



A Word from the President July 27, 2020



CIRI President and CEO Sophie Minich

My fellow CIRI shareholders:

COVID-19 has caused massive changes to our pre-pandemic way of life. Many of us are balancing the challenges of work and being home with children while daycare centers have closed and summer camps have been cancelled, and there is uncertainty surrounding the upcoming school year. I know that all over the country, some of us have not seen coworkers or customers — or even family or friends — in person for some time.

Please know that you are not alone. Amid the spike nationwide in COVID-19 cases, we are all juggling fears, challenges and new responsibilities. And because the pandemic has forced us all to adapt to a rapidly evolving situation with no clear end date, we are also feeling stress.

In a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, nearly half the respondents felt the pandemic was harming their mental health. If you are suffering from anxiety, depression or substance-use disorders due to the COVID-19 pandemic or for any other reason, I encourage you to visit the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [website](#) or call (800) 622-HELP.

Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and nearby villages may also access Southcentral Foundation's (SCF) behavioral health services by visiting the [SCF website](#) or by calling (907) 729-3300.

Our mental health is just as important as our physical health. We owe it to ourselves and our loved ones to seek support if we experience negative changes in thinking, mood and/or behavior.

Get Out the Native Vote

Each election year, millions of Americans miss the opportunity to vote because they didn't register. Our democracy doesn't work unless all eligible voters can access the ballot box, and that starts with registration!

Although the deadline to register or update registration for Alaska's primary election has passed, Alaskans have through Oct. 3 to [register](#) to vote or update any outdated voter registration information for this year's general election. They may also easily [apply](#) online for absentee ballots for the 2020 primary election (Tuesday, Aug. 18) and general election (Tuesday, Nov. 3). Alaskans do not need a reason to request a ballot by mail or to vote by mail!

To determine the voter registration deadline in your state, visit [vote.org/voter-registration-deadlines](https://www.vote.org/voter-registration-deadlines). For more information on why voting — and the Native vote, in particular — is so important, [click here](#).

2020 U.S. Census

Some people may wonder why they should bother to participate in the U.S. Census, particularly this year, when many are struggling with job loss and other economic hardships. But challenges such as these are precisely why it is important to respond to the 2020 Census.

Each person who responds to the census increases the amount of money and resources available to his or her community for the next decade, with census data informing where more than \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide. Given the record number of individuals currently filing for unemployment and other social services, even if your family doesn't rely on those resources, your community does.

Currently, the national self-response rate for the Census is slightly over 62%, but Alaska's self-response rate is lagging behind at less than 50%. Within the Cook Inlet region, Anchorage is faring better, with a response rate of approximately 61%, but the Matanuska-Susitna and Kenai Peninsula Boroughs are trailing, with response rates of approximately 33% and 39%, respectively, and return rates in most other areas of Alaska are even bleaker.

Indigenous people are traditionally undercounted in the U.S. Census. Please do your part by completing the Census at my2020census.gov or by phone by placing a toll-free call to (844) 330-2020. For more information, [click here](#).

CIRI Youth Opportunities

Friday, July 31 is the deadline for year-end report cards to be received from eligible CIRI shareholders and confirmed descendants who wish to be included in the next [Educational Incentive Prize Drawing](#), through which 18 winners will be randomly selected to receive \$100 cash cards. Youth enrolled in grades 7 through 12 who maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or above or had excellent attendance (missed no more than four classes) for the spring semester are eligible to participate.

To be entered in the [2020 Youth Art Contest](#), CIRI shareholders and descendants 5 to 12 years of age are invited to submit original artwork interpreting the theme "The Alaskan legend who has been most influential to me is..." and a completed entry form by **Wednesday, Aug. 12**. The winners from each age category (ages 5-8 and ages 9-12) will receive cash prizes!

For information on these and other youth opportunities, visit ciri.com/nextgen.

Shareholder, Elder and Youth Awards

CIRI is currently accepting nominations for the 2020 Shareholder, Elder and Youth Awards. Learn about the award categories and help us celebrate individuals for any or all three categories by visiting the [CIRI website](#) and submitting an [online nomination form](#) by **Friday, Aug. 7**.

Calendar Photo Contest

We are excited to announce our photo contest for the 2021 CIRI calendar! Shareholders and registered descendants of all ages are invited to submit high-resolution electronic photos that depict the theme "Celebrating Every Day" by **Friday, Sept. 18**. Winning photographers will receive \$100 cash cards and have their photos featured in the 2021 shareholder calendar and the Raven's Circle newsletter.

For more information, visit the [CIRI website](#).

Meet CIRI summer intern Rinnah Andrew

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CIRI postponed its summer internship program. However, thanks to Cook Inlet Tribal Council's Internship Partner Program, we are pleased to (virtually) host CIRI descendant and summer intern Rinnah Andrew!

In addition to her work with CIRI this summer, Rinnah is pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage and previously worked for The CIRI Foundation. Her CIRI internship is focused on projects around engaging shareholders and descendants and supporting the Corporate Communications department.

Rinnah is looking forward to sharing more with our readership in next month's

Raven's Circle newsletter. Until then, you can learn a little more about Rinnah by [clicking here!](#)

CIRI Office Closure

As a reminder, CIRI offices remain closed to the public; however, the [Qenek](#) portal remains available 24/7, allowing shareholders to access and make certain changes to their CIRI records, and the Shareholder Relations department can be reached by phone at (907) 263-5191 / (800) 764-2474 and [email](#) during normal business hours.

With no on-site staff, calls will go to voicemail, but if you leave a message, a Shareholder Relations team member will return your call. Please note that because staff are working from home, calls made to shareholders will not display CIRI's name or phone number.

For the most current information, please visit the CIRI website, follow us on social media and enroll in the [eNewsletter Program](#).

Until next time, stay safe and healthy!

Warm regards,

Sophie Minich