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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Doyon Foundation Awards \$65,000 in *Our Language* Grants *13 recipients receive \$5,000 awards for language revitalization projects*

Fairbanks, Alaska – Doyon Foundation is pleased to announce its 2021 *Our Language* grant recipients. A total of \$65,000 will be awarded to 13 organizations to support language revitalization projects across the Doyon region. The 2021 *Our Language* grant recipients include:

- **Athabascan Fiddlers Association.** Project title: *Native Language Digital Archive*. This project will work to preserve spoken examples of Alaska Native languages.
- **Beaver Village Council.** Project title: *Canvas Canoe Making Project*. This project will build traditional canvas canoes, documenting the process and the Gwich'in words for each step.
- **Birch Creek Tribal Council.** Project title: *Birch Creek Elder Stories*. This project will record five life stories from Elders in the Dinjii Zhuh K'yaa (Gwich'in) language.
- **Circle Tribal Council.** Project title: *Circle Elder Stories*. This project will record Elders or fluent individuals in the community and produce a DVD for distribution.
- **Dodi Zrunh Consulting, LLC.** Project title: *Dratakh Chelik*. This project will create a Dratakh Chilik (Crying Song) song book based on a CD from the 1970s that has 30 songs.
- **Holy Cross Tribal Council.** Project title: *Afixi Gitr'idalyayh "We are Singing Together."* This project will record children of Shageluk/Anvik/Holy Cross/Grayling singing in Deg Xinag.
- **Hughes Village Council.** Project title: *Denaayeets (Our Breath)*. This project will host weekly cultural gatherings with Elder language teachers.
- **McGrath.** Project title: *Dinak'i Curriculum Project*. This project will provide teaching materials for McGrath School, including Native language flashcards, classroom aids, daily-word flip calendar, and hall posters.
- **Minto Village Council.** Project title: *Benhti Kenaga' Documentaries*. This project will make two short documentaries, featuring the sled making process and producing brain-tanned smoked moose skin.
- **Nulato Tribal Council.** Project title: *Lower Koyukon Learning Materials*. This project will develop a practical and accessible set of language-learning materials for Lower Koyukon.

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- **Tanan Ch'at'oh.** Project title: *The Tanan Ch'at'oh Project*. The goal of this project is to launch a full immersion Gwich'in language nest, Tanan Ch'at'oh, in Fairbanks in spring 2021.
- **Tetlin.** Project title: *Tetlin Village Council Culture Camp*. The purpose of this project is to revitalize the Upper Tanana language through a culture camp in Tetlin.
- **Yukon Flats School District.** Project title: *Gwich'in Curriculum Project*. This project will teach participants how to introduce themselves in Gwich'in and create a family ancestry history.

Doyon Foundation, with support from Doyon, Limited, awards *Our Language* grants annually, in a continuing effort to revitalize the endangered Native languages of the Doyon region. Doyon region tribal governments/tribal councils/communities; nonprofit Alaska Native organizations, societies and community groups; and Alaska Native cultural, educational and recreational organizations/centers were eligible to apply.

The 10 ancestral languages of the Doyon region are all severely to critically endangered. These languages are Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana), Deg Xinag, Denaakk'e (Koyukon), Dihthaad Xt'een Iin Aandëeg' (Tanacross), Dinak'i (Upper Kuskokwim), Dinjii Zhuh K'yaa (Gwich'in), Hän, Holikachuk, Inupiaq and Nee'aanèegn' (Upper Tanana). Through the Doyon Foundation language revitalization program, efforts are underway to help ensure these languages will survive and thrive for future generations.

For additional information, visit www.doyonfoundation.com or contact Allan Hayton, Doyon Foundation's language revitalization program director, at haytona@doyon.com or 907.459.2162.

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