



# RAVEN'S CIRCLE

SHAREHOLDER AND DESCENDANT NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



CIRI Shareholder Caleigha Gotthardt leads a sewing activity at 2024 Next Gen Day. Photo by Jenny Miller.

## 2024 SHAREHOLDER AND DESCENDANT PROGRAMS

### CREATING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS, EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES UNIQUE TO THE CIRI FAMILY

A 10-year-old tries akutaq (Eskimo ice cream) for the first time. His brow furrows, then relaxes. A smile stretches across his lips. "It's good!" he declares. Next to him, a 12-year-old samples fried salmon skin. "My uncle is a fisherman, and he always shares what he gets with our family," she says. "I've had salmon, but never the skin. It's interesting—crispy and salty. It reminds me of bacon."

Taste-testing traditional foods is a favorite activity at Next Gen Day, a program for young Shareholders and Descendants (ages 10-17) that immerses them in culture while offering a behind-the-scenes look at CIRI.

"Next Gen Day is a longstanding program at CIRI, but it's evolved so much the past few years," said Darla Graham, director, CIRI Shareholder and Descendant Programs. "Attendees still hear about scholarship opportunities and interact with CIRI staff, but we also bring in Native artists to lead hands-on craft activities. We play games, share food and really get to know one another."

In 2023, CIRI, the CIRI family of designated Tribal organizations, and Cook Inlet villages and Tribes established "revitalize Alaska Native culture

and identity" as one of three region-wide priorities. "One of the ways we accomplish this is through emphasizing traditional ways of life and culture in our programs," Darla said.

While 2024 Next Gen Day was held at the CIRI Fireweed Business Center in Anchorage, a virtual option was made available for out-of-area attendees. All participants received electronic cultural resources and a custom culture box. "Nearly 50% of our Shareholders and Descendants live outside Alaska," Darla emphasized. "Fostering a sense of belonging within the CIRI family—regardless of age, location, or Shareholder status—is something we're really focused on."

Recent and upcoming changes to CIRI's core programs include:

**Art Contest:** Formerly the Youth Art Contest, CIRI expanded the contest in 2023 to include ages 5 to adult, with cash prizes awarded to the first- and second-place winners in each of four age categories (grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12 and ages 18+). The 2024 Art Contest will kick off this spring, with a new photography contest to follow mid-summer.

**CIRI Participation Committee:** In 2024, instead of one in-person and one virtual meeting, all meetings will be held in person. CIRI will pay travel and accommodation expenses for out-of-area members. In the past, CPC members served staggered, one-

### "CHICKALOONIES" DEBUT

The Raven's Circle is pleased to feature the artwork of CIRI Shareholder Dimi Macheras!

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### 2024 INFORMATION AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

Information Meetings will be held April 20 in Anchorage and May 4 in the Pacific Northwest. The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held June 1 on the Kenai Peninsula.

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### CIRI SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The application deadline is Friday, April 26.

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year terms. Beginning in 2024, members will serve non-staggered, two-year terms, "which will allow us to go more in depth on certain subjects and give members more time to network and really get to know one another," Darla said.

**Next Gen Day:** The 2024 event was held Jan. 15 and included both in-person and virtual attendance options. Activities included a trivia game with prizes, a coloring contest, sewing caribou-tufted keychains and Athabaskan-style moccasins, a TikTok challenge and conversations with CIRI leadership.

**Summer Internship Program:** In 2023, interns fished with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's educational fishery program, visited the villages of Seldovia and Ninilchik, and engaged in cultural activities such as beading, sewing and preparing traditional foods. "In 2024, we'll focus on customizing cultural experiences based on the backgrounds and interests of our interns," Darla said. CIRI offers interns a stipend and accommodation assistance; depending on their school's policy, interns may earn college credit for their internship. Interns may be placed at CIRI's offices in Anchorage or with one of our partner organizations in or outside Alaska.

**Virtual Mentoring:** A two-fold recruitment process was launched in 2023, with mentors being selected first, followed by mentee

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## A MESSAGE FROM CIRI CEO SWAMI IYER INVESTING IN OUR BUSINESS AND OUR PEOPLE

### Welcome to our first Raven's Circle of 2024!

I am pleased to start the new year by sharing some exciting news—CIRI's Stephanie Aicher has been promoted to the position of chief legal officer! Stephanie has been an integral part of the CIRI team for more than 12 years, during which time she has consistently demonstrated a high level of competency in legal and governance matters. During her tenure as vice president, general counsel, Stephanie's oversight expanded from legal and compliance matters to include human resources, benefits and probate. Her sound business judgement has led CIRI through several successful projects, and I look forward to her continued support of critical company functions.

Throughout the year I plan to share other important updates and information with our

Shareholders and Descendants about CIRI's business operations, financial performance, distributions and more.

We are enhancing the company's investment strategy with CIRI's vision, "our stakeholders thrive," as our guide. To get us there, we plan to hold a strategy session in March with CIRI's executive leadership team and Board of Directors to develop a long-term investment strategy that targets sustainable growth in Shareholder value. I am excited about the opportunities on the horizon for CIRI in 2024 and beyond.

With a more diversified portfolio of high-quality operating and financial assets, we will reach new heights. We will target investments with robust cashflow, healthy backlogs and high profit margins—investments that will elevate CIRI's

unique status as a diverse, well-capitalized, Alaska Native-owned corporation.

It is an exciting time for CIRI! I look forward to sharing updates with you in future editions of the Raven's Circle and at our 2024 Information and Annual Meetings.

In the meantime, as your CEO, I am committed to keeping our stakeholders informed. If you have questions about CIRI's business performance, investments or strategy, drop me an email at [AskCiriCEO@ciri.com](mailto:AskCiriCEO@ciri.com).

Best regards,

Swami Iyer  
CIRI CEO



## A WORD FROM CIRI PRESIDENT SARAH LUKIN WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR COMPANY

### Cama'i (hello)!

For Alaska Native cultures, the winter season has traditionally been a time of rest as we prepare ourselves for the warmer months ahead.

