

John P. Buller, Tribal Council President, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

John Buller, Tlingit name is Aanakwei Eesh. John is Galyax Kaagwaantaan(Tlingit from Bering river to Tsiu river). John is child of KwashkiKwaan(Tlingit that settled Yakutat around 1200 years ago).

John currently serves as the elected President of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, and has held this position for the past five months. John has served on the Tribal Council since 2015. John is very passionate about developing strong partnerships to help keep the traditional lands of Yakutat pristine and sustainable for generations to come. John has dedicated his life to learning the Tlingit language and carrying forward the strong rich history and practices of the Yakutat people. He is a teacher in the YTT Lingit language immersion nest. John serves as Dance Leader for the Mt. St. Elias Dancers. As our Elder George Ramos would say "he grew up through it". He also sits as Vice President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood camp 13.

John is a husband to Kim, and proud father to John James and Victor Elias. John grew up in Yakutat as a commercial fisherman on the Situk river. John has also worked at YTT on and off since 2006 in the ANA language revitalization program as a learner then as a instructor.

John believes that, "we reflect our ancestor's good wishes for the next generations. We are responsible to our Creator God and those who came before us to leave a better world, to show love and compassion and to be involved." John also lives by the words of his grandparents "haa eeti kaawu sakw (The way we live is for the ones who well replace us)".

"Remember a good leader is servant of the people. You are responsible to them and carry their trust. You must never abuse it."