretty well,” says **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Supervisory Wildlife Biologist Julian Fischer**, who manages the agency’s waterfowl program in Alaska.

This is a big contrast to the early 1980s when geese populations in the Y-K plummeted. Tribal organizations and wildlife agencies successfully worked together on a plan to rebuild them. This included voluntary hunting restrictions until populations rebounded.

## AVIAN FLU

What about the **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza** outbreaks that began last year and reached Alaska?

While the outbreak continues in 2023, fortunately it has not caused severe die-offs in Alaska wild bird populations like it has in domesticated poultry.

Individual wild birds throughout Alaska—including the Y-K Delta—died from avian influenza in 2022, but not in numbers that impacted overall populations. Some observers reported wild birds that show signs of sickness and then seem to “shake it off,” but it is also possible that remote locations may have masked the extent of bird deaths, Fischer says.

Though the risk of transfer is low, avian flu can be passed to humans, so hunters are advised to wear gloves, wash hands, and disinfect knives and equipment used for cleaning. Cooking meat and eggs to an internal temperature of 160 degrees F kills bacteria and viruses.

## ONE CONCERNING TREND

There is a concerning trend for one goose species in the Y-K Delta—**Pacific black brant**—without an easy solution.

On the Y-K Delta, black brant nest in five major colonies which are declining in size while black brant colonies located on the **North Slope** are expanding, according to Fischer.

The apparent cause of these population shifts is a sedge called *Carex subspathacea*, which is the preferred food for nesting black brant. The amount of this grass-like plant has decreased on the Y-K Delta coast, but increased on the North Slope, with a corresponding impact on the size and survival rate of goslings.

Fisher explains, “There are going to be changes in the future. Some species will adapt to new conditions and others with more specialized habitat requirements won’t.”

## LEARN MORE ABOUT BIRD HEALTH TRENDS

To hear more discussion about bird health issues on the Y-K Delta, you can listen to an interview with Fischer and fellow U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Rob Kaley on the Feb. 13 episode of **Coffee at KYUK**.



Scan to listen.

## HOW Y-K HUNTERS CAN PROTECT BIRD HEALTH

Contamination from lead shotgun shells is deadly for wild birds, but lead shot is still sold in the Y-K Region because it is not illegal to sell or possess it. Here are some important facts:

- The use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting has been prohibited since the 1990s.
- The Native Village of Hooper Bay submitted a proposal in 2007 to ban the use of lead shot for all hunting in the Y-K Delta. The Alaska Board of Game approved the ban.
- However, boxes of lead shot do not say “lead” on them, so it is easy to purchase lead ammunition unknowingly.
- Purchases boxes of ammunition that are labeled “non-toxic.” Examples include steel, bismuth or tungsten.

The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Bethel has an exchange program where hunters can receive non-toxic shot in exchange for lead shot. If interested, please contact Aaron Moses at 907-543-1021.



Greater White-Fronted geese in the Y-K Delta, courtesy USFWS/Tim Bowman



# MIKE WILLIAMS, JR. REFLECTS ON IDITAROD

## AKIAK MUSHER GRATEFUL FOR FAMILY, COMMUNITY SUPPORT

For many years, Calista has sponsored veteran Akiak musher **Mike Williams, Jr.** who embarked on his eighth **Iditarod** in March 2023.

Being a musher in western Alaska isn't easy, especially with the recent salmon crashes that impacted an important part of sled dogs' usual diet.



Photo courtesy JoeJoe Prince

Last year, Williams had an **emergency appendectomy** that forced him to withdraw from the Iditarod shortly before it began.

But **four to five weeks after surgery**, he was able to get back on the runners and join the last three sled dog races of the season.

"Every time I race, I try to do well, and that's usually the motivating factor—the competition. And then it's working with the dogs, which is pretty interesting," Williams said during a phone call from Akiak, prior to the Iditarod.

"Every new dog—even the same dog—they are different every year. They get a little tougher, a little more trail hardened, and in their later years, they tend to take it easier," he explained. "The younger dogs, you have to slow them down. The older dogs, you try to keep them happy and motivate them."

Williams said that without **his sponsors, including Calista, Donlin Gold, and Lynden Air Cargo**, he wouldn't have been able to compete in the Iditarod, which takes a lot of time and money.

**"EVERY TIME I RACE, I TRY TO DO WELL, AND THAT'S USUALLY THE MOTIVATING FACTOR—THE COMPETITION. AND THEN IT'S WORKING WITH THE DOGS, WHICH IS PRETTY INTERESTING"**

- Iditarod musher Mike Williams, Jr. of Akiak

He also can't compete without support from family and community. "My family and relatives make my races happen," he says.