I grew up in Port Lions, a village on Kodiak Island. Just as our Alutiiq ancestors had done for millennia, my family spent our winters hauling firewood, beading, sewing, repairing our hunting and fishing tools, and visiting with friends and family over a cup of tea. We lived in harmony with nature, the seasons and one another—each person playing his or her part in the subsistence lifestyle that sustained us.

In the winter, our family could be found on our boat, duck hunting. Each of us had a role in hunting and preparing the ducks. I remember spending hours in the freezing cold hunting ducks, and then sitting on an overturned five-gallon bucket plucking ducks with my father, sister and cousin. The house would smell like duck soup for days as we

shared our large pot of soup and fresh ducks with extended family and friends.

Just as subsistence relies on the work of many, so does the continued success of our company. Each year, CIRI sets corporate goals that consist of specific targets and clear direction. These goals set the standard for our company, identify priorities and help us formulate strategies to ensure success. Individual staff performance goals all tie into the corporate goals, which fosters an atmosphere of teamwork and cooperation. At the end of the day, we are all working together to provide for the CIRI family.

While several of our goals focus on increasing profits to provide economic benefits to CIRI Shareholders and their families, the goals are holistic in nature. In 2024, we will continue our efforts to deepen and strengthen our relationship with CIRI villages, Tribes and designated Tribal organizations. We have made it a high priority to find opportunities that fall within our collective best interests and to work cooperatively toward common objectives—protecting Alaska Native people's rights to

self-determination, managing subsistence resources for future generations, and revitalizing Indigenous culture and identity.

As we move through the seasons, we will continue to focus on engaging and communicating with our Shareholders and Descendants through in-person and virtual gatherings, robust program offerings and regular, targeted communications.

Our unity is our strength, and Swami and I are committed to working alongside one another, our staff and other stakeholders to achieve our goals and ensure CIRI remains a best-in-class, financially strong and culturally relevant force in the lives of our Shareholders, Descendants and their families.

Thank you for your support. I am excited for the year ahead!

Quyanaa (thank you),

Sarah Lukin  
CIRI President



# DIMI MACHERAS

## SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

The Raven’s Circle is excited to feature the artwork of CIRI Shareholder Dimi Macheras (Ahtna Athabascan)! Dimi, along with partner Casey Silver, is the founder and owner of 80% Studios, a visual arts publisher and interactive storytelling workshop based in Seattle.

In Alaska, the duo is best known for “Chickaloonies,” a multi-volume, fantasy-adventure graphic novel that follows two Alaska Native characters who begin a quest to find the sun during a time of perpetual darkness. The comic draws on traditional Ahtna stories from Chickaloon.

Dimi is connected to CIRI through his mother, original enrollee the late Patricia Wade (Aug. 17, 1945–July 31, 2014). His grandmother, the late Katherine “Katie” Wickersham Wade (Dec. 15, 1922–March 22, 2009), was clan grandmother of the Chickaloon Tribe. She founded the Ya Ne Dah Ah School, an Ahtna Athabascan (Dené) Tribal school, and was the last known fluent speaker of the Tribe’s language. She was honored as CIRI’s Shareholder of the Year in 2002.

The Raven’s Circle will feature artwork from 80% Studios throughout the year. We recently spoke with Dimi about his family, what inspires him and the “magic” of collaborative storytelling.

**On growing up:** My mother (Patricia Wade) had Ahtna Athabascan heritage,

and my father is Greek. I grew up in Anchorage, Palmer and Moose Creek/Chickaloon. I was really lucky that as a kid I got to travel a lot. We spent many summers in Greece, so I had a wide experience of the world as a young person.

Some of my earliest memories were hearing the traditional Ya Ne Dah Ah (“our ancient teachings”) stories from my grandma, who everyone called Aunt Katie. She was our Tribe’s matriarch. There were stories about Raven and about how we got the sun and the moon. There’s the Besiini (owl) story, which is a cautionary tale, a very spooky story that was told to keep kids from screaming and crying and hollering. In the wild, certain noises will attract predators. This was a way to shut us up, and it worked! Grandma was an amazing storyteller, and all those stories put pictures in my head.

**On childhood inspirations:** As a child of the 1980s, I was obsessed with Saturday morning cartoons, especially the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The thing about the Ninja Turtles was the anthropomorphism—animals with human characteristics. Later, I made the connection that the stories my grandma would tell us took place when humans and animals could communicate and had a shared language.

I have a very artistic family, a very musical family. My mother played the guitar and sang.

My grandma was an excellent cook and storyteller; she excelled at beading and other Native arts and crafts.

My grandma started the Ya Ne Dah Ah School in Chickaloon in 1992. My cousins and I were the first group of kids who went to the school when it opened. I was 11 years old, and that was right when I first discovered comic books. I was obsessed with comic books, and I was doing artwork all the time. The village paid me to illustrate a few of our Ya Ne Dah Ah stories when I was 11 years old, so that was the first time I collaborated with a storyteller and engaged culturally with our traditional stories.

**Dimi graduated from Palmer High School in 1999 and spent two years at art college in Seattle.**

**On working for the village:** After college, I moved back to Alaska and landed a job working for the Chickaloon Native Village education department. The village received a grant for a language-revitalization project, so I could do artwork full time. My cousin, Kari Shaginoff, and I developed all the language curricula. We created posters with the Ahtna alphabet; I got to do drawings of everything, from animals to structures to landscapes. The goal was to create a living artistic dictionary of our language.

This was for about five years, beginning in 2001. The village offices were right next to my grandma’s house. I would go to the office, do artwork, and then hang out with my grandma and chat over coffee and pie while I did more artwork. It was a really beautiful time.

**On family support:** While I worked for the village, I was given the opportunity to re-illustrate the Ya Ne Dah Ah stories I had originally done when I was 11. I got to illustrate three Ya Ne Dah Ah stories in my comic-book style. It got a lot of attention, and it’s what really set my career on its path.

I was so lucky growing up that Mom and Grandma—my whole family, really—they have always been such a support network for me. I can’t express how important that was for my artistic career, my creativity. My mom was my biggest advocate.

