LINGIT X'ÉINÁX SÁ/SAY IT IN TLINGIT:
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

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OF THE YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE OF ALASKA & SIX NATIONS MOHAWK OF CANADA
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe must urge support from The State of Alaska to pass HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19, a resolution urging Alaska Governor Bill Walker to issue an administrative order recognizing a linguistic emergency for Alaska Native Languages. This order allocates resources for saving Alaska’s 20 indigenous languages through education programs.
There are estimated to be only 200 Tlingit speakers remaining, and each year, the Tlingit nations loses fluent elder speakers.

A majority of the 20 recognized Alaska Native languages are in danger of being lost at the end of this century.

Among Alaska Native people, we believe that when Alaska Native languages die, they do not become anything else. They are gone from us, for all time.

Self-determined education is the best way for Alaska native people to protect their languages. Our Language is inherently tied to our health.
All aspects of self are inherently tied in Tlingit Culture. Language goes hand in hand with health. A loss of any part of the circles that balance us will affect a person’s wellbeing overall.
Measures

If HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19, then this means that appropriate, legislative and policy measures can be followed through with the state to support the language preservation efforts. These efforts should include:

01 | building upon successful models of language programs such immersion schools;

02 | to creating a statewide Alaska Native School Board for “Alaska Native tribal and charter schools.
HCR 19 has currently passed the state House committee will now go to the House Rules Committee. Should it later pass in a House vote, Senator Donald Olsen would introduce it in the Senate.
Gunalcheesh.