

From: [Sara Kinjo-Hischer](#)
To: [Skagway Correspondence](#)
Cc: [Judean Gordon](#); [Marla Belisle](#); [Andrew Beierly](#); [Savannah Ames](#); [Jaime Bricker](#); [Melinda Munson](#); [Orion Hanson](#); [Andrew Cremata](#); [Deborah Potter](#); [Jay Burnham](#); [Alexandria Weddell](#); [Sam Bass](#); [Dan Henry](#); [Brad Ryan](#); [Emily Deach](#)
Subject: [External Email] Re: Correspondence from STC
Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 6:08:39 PM
Attachments: [7.26.23 Statement from STC to MOS re Pius Land and Assembly of the Whole.pdf](#)

[ATTENTION: This Email was received from outside the Municipality]

Please find the attached correspondence from the Skagway Traditional Council.
Our council is re-submitting this correspondence to be listed publicly available as it pertains to the following agenda topics.

8/16/23 Finance Committee. Agenda Item 5.B Resolution 23-30R
8/17/23 Assembly Meeting Agenda Item 7.F Resolution 23-30R

Gunalchéesh (Thank you in Tlingit),

Sara Kinjo-Hischer (She/Her)

Tribal Administrator

Skagway Traditional Council

PO Box 1157, Skagway, AK 99840

Office: 907.983.4068 Cell 907.612.0454

On Sat, Jul 29, 2023 at 10:07 AM Sara Kinjo-Hischer <Sara@skagwaytraditional.org> wrote:

Please find the Citizen Correspondence from the Skagway Traditional Council attached.
Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Gunalchéesh / Háw'aa/ Thank you,

Sara Kinjo-Hischer

Tribal Administrator

Skagway Village/Skagway Traditional Council

253 11th Avenue, Skagway, AK 99840

Mailing Address: PO Box 1157, Skagway, AK 99840

(TEL) 907-983-4068 x5 (FAX) 907-983-3068

Sara@skagwaytraditional.org www.skagwaytraditional.org





Skagway Traditional Council

Office of Tribal Government
PO BOX 1157 Skagway, Alaska 99840
(907) 983-4068 FAX (907) 983-3068
www.skagwaytraditional.org

July 27, 2023

Municipality of Skagway
PO BOX 415
Skagway, AK 99840

RE: Agenda Item 6A: MOS request for Assembly of the Whole

Dear Skagway Mayor & Assembly,

When the Assembly initially considered the idea of repatriating property to Skagway Traditional Council (STC) at the site of the old Pius X Mission Boarding School for Indian Children, we were hopeful that an agreement could be easily reached. This idea seemed to be grounded on the general recognition of the widespread harm caused by mission-run boarding schools across Northern America for indigenous children.

However, given the lack of meaningful progress on the issue, drain on tribal resources, missing historical records, costs of pursuing legal options, and the enormous emotional toll that this has taken on tribal members and boarding school survivors, we would like to take a step back and withdraw our engagement with the MOS for an Assembly of the whole meeting.

We feel that it is in the best interests of both the STC Members and the community alike, in addition being respectful of all our time and resources.

Instead, STC asks, as we did originally, that the Municipality of Skagway acknowledge the existence and history associated with the operation of the Pius X Boarding School at that site by reserving a lot for the creation of a memorial that will:

- Heal the land for future user.
- Unbury and recognize its existence as part of Skagway's history
- Give boarding school attendees and descendants time to grieve from trauma, and to show that "Skagway" cares.

STC also requests that the Municipality of Skagway develop a management plan in full partnership with STC for the southern half of the property as suggested in the archaeological study by the University of Arizona. And that all artifacts linked to the Pius X Mission found on any part of the property be immediately transferred to STC.

We will continue our search for boarding school enrollment records and property ownership documents to unearth all the truths of the school's history and one day be able to share our entire story.

Respectfully submitted,

Skagway Traditional Council Members

Jaime Bricker
Andrew Beierly
Marla Belisle
Judean Gordon
Savannah Ames