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As an 11-year-old, Dimi Macheras was paid to illustrate several Ya Ne Dah Ah stories. Images courtesy of Mr. Macheras.



80% Studios partners Casey Silver (left) and Dimi Macheras. Photo courtesy of Mr. Macheras.

## SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT: DIMI MACHERAS

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Everywhere she went, she would share my artwork. She would go to schools, she would go to gatherings, and she would tell our Ya Ne Dah Ah stories. And she would take the artwork I'd done for those stories and share them in kind of a live PowerPoint-style presentation. So those traditionally oral stories now had a visual component. She created a fanbase for my art.

**On the inspiration for “Chickaloonies”:** I left Alaska around 2005 or 2006 to move back to Seattle. The one book I didn't do, that I was planning to do and never got around to doing, was “How We Got the Sun and the Moon.” As I was thinking about how I would illustrate that story, I was asking myself, what would the world look like? I had to draw a story, draw a comic book about how we got the sun and the moon, but there was no light—no daylight, no moonlight. And I had this idea where I was like, well, what about bioluminescence? What about glowing berries, glowing plants, like Christmas lights? My grandma had her Christmas lights up at her house year-round; she loved having this warm, cozy house with all these beautiful glowing nightlights and lanterns and lamps. In my mind, I started conjuring this idea for a world that's in darkness, yet it's somehow lit. So that was the seed for what would eventually become “Chickaloonies.”

**On meeting Casey and establishing 80% Studios:** We (Casey and I) met at a bookstore in Seattle, and it turned out immediately that we were on the exact same wavelength. Casey's close in age to me; we had very similar upbringings. We were both obsessed with the same comics and with the Ninja

Turtles growing up. It was just an incredible moment of destiny to meet Casey because my weaknesses are his strengths and vice versa.

He's an incredible storyteller. He knows everything there is to know about comic books, everything there is to know about the history of comics, about the hidden art of sequential storytelling. We started working together around 2010 and created our brand, our studio, 80% Comics, which went on to become 80% Studios.

**On the meaning behind 80% Studios:** It started as kind of a joke and has evolved into something with a deeper meaning. I had an opportunity for a job with Nickelodeon as a storyboard artist. I submitted my portfolio, and when I heard back, I was told, “You're great, but you're not quite there. I'd say you're about 80% there.” It became this ongoing joke with Casey where every failure, every kind of thing we encountered where we didn't have success, we'd joke that we were “80% there.”

Now, 80% represents to me this journey—of learning, of creativity, of storytelling. I think the sweet spot is almost at the 80% point in the journey, where you're confident enough to share your work but you're still learning.

**On “Chickaloonies”:** During the pandemic, Casey and I were looking for a new project. I was very aware of the doors my mom and grandma had opened for me and the legacy they had left behind. I told Casey that if we were going to create an Ahtna comic book, it needed to be authentic. I wanted to avoid appropriating my own culture; I didn't want to create a “Native superhero.” I wanted to explore themes and what it means to be an Ahtna person. We had to come correct, because whatever we did was going to have a lot of eyeballs on it. This set the framework for “Chickaloonies.”

My mom is the person who I think started the word “Chickaloonies.” It was a term of endearment for my relatives and the little kids at the school—she called them Chickaloonies. It represents that fun,

youthful energy, those little kids going to the same Ya Ne Dah Ah School I went to.

My grandma had always been progressive in her thinking. She encouraged me to illustrate stories how I saw fit. I'm drawing Raven, and he looks kind of like a cartoon character—he's kicked back, lazy on a couch, an open pizza box next to him. That's not how our stories were envisioned by our ancestors, but the thing about Ya Ne Dah Ah is that they take place out of space and time in this ethereal realm. So why not? Why couldn't Raven be wearing sneakers? She allowed me to show things the way I wanted to.

**Described as an all-ages Alaskan Tribal adventure, “Chickaloonies” follows the journey of two Alaska Native characters—Sasquatch E. Moji, who only speaks through representations of emojis, and Mister Yelly—on a quest to become the greatest storytellers ever. The first volume was published in 2021.**

**On the importance of collaboration:** Moji and Yelly are a team. Casey and I are a team, and we thrive when we collaborate. We thrive because we can bounce ideas off one another and play to our strengths—his focus is on storytelling, and mine is more on art. When we combine those things, that's where the magic happens, just like in the book.

Casey and I are part of the artist collective Łuk'ae tse' taas (Ahtna for “fish head soup”). The collective members were instrumental in our efforts to market “Chickaloonies” in Alaska. My cousin, Ahtna artist Melissa Shaginoff, serves as cultural advisor. We call her the third creator; she's inspired so many of the moments and themes in the book.

For the “Chickaloonies” book tour, we created a live storytelling experience with sound effects and a slideshow. Casey wore a cardboard costume that Yelly wears in the book. So instead of a book signing where we talk about the book and then everyone stands in line to get their book signed, we told the story live, like how my mom and grandma used to do. We realized the book was almost secondary; the magic was connecting with people through the story, talking and sharing culture.

**80% Studios has partnered with the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center and received a Heritage Project Grant from The CIRI Foundation for its “Creativity and Learning through Indigenous Comic Art” project. The next volume of “Chickaloonies” is due to be released in early 2024. For more information, visit [eightypercentstudios.com](http://eightypercentstudios.com).**

WELCOME TO--

DIMI MACHERAS



CASEY SILVER



# chickaloonies

LEGENDS  
LANGUAGE  
MAGIC



LOVABLE LOUDMOUTH, ASPIRING STORYTELLER AND BEST FRIEND OF SASQUATCH E. MOJI.