Williams is also grateful to other mushers, who raced some of his dogs last year while he was recuperating from surgery, and also loaned him some dogs this year when he was short of a full team.

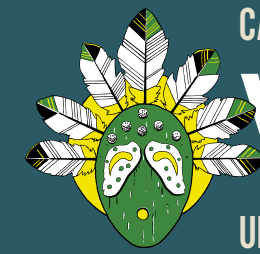
"We were restricted from fishing all summer, but I've been fortunate that people have helped with dog food. When they cleaned out their freezers, they brought food to the dogs. That is a huge help," he said.

Williams, a father of five ranging from four to 12 years old, thinks that the 2023 race might be **his last Iditarod**.

"The years go pretty fast, and I don't want to miss my kids growing up."



Mike Williams Jr.'s sled dog puppies in Feb. 2022. Courtesy Sky Bear Media/NCAID.



CALISTA EDUCATION & CULTURE, INC. PRESENTS

## YUP'IK TEACHING MOMENT

UPNERKIYARLUNI [OOP-NUGH-GHEE-YAH-LOO-NI] "GO TO SPRING CAMP"

*Calista Education & Culture, Inc. (CECI) presents the Yup'ik Teaching Moment in our Storyknife newsletter. CECI highlights Yuuyaraq, the traditional/cultural way of being in our Region. This Yup'ik Teaching Moment is provided by Mark John, CECI Cultural Advisor of Nightmute and Toksook Bay.*

Before snow machines came around in the late 1950s and early 60s, people in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region traveled by walking or with dog teams. They were not fast, so families often went to their spring camps.

In the coastal region, most went to their seal hunting camps and stayed and fished for summer fish. At their camps they also caught walrus, beluga, sea ducks and fished for salmon, halibut, cod and other saltwater fish. They usually stayed until going to their fall camps.

In the river systems, many went to their pike and white fish camps. At their camps they also hunted muskrat when the lakes thawed. Some like in Kwethluk went far up the river and returned home in a raft made of bear and moose skins when the river broke up in the spring.

## UPNERKIYARLUNI [UHP-NUGH-GHEE-YAH-LOO-NI] IS YUP'IK MEANING TO "GO TO SPRING CAMP."

Many looked forward to spring camps because food was plentiful. It is a season when people could access ptarmigan and all sorts of ducks and geese along with their eggs.



Shareholder fish camp in Napakiak.

## ASPIRING PILOT FROM BETHEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As Dudley earns his certifications in Aviation Maintenance Technology, he is also working at Pegasus Aviation in Anchorage as an aviation maintenance assistant. His maintenance background will work hand in hand with his Private Pilot certification.

"After receiving a certification in A&P, I plan on getting more flight hours and training other pilots in Arizona," Dudley says.

The Calista Education & Culture, Inc. (CECI) scholarship has provided Dudley with support each semester for the last school year. Calista Shareholders and Descendants qualify for more monetary support with a higher GPA and more school hours. Dudley was on the UAA Dean's Honor List as a full-time student in 2022.

"The long term goal for me is to work with the commercial airlines within Alaska," Dudley says. "The Calista Education scholarship has helped immensely. It's covered expenses beyond tuition. I can focus on learning at school and training at work thanks to having my tools covered."

## CALISTA EDUCATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Calista Education and Culture, Inc. is hosting the 22nd Annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 14. The tournament raises scholarship funds to benefit students with ties to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta—like Ty Dudley!

The tournament is a chance to play golf for a good cause! Teams can register to play or review sponsorship opportunities by **Friday, May 12** at **CalistaEducation.org**.



Scan to learn more.





# STORYKNIFE

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## PROTECT YOUR SHARES



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A stock will is one of the most important forms a Shareholder can have on file for their family. Without a valid stock will, the State of Alaska will determine where your shares go!

Update your stock will if there has been a change in your family due to marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, or a death.

Download a form or call Shareholder Services to request a copy:

[www.CalistaCorp.com/CommonForms](http://www.CalistaCorp.com/CommonForms) or 907-275-2801

### PERSONAL DATA FORM - MAR/APR 2023

Shareholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Year \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like Calista to send you new Will forms? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Calista Shares \_\_\_\_\_

Village Corporation Shares \_\_\_\_\_

Please change my address as I have indicated above. I understand that you cannot make address changes without my permission and signature, which I hereby give of my own free will and without constraint. I further authorize Calista and its subsidiaries to share this information internally and in accordance with law.

Shareholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Two witnesses are required if Shareholder signs with an "X.")

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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