



## Azachorok Incorporated

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### **Azachork Inc. Calls for Expanded Support for Kusilvak Economic Development & Advocacy Alliance**

*Azachorok Inc. and surrounding villages gaining support to plan for region wide summit.*

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, ALASKA- A broad, multi-community effort across the lower Yukon River region is emerging to create the Kusilvak Economic Development & Advocacy Alliance. Spanning thirteen communities in the Kusilvak region, several entities have already registered their support for this initiative through formal letters or resolutions, including Azachorok, Inc., the City of Mountain Village, Lower Yukon School District, St. Mary's Native Corp., Yupiit of Andreadfski, Iqurmuit Traditional Council, Kotlik City Council, Kotlik Yupik Enterprises, Hooper Bay Tribal Council, and the Alakanak Tribal Council. However more support from tribes, corporations and local municipalities are still needed to bring this idea into fruition.

The intent is to stimulate our economically depressed region, which has the lowest socio-economic status in the state of Alaska, and to advocate with a single voice on a broad range of issues impacting the tribes, shareholders of corporations and residents of all communities. Creating such an organization to offer these services falls under the purview of Mountain Village's Alaska Native Village Corporation, Azachorok, Inc., through supporting economic development.

"Ideally, if we are able to elevate the economic status of the region, this change may eventually mitigate the social challenges we face including suicide rates, graduation rates, mortality rates, domestic violence, and alcoholism and drug abuse," says Azachorok, Inc. Chairman & CEO Loren Peterson. "If we stand aside and do nothing, we can expect the status quo to continue. If we are united and address the need for an alliance and provide advocacy, we have a stronger voice with a very strong message that should resonate with legislators and investors on the state and national level."

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Azachorok and the other coalition leaders aim to gather as many letters and resolutions of support as possible from all entities in the Kusilvak region, and coordinate resources and efforts toward common goals. Potential funding sources have been identified to host a summit for delegates to come together and plan for incorporation of such an organization. “The first step is to seek funding to bring together delegates from each community and entity to discuss the framework and type of organization that is appropriate for our needs. If we are able to gather enough support, we can expect this summit to take place in the next year,” says Peterson.

Sample letters of support/resolutions can be found on Azachorok’s website at [www.azachorok.com](http://www.azachorok.com) or by contacting General Manager Brenda Brown at [bbrown@azachorok.com](mailto:bbrown@azachorok.com). Azachorok is also working to create a space during the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention in Fairbanks, October 20-22, for Kusilvak delegates to further discuss this concept and strategize next steps.

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Azachorok, Incorporated represents approximately 512 shareholders living throughout the region and across the state and country. Azachorok is a for-profit ANCSA Village corporation that invests in sustainable business opportunities for the benefit of shareholders while preserving traditional subsistence culture and values.

For more information, please contact Azachorok Inc. at (907) 591-2527.

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