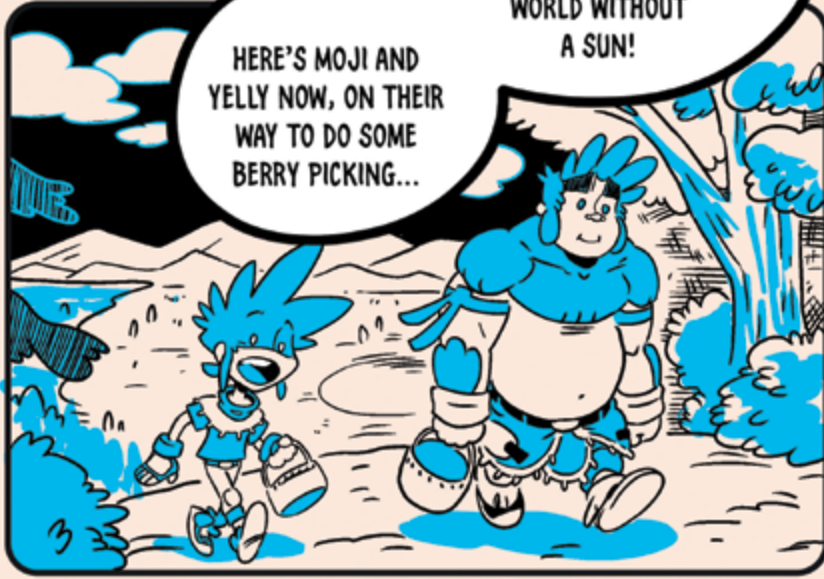
SPEAKS ONLY IN EMOJIS, ASPIRING STORYTELLER AND BEST FRIEND OF MISTER YELLY.



CHICKALOON VILLAGE ELDER, STORYTELLER AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPER.

JOIN THE ADVENTURES OF TWO BEST FRIENDS AND THEIR GRANDMA IN A MAGICAL WORLD WITHOUT A SUN!

HERE'S MOJI AND YELLY NOW, ON THEIR WAY TO DO SOME BERRY PICKING...



BACK FOR MORE GLO-BERRIES? YOU BOYS SHOULD TRY THE WHITE YOBIS, THEY'RE DELICIOUS!



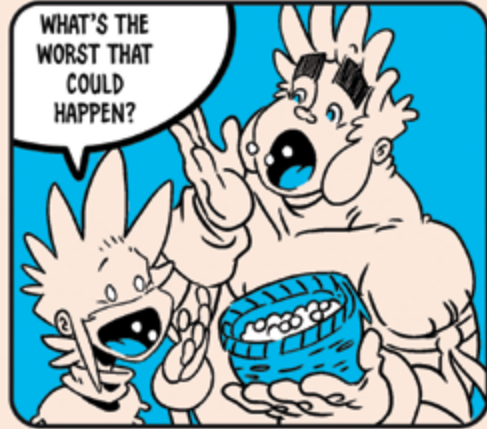
YA, GRANDMA TOLD US TO NEVER EAT THE WHITE ONES!

NO WAY! PEOPLE ONLY SAY THAT TO KEEP THE BERRIES FOR THEMSELVES.

MAYBE GRANDMA DOESN'T KNOW EVERYTHING...



WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

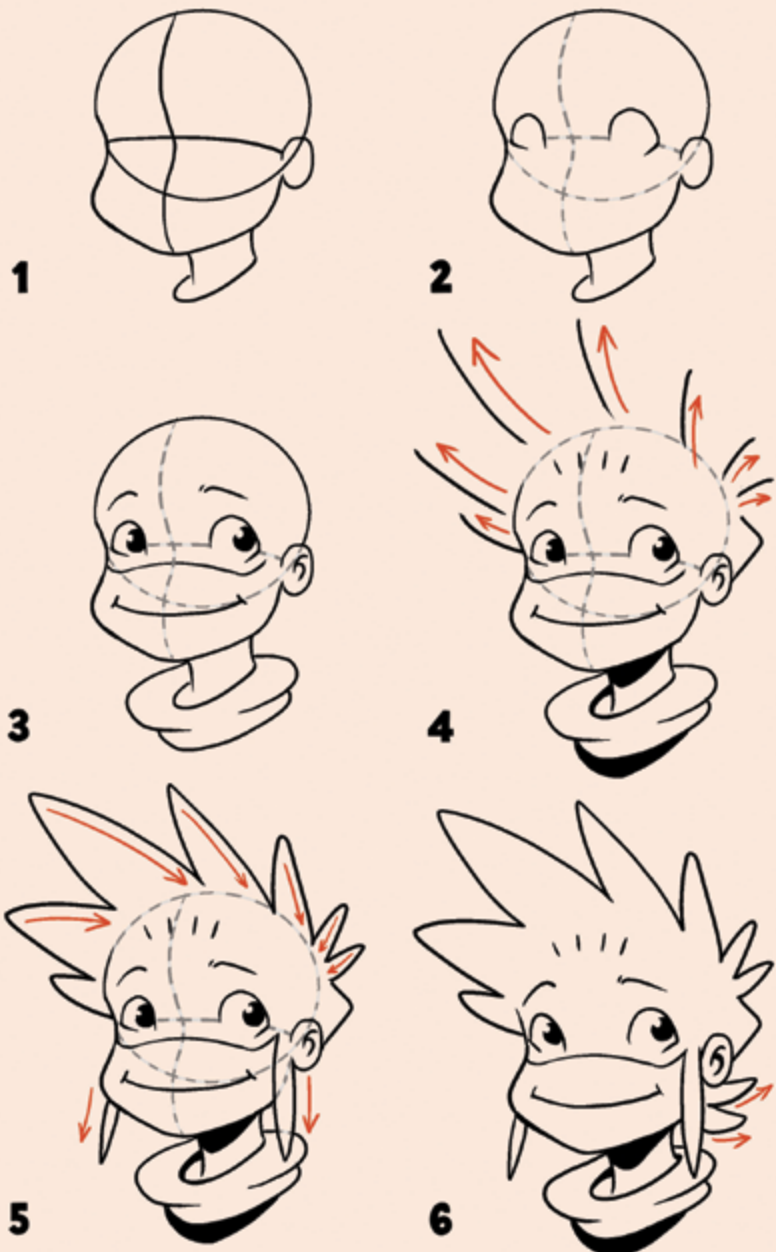


I TOLD YOU TWO NOT TO EAT THE WHITE YOBIS! MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU WON'T IGNORE YOUR ELDERS...



LESSON: ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOUR ELDERS!

