



Azachorok Incorporated

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Unified Voice to be Established for Western Alaska's Kusilvak Region

Azachorok Inc., Asa'carsamuit Tribal Council and City of Mountain Village join forces to address regional issues

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, ALASKA-In a historic move, leaders from the City of Mountain Village and the Asa'carsamuit Tribal Council have agreed to join forces with Azachorok Inc. to develop solutions for issues affecting Kusilvak Census Region. This month, all three entities unanimously passed resolutions to establish a collaborative organization with the mission of using a unified voice to create economic opportunities for region while advocating on issues and policies that may impact Western Alaska.

"We can be more effective if we are united when petitioning government and non-government sources for assistance as we work together to resolve region wide issues," said Azachorok Board Chair & President Loren Peterson. "Our region has serious challenges facing our communities right now. In order for our voices to not get lost in the Juneau and DC shuffle, we know it is time to combine our resources and energy to fight for what is best for the Kusilvak region."

A task force comprised of members from all three entities will start meeting to develop the framework and incorporate the new collaborative organization. Azachorok will be reaching out to other entities in the region once the framework for organization is complete.

Over the past several months, Azachorok has been spearheading efforts to advocate for communities in the Kusivak Region. In November, board members started pushing for legislation to protect the Power Cost Equalization program (PCE) endowment fund while creating opportunities for long-term affordable energy in rural Alaskan communities.

During the 2015 AFN Convention, Chairman Peterson, on behalf of Azachorok, introduced amendments to a resolution addressing the impact of climate change on Alaska Native communities. The amendments, which passed unanimously, urge the federal and state governments to consider feasibility of renewable energy resources and infrastructure to mitigate climate change. To read more about that resolution, please click [here](#).

"We know we are our own best advocates especially as the State faces a dire budget situation," said Chair Peterson. "I look forward to working with leaders from the City of Mountain Village and the Asa'carsamuit Tribal Council to accomplish the mission of creating a unified voice improving the quality of life in Western Alaska."

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Azachorok, Incorporated represents around 700 shareholders from Mountain Village, which is an Eskimo-Yup'ik village in Southwest Alaska. Azachorok is a for-profit ANCSA Village corporation that invests in sustainable business opportunities for the mutual benefit of shareholders while preserving traditional subsistence culture and values. For more information, please contact Chairman Peterson at (907) 591-2527.