



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION 26-02

TITLE: **COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF TYPHOON HALONG AND SUPPORTING STATEWIDE DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE**

- WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, representing Alaska Native peoples through its member Tribes, Native regional and village corporations, and tribal and Native nonprofit organizations, and is dedicated to advancing the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS** in October 2025, Typhoon Halong struck Alaska, bringing destructive winds, storm surge, flooding, and erosion to coastal and Alaska Native communities across the state, with more than fifty communities reporting impacts, including widespread damage throughout Western Alaska and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, where the communities of Kwigillingok and Kipnuk were among the hardest hit; and
- WHEREAS** the storm caused the heartbreaking loss of loved ones and devastating damage to homes, public infrastructure, utilities, community facilities, and subsistence resources, and displaced residents from their homes and communities in one of the largest mass evacuations in Alaska history; and
- WHEREAS** for many Alaskans, the impacts of Typhoon Halong extended far beyond physical damage, disrupting family networks, cultural connections, education, employment, subsistence activities, and the sense of home and community; and
- WHEREAS** one year after Typhoon Halong, many residents and communities continue to navigate displacement, recovery, rebuilding, and difficult decisions about the future of their communities; and
- Whereas** AFN, together with the State of Alaska, tribal organizations, nonprofits, businesses, faith communities, and countless volunteers, responded to the disaster with compassion and practical support, and AFN has continued to show its support for affected communities in the year since the storm; and
- Whereas** the effects of disaster do not end when floodwaters recede or emergency response concludes, and displaced residents may require sustained assistance with housing, education, employment, family support, and culturally relevant and culturally led behavioral health services; and

Whereas Alaska's coastal communities face increasing risks from erosion, flooding, severe storms, thawing permafrost, and other hazards, and the federal disaster assistance system must evolve to recognize the unique geographic, cultural, environmental, and infrastructure circumstances of Alaska's remote communities, where conventional disaster-recovery models may not adequately address their needs; and

Whereas the one-year anniversary of Typhoon Halong provides an opportunity for AFN and other partners to honor the people affected by the storm, acknowledge the ongoing nature of their recovery, express solidarity with its member Tribes, and advocate for stronger systems of support for Alaskans facing climate disasters and displacement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the AFN Board of Directors recognizes the one-year anniversary of Typhoon Halong and honors the member Tribes, communities, families, and individuals whose lives were affected by the storm and its aftermath, and expresses its solidarity with those continuing to recover and determine the future of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFN Board of Directors expresses its appreciation to the State of Alaska, tribal organizations, nonprofits, businesses, faith communities, service providers, volunteers, and all others who welcomed and supported Western Alaska residents displaced by Typhoon Halong; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFN Board of Directors urges the State of Alaska and the federal government to increase sustained investment in disaster preparedness, recovery, housing, infrastructure, and behavioral health, including culturally relevant and culturally led services, to meet the growing and long-term needs of communities affected by disasters and displacement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFN Board of Directors urges Congress to modernize federal disaster assistance to provide greater flexibility for communities facing recurring or escalating hazards and to support community-determined approaches, including rebuilding, relocation, or redesigned infrastructure when rebuilding in place is unsafe or unsustainable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFN Board of Directors urges state and federal agencies to respect and support the self-determination of communities affected by disaster, ensuring that residents have a meaningful role in decisions about their recovery and future and that local, traditional, and cultural knowledge is incorporated into disaster planning and recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN staff are directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor of Alaska, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, and appropriate tribal, municipal, state, and federal agencies and organizations involved in the recovery and long-term support of communities affected by Typhoon Halong.

ADOPTED BY THE AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 25, 2026



Joe Nelson
AFN Co-Chair



Gayla Hoseth
AFN Co-Chair