## INTERACTIVITIES



WANT TO READ MORE?!

VISIT [EIGHTYPERCENTSTUDIOS.COM](http://EIGHTYPERCENTSTUDIOS.COM) FOR ALL THINGS CHICKALOONIES!

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST CHAPTER OF THE 80% STORY

@80PERCENTSTUDIOS



# BOARD CORNER

## GET TO KNOW YOUR CIRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DIRECTOR CHERYL MULCAHEY

My name is Cheryl Mulcahey (Inupiaq), and I am pleased to serve my fellow Shareholders and Descendants on the CIRI Board of Directors. I was elected to the Board in June 2023. My first term has been busy, educational, exciting, insightful and an overall rewarding experience—I can't wait to continue my Board service in 2024 and beyond!

I was born in Bremerton, Wash., and grew up in the Anchorage area. I became a CIRI Shareholder at age 14 when I inherited shares from my grandmother, original enrollee Mabel Larsen. I later inherited shares from my mother, Kathy Larsen. I am an advocate of gifting shares to the next generation of CIRI Shareholders—I gifted shares to my younger brother when I was 18, and I will be gifting shares to my two children as well. Gifting shares is a way to preserve and perpetuate our Alaska Native heritage and give our loved ones a stake in the future of our corporation.

Even as a teenager, I took my responsibility as a Shareholder seriously. I read the Annual Report and Voter's Guide and Proxy Statement each year and always submitted my ballot. A few years ago, I

attended the Annual Meeting and asked questions of the Directors about some of CIRI's financial statements. One of the Directors suggested I consider applying to the Board, and once my work and family commitments allowed me to serve, I began researching the opportunity and decided to apply.

Professionally, I work as a senior director of internal audit and SOX for Porch Group, a U.S.-based company that provides software and services to home-service industries. I bring to the CIRI Board extensive knowledge of technology, financial reporting, compliance and controls, and risk management, which will help position our company for continued and sustained growth. I hold a bachelor's degree in accounting and information science from Cabrini University in Philadelphia.

I am the proud mother of two children, Maddie and Ryan. Maddie served as a youth representative on the CIRI Shareholder Participation Committees (now CIRI Participation Committee) when she was still in high school and was a 2023 CIRI summer intern. As a third-generation CIRI Shareholder



myself, I'm grateful for the opportunities CIRI provides our young Shareholders and Descendants to get involved with their corporation.

My hobbies include reading most anything—historical fiction, science fiction, biographies—cooking and baking, and watching sports. Organizations that support individuals experiencing housing and food insecurity are closest to my heart.

The key to CIRI's success lies in developing young Shareholders and Descendants into leaders in their communities, in Alaska and beyond. CIRI has a unique responsibility to both its current and future Shareholders. I am excited to work with my fellow Board members toward fulfilling and furthering that mission. 🍌



### RECIPE

## SKILLET SAUSAGE AND RICE

Yield: 4 servings

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 12 ounces smoked sausage (game meat, beef, pork or chicken), sliced
- 1 cup onion, diced
- 1 cup orange, red or yellow bell pepper
- 1 cup green bell pepper
- 2-4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/4 cups white rice, uncooked
- 5 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 1/4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- Seasonings and spices, to taste: salt, black pepper, paprika, cayenne pepper, hot sauce

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat butter and olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté bell peppers and onions until tender-crisp, about 5 minutes.
2. Add the garlic, sausage, salt, pepper and spices. Cook an additional 3-5 minutes until sausage is browned.
3. Incorporate rice and tomato paste. Add broth and bring to a simmer. Turn heat to low, cover and cook 20-25 minutes until rice is tender.

### TO MAKE A SOFT-BOILED EGG:

1. Bring 1 inch of water in a sauce pot to boil.
2. Add egg(s) straight from the refrigerator to the pot. Cover and boil for exactly 6 minutes.
3. After 6 minutes, remove the egg(s) from the pot. Place in an ice water bath or run under cold water until cool enough to peel.
4. Top rice and sausage mixture with egg. Add a few dashes of your favorite hot sauce, if desired.

In October, CIRI donated more than 30 pounds of moose liver sausage left over from our fall Friendship Potlatches to the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), which accepts donations of hunted and gathered foods. Nearly 70% of ANMC's menu items are created using traditional ingredients and served to Alaska Native people receiving medical care at ANMC.

"Providing a taste of home is critical in the healing process," said Amy Foote, executive chef and director of traditional foods at ANMC. "We see our patients relax and share stories of a time when they were well, out harvesting and spending time with loved ones.

Traditional foods heal our patients; they are comfort, they are healing, they are home."

This easy skillet sausage and rice recipe is inspired by the dish Chef Amy and the Food and Nutrition Services team prepared for ANMC patients using CIRI's donation of moose sausage. "Simple and delicious!" Chef Amy said. "We serve our moose liver sausage sliced and grilled with sautéed onion, bell pepper and minced garlic over sticky rice. If desired, top with a soft-boiled egg and let the yolk run into the rice for creamy richness."

*ANMC can accept most wild game meat and bones (caribou, moose, deer, sheep, goat and beaver) following these guidelines: must be whole, quartered or roasts; meat cannot be ground; most fish and seafood: must be gutted and gilled, with or without heads; seal meat and fat; and plants and berries: whole, fresh or frozen. Items may not be vacuum-sealed. If you are interested in donating any of these items or have questions about traditional foods being served at ANMC, please call (907) 729-2682, after hours (907) 575-3486, or email [afoote@anthc.org](mailto:afoote@anthc.org) or [NativeFoods4Life@anthc.org](mailto:NativeFoods4Life@anthc.org).*

# NORTH WIND WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

In November, after a thorough and diligent search process, the CIRI Development Corporation Board of Directors announced Richard “Rich” Driggs as the new President and CEO-elect of North Wind Group (North Wind). He assumed the role of President and CEO on Jan. 1 and succeeds Christopher Leichtweis, who served as North Wind’s president and CEO from 2013 to 2023.

