



## Highlights and Accomplishments of the Government-to-Government Relationship Between the Native Village of Eklutna and the Municipality of Anchorage

March 2026

In January 2021, the Municipality of Anchorage and the Native Village of Eklutna established an official government-to-government relationship – one of the first in the country between a federally-recognized tribe and a local government. A government-to-government relationship is a formal interaction between sovereign governing bodies.

### Highlights since the formation of the relationship include:

- Since the formation of the relationship, the Anchorage Assembly and the Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Council [meet twice a year](#) to discuss items of mutual interest and ongoing initiatives shared by the two entities. Topics have included working together to address the housing shortage, improving public safety, education, culturally relevant programs for youth, and the naming of municipal landmarks.
- One of the more tangible results to come out of the relationship is a successful education campaign to make Dena'ina culture more visible and understood within the Municipality. After a long period where public representation of Dena'ina history and culture was almost nonexistent in Anchorage, a series of projects has brought Dena'ina placenames and cultural symbols to the forefront:
  - Following the success of the naming of the Dena'ina convention center in 2008, and more recent efforts to [incorporate Dena'ina language and placenames into public spaces](#), in 2023 the Assembly updated its naming policy ([AO 2023-48\(S\), As Amended](#)) to add a consideration of traditional Dena'ina names when naming a new Municipal facility or road.
  - The Municipality of Anchorage's [Office of Equity and Inclusion](#) also partnered with the Native Village of Eklutna in 2025 to develop a short video and training workshop for Municipal employees to learn about the history and contributions of the Dena'ina people. This [annual training is required by law](#) as part of the government-to-government relationship established in municipal code.
- Perhaps the biggest, most consequential issue that the two entities have worked together on is the [restoration of the Eklutna River](#). In 2022, the Assembly passed a

resolution ([AR 2022-262, As Amended](#)) supporting efforts to restore the Eklutna River to enable salmon passage to and from the lake. This resolution explicitly recognized that such restoration would benefit both the Native Village of Eklutna and Anchorage residents, and the Assembly committed to work collaboratively with the Native Village of Eklutna, the power-project owners, state/federal agencies, and other stakeholders to implement restoration measures.

- After research, joint meetings, and coordination on the topic, in 2024 the Assembly and the Native Village of Eklutna passed their first joint resolution, [Joint Resolution 2024-001](#). The resolution urged Governor Dunleavy to establish a final Fish and Wildlife Program for the Eklutna River that required the owners to explore alternative infrastructure options that could allow complete river restoration while protecting drinking water and energy supplies. The two entities continue to work on that project to this day.
- When the Municipality celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the summer and fall of 2025, the planning team worked with Sebastian Garber, a local artist of Dena'ina heritage, to develop the artwork and logo for the celebrations. The logo was so popular that it was proposed to become the official seal of the Municipality. Several draft designs were commissioned and shared with the Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Council at one of the semi-annual meetings and the Council gave feedback that was incorporated into the final design. On November 18, 2026, the new municipal seal incorporating Dena'ina designs was officially adopted through [AO2025-135\(S\), As Amended](#).
- In March 2025, a delegation from the Native Village of Eklutna and the Anchorage Assembly will travel to Salt Lake City to share our process for developing a government-to-government relationship with the City and local Tribal governments.