

# Native Village of Port Heiden

Our community of 100 people is growing, living and thriving as  
we have for thousands of years

# Tribal council

- John Christensen, Jr.
  - Tribal Council President
- Hank Matson
- Annie Christensen
- Kristian Carlson
- Celestee Christensen
- Toni Christensen
- Andrew Lind, Sr.

# DISCUSSION

- Port Heiden's Goals
- Tribal Court Development
- Intertribal Court Development
- Resources

# DETERMINATION

- Meshik has long overcome its struggles, and now we answer new challenges:
  - Environmental: Brownsfields + Water projects
  - Employment: Seafood Processing Plant
  - Food Security: Meshik Farm
  - Healing: Intertribal Court + Meshik Tribal Court
  - Community: Regional + Statewide presence
  - Teaching: Annual Culture Camp
  - Erosion: Strategic Planning and Data-Gathering

# WELLNESS

- Meshik Tribal + Port Heiden Intertribal Courts
  - Unconditional positive regard:
    - fostering growth+healing by living and speaking positively
    - providing for our own and taking care of one another
  - Honoring our ancestors with peacemaking + unity
  - Instilling ownership, values, and self-awareness:
    - HEALED PEOPLE HEAL PEOPLE
    - Hurt people hurt people

# GOALS

- Hub Evolution
- International Seafood Processing Plant
- Sustainable Food System + Farm Development
- Intertribal Advocacy
  - Court Services
  - Judicial Trainings
- Health & Wellness Facility
- Behavioral/Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
- Community Exercise Program

# Tribal Court Process

- Request Letter - Office of Tribal Justice Support
- budget for Year 1
  - Developed budget for Year 2
- Began *draft* Code development
  - Resources, resources, resources
- Communication

# Issues to Consider Code Development

- Incorporation of Custom, Tradition and Accepted Practices
- Jurisdiction, ICWA Transfers, and ICWA Interventions
- Definitions of Child Maltreatment
- Procedural Rules, Evidence Rules and Related Court Matters
- Child-In-Need-of-Assistance Proceedings
- Time Frame and Series of Meetings with Code Development Committee



# Summary of why we need funding

- This proposed project will improve response to Tribal members and their families through **comprehensive planning and development of a Tribal Court**. The Tribal Court will better serve the people in a cultural way. Furthermore, the project will assist Port Heiden and regional villages to create an Intertribal Regional Court. Both efforts require: training to understand and demonstrate judicial processes; develop and implement codes and ordinances; and coordinate with other jurisdictions on cases that affect their Tribal members. Domestic violence, sexual assault, and child welfare are substantially under-reported, and require improved crisis intervention and prevention services. Together improvement in these areas will work toward reducing alcohol and substance abuse; child abuse and neglect; and domestic violence and its long-term effect on our Tribal members.

# Regional InterTribal Court

- Meetings (formal/informal) with surrounding villages
  - Pilot Point
  - Ugashik
  - 3 Chigniks
  - Perryville
  - Igiugig
  - Egegik
- *Draft* MOA's developed

# Engagement

- InterTribal Court
  - Shared Passion
  - Listening
  - Communication
  - Creative solutions to mutual problems

# REGIONAL JUDICIAL TRNG

- American Indian Development Assoc.
  - Contract trainers for BIA, OTJS
- Tribal Legislative Role
- P.L. 280
- Tribal Code Development
- Discussion
  - Tribal/State Court Forum
  - Honorable Judge Abinanti, Yurok Tribal Court
- Series of Training – On Site in Region

# Resources

- Tribal Law and Policy Institute
  - [www.tlpi.org](http://www.tlpi.org)
- National American Indian Court Judges Assoc.
  - [www.naicja.wildapricot.org](http://www.naicja.wildapricot.org)
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
  - [www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org)
- Tribal Legal Studies Textbook Series
  - [www.TribalLegalStudies.org](http://www.TribalLegalStudies.org)
- Tribal Justice System Resources
  - [www.TribalProtectionOrder.org](http://www.TribalProtectionOrder.org)
- Tribal-State-Federal Collaborations
  - [www.WalkingOnCommonGround.org](http://www.WalkingOnCommonGround.org)

# Resources

- The National Judicial College
  - [www.judges.org](http://www.judges.org)
- National Tribal Justice Resource Center
  - [www.tribalresourcecenter.org](http://www.tribalresourcecenter.org)
- National Indian Justice Center
  - [www.nijc.org](http://www.nijc.org)
- American Indian Law Center
  - <http://ailc-inc.org/>