Rich comes to North Wind from engineering and consulting-services company Michael Barker International, where he served as executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO). He previously served as COO of WSP, a multinational engineering and design firm. Under his leadership, both companies grew their core earnings by more than 30%.

Rich holds a bachelor’s degree in construction management from Purdue University and executive certificates from Columbia Business School, the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

“We are excited to welcome Rich as North Wind’s new president and CEO,” CIRI President Sarah Lukin said. “I am confident his experience and vision will have a positive impact on the services we provide to North Wind’s customers and foster CIRI business growth, especially outside Alaska.”



## ABOUT NORTH WIND GROUP

Founded in 1997, North Wind has grown to a group of companies that employ more than 2,000 scientific, engineering, management and professional personnel at 35-plus offices across the continental U.S, Alaska, Hawaii and Guam. Headquartered in Idaho Falls, Idaho, North Wind has been a wholly owned subsidiary of CIRI since 2010. Learn more at [northwindgrp.com](http://northwindgrp.com)

## 2024 SHAREHOLDER AND DESCENDANT PROGRAMS

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recruitment. “This allows prospective mentees to view and request mentors based on their areas of interest and career goals,” Darla said. CIRI offers both mentors and mentees program orientation, custom monthly workshops, mid-program check-ins and support as needed. The 2024 mentor recruitment process will begin in August, followed by mentee recruitment shortly thereafter.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Additional opportunities in 2024 will focus on leadership development; Elders’ programs; apprenticeships and Shareholder and Descendant job opportunities; and gathering stakeholder feedback for long-term strategic planning.



## AS SEEN IN OUR REGION

Rarer than a black swan, it is said the white raven (Dena’ina: *ggugguyni*) symbolizes healing for Alaska Native cultures and people. This particular raven has been spotted frequently around midtown Anchorage since October. The bird has blue eyes, which indicates leucism, a lack of melanin pigments in some or all feathers. State biologists have described its appearance “truly a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.”

*Photo by Lucas Karp.*



“Preserving and sharing culture, strengthening the CIRI family, and offering education and leadership opportunities is at the heart of what we do,” Darla said. “We are excited to provide innovative programs in 2024 and beyond!”

For more information, visit [ciri.com/shareholders-descendants/programs](http://ciri.com/shareholders-descendants/programs). Questions and feedback may be directed to [shareholderprograms@ciri.com](mailto:shareholderprograms@ciri.com).



# CIRI IN THE COMMUNITY

## MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY



Mountain View Elementary School is one of the most diverse schools in the Anchorage School District. Nearly 90% of its 291 students identify as non-white, and 11% of the student body is comprised of Alaska Native/American Indian individuals.

It is also one of the district's poorest schools, with 89% of students classified as "economically disadvantaged," according to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

In October, CIRI joined forces with community partners Carlile Transportation and Mayfield's Quality Cleaners to distribute

hooded sweatshirts and snacks to all students. Additionally, CIRI paid to install winter lights to the school's exterior. "The lights truly bring a feeling of hope to the community, which is very dark in the winter months," Mountain View Principal Clare Hill said. "They also help our scholars get safely to and from school and provide added security for nearby neighbors."

"Connecting with such a special group of students reminds us how important it is to give back to our community," said Ethan Tyler, senior director, CIRI external affairs. 🗡️



### SAVE THE DATE: 2024 INFORMATION MEETINGS AND ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Mark your calendars! This year's Information Meetings will be held Saturday, April 20 in Anchorage and Saturday, May 4 in the Pacific Northwest. The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held Saturday, June 1 on the Kenai Peninsula. Join us for a financial overview of CIRI's business operations, food, cultural entertainment, door prizes and more!

**There will be two Information Meetings in 2024.** In order to reduce costs and avoid duplicative information, CIRI will hold two Information Meetings in 2024: Anchorage and the Pacific Northwest. We will not hold an Information Meeting on the Kenai Peninsula, as it will be the location of our Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

#### INFORMATION MEETINGS

- **Saturday, April 20—Anchorage, Alaska**
- **Saturday, May 4—Pacific Northwest (Seattle area)**

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

- **Saturday, June 1—Kenai Peninsula (Kenai/Soldotna area)**

For those unable to attend, a recording of the Annual Meeting will be made available in Qenek.

Details, including venue and RSVP information, are in the process of being finalized. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the CIRI website. We look forward to seeing you this spring!

### HOUSEHOLDING CIRI ANNUAL MEETING MATERIALS

To enhance CIRI's GreenLink initiative and reduce our carbon footprint, common Shareholder households will receive only one copy of the CIRI Annual Report, Voter's Guide & Proxy Statement, and other printed Annual Meeting materials. Each Shareholder will still receive an individual Proxy. Annual Meeting materials will be available to all Shareholders in the Qenek portal ([qenek.ciri.com](http://qenek.ciri.com)). If you would like to receive your own printed copy of CIRI's Annual Meeting materials, please notify the Shareholder Relations department. Individual copies will be sent with the initial mailing or within 30 days of the request.

Anchorage: (907) 263-5191  
Toll-free: (800) 764-2474  
Email: [shareholderrecords@ciri.com](mailto:shareholderrecords@ciri.com)



# IN MEMORY

## JEROMY RAY KROTO, 42

Jeremy Ray Kroto passed away Nov. 6, 2023, in Gakona, Alaska. Mr. Kroto was born Nov. 18, 1980, in Anchorage. His family remembers him for his kind heart. He was a skilled hunter, fisherman, carpenter and moose packer; he enjoyed gathering firewood, beading and cooking for his family. Mr. Kroto was laid to rest in Tyonek, Alaska. He is survived by his partner, Mariah Craig; children, Amiah Kroto, Jeromy Fajardo, Nathaniel Kroto and Jeremiah Kroto; parents, Valerie McCord and Marvin Kroto; stepmother, Casandra Kroto; sisters, Brittany Kroto and Willow Kroto; stepbrother, Leonard Trenton; nephew, Mateo Masuda; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.



