

TOBACCO-FREE

TRIBAL RESOLUTIONS

RISE
AS
ONE

“Passing a tobacco-free resolution is another step to keeping our tribe and youth healthy.”

- Josie Dayton
Koyukuk Tribal Council

Tribal Resolutions in Support of Tobacco-Free Workplace Policies are Important Because...

comprehensive policies protect adults and children from exposure to secondhand smoke, tobacco-related diseases and addiction.

- Alaska Natives suffer from painful and preventable tobacco-related diseases—such as cancers of all kinds, heart disease and COPD—and die from them at higher rates than the general public
- Alaska Native adults are more than twice as likely to smoke as non-Native adults (42% vs 17%)¹
- Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Alaska, causing nearly 600 deaths each year
- Tobacco-free policies allow children to grow up healthy and tobacco-free
- Smokefree policies protect people from secondhand smoke, encourage quitting, and discourage youth from starting
- 89% of adults and 78% of smokers in Alaska agree people should be protected from secondhand tobacco smoke¹
- Smokefree policies in public places have a positive impact on business and employment
- Electronic cigarettes or other vapor products are not a harmless alternative to traditional cigarettes, may expose non-users to harmful chemicals, and are not an FDA-approved cessation device



TobaccoFree.alaska.gov

Many Alaska Native tribes have instituted tobacco-free and smokefree workplace policies over the years, but today it is more urgent than ever to tackle the issue of tobacco use at a local level.

1. Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Survey 2014 (Standard and Supplemental Surveys combined).

SAMPLE

RESOLUTION

Resolution # _____

Resolution for the Control and Elimination of Tobacco in the Workplace and Enclosed Public Places

Whereas, The _____ (name of tribe), is an Indian tribe as defined in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-638, 25 U.S.C. 450b;

Whereas, Alaska Native people have the highest rate of tobacco use in the state of Alaska;

Whereas, Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and Alaska Native people suffer serious health consequences including heart disease and cancer;

Whereas, Secondhand tobacco smoke exposure is another leading cause of preventable death, and causes disease in otherwise healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and cancer;

Whereas, It has been determined by the U.S. Surgeon General that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, air ventilation systems do not eliminate such exposure, and that only completely smokefree environments can protect health;

Whereas, A significant amount of secondhand smoke exposure for Alaska Native adults and children occurs in the workplace and even short exposures may result in serious adverse health effects and even death;

Whereas, Electronic cigarettes or other vapor products are not a harmless alternative to traditional cigarettes, may expose non-users to harmful chemicals and are not FDA approved cessation devices;

Whereas, Tobacco-free workplaces protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use overall, support healthy lifestyles, model healthy behavior, and support quit attempts;

Whereas, The health of our people is of upmost importance and Alaska Native people have taken a lead in addressing health issues throughout the years; and

Whereas, Tobacco-free tribal workplaces will protect the health of our children, grandchildren, families, and community members.

Therefore, be it resolved that tobacco use, including electronic cigarettes or devices shall be prohibited within the facilities owned, operated, and leased by the _____ (name of tribe) including:

- a) all areas within enclosed places that are open to and frequented by the public;
- b) all areas within places of employment; and
- c) all outdoor areas within 20 feet of entrances, exits, and windows that open to enclosed public places and places of employment.

Be it further resolved, that signs prohibiting tobacco use shall be posted and a no-tobacco-use distance of no less than 20 feet from any entrances shall be enforced.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the _____ (name of tribe) on this ____ day of _____ 20__ (year) at which a quorum was present, with a vote of _____ for, _____ against, _____ abstentions, _____ absent.

(Name), President

Date

Attest _____
(Name), Tribal Administrator

Date

For tobacco-free and smokefree workplace resolution materials,
contact tobacco@alaska.gov