## CONDOLENCES

Anna N. Bowers, 101  
Patrick Clark Coffey, 82  
James John Coveyou, 68  
Naoma Sue Culpepper, 62  
Elvina Anna Fehr, 86  
John Matfey Fratis, 65  
Donna Jo Hale, 54

Ickonna Irene King, 53  
Harvey Keith Knutsen, 65  
Ruby Justina Luttrell, 55  
Walter Mark, 74  
Burt Gregory Mercurief Jr, 46  
Onnolee June Ollestad, 69  
Carol Rowena Olsen, 82

Pamela Kaye Parker, 68  
Confesor Erwin Rivera, 42  
Jason Ragnar Slater, 52  
Ilene Ann Stackhouse, 85  
Eric Lee Thomas, 33  
Lisa Elaine Walker, 32

# 2023 TAX INFORMATION

CIRI IRS Forms 1099 for the 2023 tax year were mailed no later than Jan. 31, 2024. Shareholders with portal accounts may access their Forms 1099 at [qenek.ciri.com](https://qenek.ciri.com). Tax information remains accessible in Qenek for seven years, allowing Shareholders to easily view and print their forms, if desired.

2023 tax forms will reflect reportable payments made to affected CIRI Shareholders in 2023. Shareholders may receive more than one type of Form 1099, depending on the type of CIRI income received. These include:

- **Form 1099-MISC (resource revenue payments and prizes).** Resource revenue—or 7(j)—payments derive from resource revenue sharing obligations among the 12 Alaska Native regional corporations, as required by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Shareholders who owned at-large stock on March 24, 2023, received a \$19.4955 per at-large share (or \$1,949.55 per 100 shares) as 7(j) payment from CIRI in 2023. Additionally, if you inherited at-large stock in 2023 and received an estate settlement payment, a portion of that payment may have included held 7(j) funds.

Resource revenue payments are reported in *Box 3 – Other Income* on Form 1099-MISC. ANCSA requires that resource revenue amounts distributed in connection with CIRI village-class stock be paid to the associated village; therefore, CIRI does not report these payments as individual Shareholder income.



Shareholder prizes are also reported in *Box 3 – Other Income* on Form 1099-MISC.

- **Form 1099-DIV (estate payments).** If you inherited CIRI shares in 2023, any held dividends paid by CIRI in connection with the inherited shares will be reported in *Boxes 1a – Ordinary Dividends* and *1b – Qualified Dividends* on Form 1099-DIV. If you have held your shares for less than one year, please consult your tax advisor regarding the proper treatment of qualified dividends.

## 2023 CST PAYMENTS ARE NONTAXABLE

The quarterly payments issued in 2023 from the CIRI Settlement Trust (CST) Distribution Fund and the CST Elders Fund are nontaxable; thus, tax forms will not be issued, and the payments will not be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Please note that it is your responsibility to accurately report your CIRI income on your tax returns; CIRI cannot provide tax advice. The proper IRS forms and schedules to use when completing individual tax returns may vary depending on the types of CIRI payments received. Shareholders are encouraged to consult with a tax advisor regarding individual circumstances and applicable federal and state tax requirements.

# FAREWELL ACCESS PERMITS FOR DALL SHEEP HUNTING

## PERMITS WILL NOT BE ISSUED IN 2024

We wish to inform our Shareholders, Descendants and others that, following the recent population surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and in line with CIRI's commitment to our values and responsible land management, the decision has been made to suspend the 2024 Farewell Dall sheep hunting season within the 19C Game Management Unit. This difficult decision is based on 2010–2023 survey data and is necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Dall sheep population.

CIRI is actively participating in the 19C Game Management Unit Sheep Working Group, staying proactively informed to make better-informed decisions regarding wildlife management. Our decision aligns with our duty to act in the best interest of the species' longevity and health.

We understand this decision may be disappointing to those within the hunting community. Please know that this action is taken with the utmost respect for both our wildlife and the valued tradition of hunting.

This suspension is not permanent. We will reassess this closure again next year, with the hope of reopening the Farewell Dall sheep hunting season in future years.



Activities for CIRI's 2023 summer interns included a ferry ride to the village of Seldovia.

# 2024 CIRI SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 26

CIRI Shareholders and confirmed Descendants who are current college/vocational students or recent graduates are invited to apply to the CIRI Summer Internship Program! Immerse yourself in Alaska Native culture, directly apply your education in a practical work setting, and gain excellent experience and insight into CIRI's culture and businesses.

Interns will be placed with CIRI departments that align with their educational interests and career goals. There may also be placement opportunities with CIRI subsidiaries and with our partner organizations, both within and outside Alaska.

This is a paid opportunity; CIRI will assist with housing placement for out-of-area interns. Find out more and apply online by the April 26 deadline: [ciri.com/internship](https://ciri.com/internship).



# SHAREHOLDERS WITH RETURNED MAIL

The following CIRI Shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record. When CIRI mail is returned as undeliverable, the distributions are held, and the Shareholder does not qualify to participate in any prize drawings until the address is updated. Shareholders with Qenek accounts may update their addresses via the portal. Alternatively, Shareholders may visit CIRI's website or call Shareholder Relations at (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474 for address change forms and information.

(As of 2/13/2024)

Wade Robert Abuan Jr.  
Matthew James Anaruk  
Shauna Lee Awalinn  
Roseanna Alexandria Baehm  
Thomas Michael Bellingier  
Matthew David Benkoe  
Phillip Jay Black  
Chase Lynn Brewer  
Robert Garland Brown  
Katarina Elise Burton  
Elena Miya Caballero  
Randy Stephan Cain  
Daniel Forrest Call  
Jesse James Campbell  
Richard Lee Chamberlain  
Linda Louise Champion  
Terry Lynn Clark  
Christine C. Cox  
Bryan Jack-Ross Crow  
Kamakana Charles-Nukapigak Danner  
Samuel P. Davic  
Marcia K. Denison  
Mario Lanza Dyer  
Lorraine Max Edenfield  
Jace Robert Elder  
David Andrew Endresen  
Julia A. Fleek Jr.  
Leonard Lee Foss Sr.  
Anthony Lane Fry  
Robert Wayne Galvan  
Carlos Jaime Garcia  
Rose Marie Garcia  
Ricole Maria Garcia-Olivera  
Vicky Gentry  
Dennis Paul Griffin  
Richard David Grossl  
Steven Richard Hallstead  
Jason David Harrington  
James Douglas Hatten  
Shirley Ann Haynes  
Danny Linn Hodge  
Matthew Michael Holmes  
Samantha Jordan Michelle Holmes-Hooper  
Shawn Kurtis Huffman  
Hannah Isaac  
Leonard Joe Jr.  
Aron Eugene Johns  
Bernard William Johnson Jr.  
Paul Richard Johnson  
Jacen Lee Kallner  
Marie Bertha Kaloa  
Samantha Loraine Komakhuk  
Richard Benjamin Koutchak Jr.  
Demaris Carol Lahnum  
Isaiah Zephyr Langsdale  
Matthew Taylor Langsdale  
Paul Matthew Larson  
Michael Lee Leonard Jr.

Henrietta Marcel Lewis  
David Atlas Lock Jr.  
Mark Todd Lyle  
Sandra Lee Marcus  
Loanne Joyce Martin  
Michael West Mason  
John Kelly McConnell  
Virgil Dasius McCord Jr.  
Donald Fred Mcmanamy  
Kane Cho-Ki Meek  
Jeffrey Brian Meeks  
Lucy Jean Mogg  
Burl Frank Mosquito Jr.  
Godfrey Nicolie  
Thomas M. Nolcini III  
Nicholas Gabriel Odonnell  
Nolan Ryan Ogle-Endresen  
Florence Helen Okpealuk  
Lane Gennaro Okpealuk  
Brandon Kelly Oneill  
Beverly Ann Oskolkoff  
Donald Norman Outwater II  
Gary Woodrow Petersen II  
Jerry Shane Phillips  
Joanne Frances Ramos-Crow  
Anne Marie Reamer  
Cassie Marie Richards  
Patrick Ryan Robinson  
Charlein Terese Sanford  
Jody Renee Sarren  
Christian Michael Shaffer  
Brenda Lee Sherman  
Leira Adara Marie Sherman  
Glenn Ross Shook  
Steven Shuravloff  
Jeremy Jay Singley  
Tony James Smart Jr.  
James Earl Smith  
Robert Lee Smith  
Theresa Dodson Smith  
Viola M. Soxie  
Jeremiah Anthony Spencer  
Denise Karen Steve  
Marilyn Mae Stiles  
Juanita Leah Stucker  
Charles O. Swanson  
Corey Stanley Sylva  
Veronica Ann Takeuchi  
Levi R. Tetpon  
Carl Gustav Thiele III  
Karl Lee Thiele  
David Elton Truitt  
Darya Lillis Vanwinkle  
Teresa Yvette Walters  
Darlene Ann Warren  
Patrick James Westdahl  
Douglas Randall Williams  
Nicholas Carroll Wilson  
Philip Hunter Wilson Jr.  
Mary Ann Yates



# CIRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jeffery A. Gonnason, Haida

Cheryl L. Mulcahey, Inupiaq

Louis "Lou" Nagy Jr., Yup'ik

\* Denotes a member of the Board of Trustees of the CIRI Settlement Trust



P.O. Box 93330  
Anchorage, Alaska 99509-3330

## CIRI CONTACT INFORMATION

### CIRI Headquarters

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### Shareholder Relations

Tel. (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474  
Fax (907) 263-5186  
Email [shareholderrecords@ciri.com](mailto:shareholderrecords@ciri.com)

### For estates/wills, contact Probate at:

Tel. (907) 263-55540 or (833) 263-5136  
Fax (907) 263-5186

Submit ideas, stories & recipes to [info@ciri.com](mailto:info@ciri.com)



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 // CIRI RAVEN'S CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: CARLY STUART // LAYOUT AND DESIGN: YUIT COMMUNICATIONS // © CIRI, 2024

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# WINNERS' CIRCLE

To increase participation in certain programs, CIRI holds periodic prize drawings from the names of those enrolled who meet certain criteria and have a current mailing address with CIRI. If CIRI has returned mail, a different winner will be selected. Visit the CIRI website or call (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474 to learn more. The following Shareholders and Descendants have been selected as winners for the most recent CIRI drawings:

## DIRECT DEPOSIT DRAWING

Third quarter drawing for \$500:

– LUCY MILLER

The direct deposit instruction must be current with CIRI to win.

## eNEWSLETTER DRAWING

Third quarter drawing for an iPad or \$400 cash:

– MARCELLA HENRIE

Shareholders enrolled in the eNewsletter program with a valid email address on file.

## CONFIRMED, REGISTERED DESCENDANT DRAWINGS

Third quarter drawing for a Kindle Fire HD or Amazon gift card:

– TRYSTAN CONSIEL (YOUTH)

– JORDAN GLASGOW (ADULT)

Direct lineal Descendants of CIRI Shareholders who are not themselves Shareholders, who have submitted legal documents substantiating descent and who have a valid email address on file.

## QENEK ACCOUNT DRAWING

Third quarter drawing for a YETI cooler:

– CORNELL CONSTANTINE

Shareholders and confirmed Descendants who have created a Qenek account or accessed an existing account during the preceding quarter.

## GREENLINK DRAWING

Third quarter drawing for \$500:

– MARIAN KING

Shareholders who have a valid direct deposit instruction and email address on file and who have opted into electronic delivery of certain materials.

# IMPORTANT DATES

- March 1, 2024 CST Elders Distribution change of address deadline
- March 4, 2024 First quarter and resource revenue direct deposit deadline
- March 8, 2024 CST Elders Distribution
- March 10, 2024 Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 20, 2024 First quarter and resource revenue change of address deadline
- March 29, 2024 Quarterly CST Distribution
- March 31, 2024 Quarterly participation prize drawing deadline
- April 1, 2024 Resource revenue distribution
- April 20, 2024 CIRI Information Meeting: Anchorage
- April 26, 2024 CIRI Summer Internship Program application deadline
- May 4, 2024 CIRI Information Meeting: Pacific Northwest